
HOUSE BILL 2206

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Cheney, Low, Couture, and Hutchins

Read first time 01/09/24. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing secure online access to the voter
2 registration database; amending RCW 29A.08.125; and providing an
3 effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.08.125 and 2023 c 466 s 5 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The office of the secretary of state shall maintain a
8 statewide voter registration database. This database must be a
9 centralized, uniform, interactive computerized statewide voter
10 registration list that contains the name and registration information
11 of every registered voter in the state.

12 (2) The statewide list is the official list of registered voters
13 for the conduct of all elections.

14 (3) The statewide list must include, but is not limited to, the
15 name, date of birth, residence address, signature, gender, and date
16 of registration of every legally registered voter in the state.

17 (4) A unique identifier must be assigned to each registered voter
18 in the state.

19 (5) The database must be coordinated with other government
20 databases within the state including, but not limited to, the
21 department of corrections, the department of licensing, the

1 department of health, and county auditors. The database may also be
2 coordinated with the databases of election officials in other states.

3 (6) Authorized employees of the secretary of state and each
4 county auditor must have immediate electronic access to the
5 information maintained in the database.

6 (7) Voter registration information received by each county
7 auditor must be electronically entered into the database. The office
8 of the secretary of state must provide support, as needed, to enable
9 each county auditor to enter and maintain voter registration
10 information in the state database.

11 (8) The secretary of state has data authority over all voter
12 registration data.

13 (9) The voter registration database must be designed to
14 accomplish at a minimum, the following:

15 (a) Comply with the help America vote act of 2002 (P.L. 107-252);

16 (b) Identify duplicate voter registrations;

17 (c) Identify suspected duplicate voters;

18 (d) Screen against any available databases maintained by other
19 government agencies to identify voters who are ineligible to vote due
20 to serving a sentence of total confinement as the result of a felony
21 conviction, lack of citizenship, or a court finding of mental
22 incompetence;

23 (e) Provide images of voters' signatures for the purpose of
24 checking signatures on initiative and referendum petitions;

25 (f) Provide for a comparison between the voter registration
26 database and the department of licensing change of address database;

27 (g) Provide access for county auditors that includes the
28 capability to update registrations and search for duplicate
29 registrations;

30 (h) Provide for the cancellation of registrations of voters who
31 have moved out of state; (~~and~~)

32 (i) Provide for the storage of pending registration records for
33 all future voters who have not yet reached (~~eighteen~~) 18 years of
34 age in a manner that these records will not appear on the official
35 list of registered voters until the future registrant is no longer in
36 pending status as defined under RCW 29A.08.615; and

37 (j) Provide secure online access to voters for printing
38 replacement ballots and updating voter registration information. The
39 secure online voter access must use an individual verification system
40 for each voter to access their voter profile within the database. The

1 individualized verification system must be secure, unique to each
2 voter, not connected to the voter identification or any other
3 information specific to that voter, and must enable a process through
4 which the voter may remedy a forgotten or lost password, pin, or
5 other verification method. The verification system is not subject to
6 disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW.

7 (10) The secretary of state may, upon agreement with other
8 appropriate jurisdictions, screen against any available databases
9 maintained by election officials in other states and databases
10 maintained by federal agencies including, but not limited to, the
11 federal bureau of investigation, the federal court system, the
12 federal bureau of prisons, and the bureau of citizenship and
13 immigration services.

14 (11) The database shall retain information regarding previous
15 successful appeals of proposed cancellations of registrations in
16 order to avoid repeated cancellations for the same reason.

17 (12) Each county auditor shall maintain a list of all registered
18 voters within the county that are contained on the official statewide
19 voter registration list. In addition to the information maintained in
20 the statewide database, the county database must also maintain the
21 applicable taxing district and precinct codes for each voter in the
22 county, and a list of elections in which the individual voted.

23 (13) Each county auditor shall allow electronic access and
24 information transfer between the county's voter registration system
25 and the official statewide voter registration list.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect July 23, 2024.

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