SENATE BILL REPORT
SB 5892

As of January 20, 2026

Title: An act relating to protecting the voter registration database.

Brief Description: Concerning protection of the voter registration database.

Sponsors: Senators Riccelli, Valdez, Bateman, Frame, Hasegawa, Liias, Nobles, Pedersen, Slatter and Wilson, C.; by request of Secretary of State.

Brief History:
Committee Activity: State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections: 1/20/26.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Prohibits a county elections office from producing records in response to a request for reports generated by the statewide voter registration database.
- Prohibits any state or location election officer, or a designee, from knowingly disclosing information in any county or statewide voter registration database inconsistent with the performance of their duties.
- Prohibits the unauthorized disclosure of personal information shown on an affidavit of voter registration or included in a voter registration file.
- Establishes penalties for the prohibitions.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

Staff: Greg Vogel (786-7413)

Background: Statewide Voter Registration Database. The Office of the Secretary of State must maintain a statewide voter registration database. The database must be a centralized,

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uniform, interactive computerized statewide voter registration list that contains the name and registration information of every registered voter in the state. The statewide list is the official list of registered voters for the conduct of all state elections.

Class C Felony. Under state law, a person convicted of a class C felony may be punished by confinement in a state correctional institution, not to exceed five years, or by a fine in an amount fixed by the court, not to exceed $10,000, or by both such confinement and fine.

Summary of Bill: If a county elections office receives a request for records from or any existing reports generated by the statewide voter registration database, the county elections office is prohibited from producing any records in response to the request and must direct the requestor to submit their request to the Secretary of State. A knowing violation of this prohibition is a class C felony.

Any state or local election officer, or a designee, who has access to any county or statewide voter registration database who knowingly discloses information in the database inconsistent with the performance of their duties is guilty of a class C felony.

The Washington driver's license number, Washington identification card number, social security number, and full birthdate, shown on an affidavit of voter registration or included in a voter registration file are confidential and must not be disclosed to any person except to state or local election officers and election officials unless authorized by the Office of the Secretary of State. Any state officer or election officer, or designee, who knowingly violates this prohibition is guilty of a class C felony.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: I think we can all agree that sensitive information like ID card numbers, driver's license numbers, and birth dates should be treated as such. This ensures that any requests for voter data goes through the Secretary of State. This bill stems from the DOJ request for voter records and we are willing to cooperate with them on providing the public records but we are not willing to share the private information that is in there. All counties and the Secretary of State's Office have access to this information so we need to make sure disclosure is centralized so we don't have anyone accidentally providing this information to a third party. Voter participation laws should be used to expand access for voters, not intimidate or discourage involvement. We want to ensure that our voters are protected, including from federal overreach.

CON: Our voter rolls have not been as clean as they should be. We believe that the DOJ was trying to see to it that our voting system was working as it should. This bill indirectly affects future taxation of Washingtonians to make up for federal funds withheld due to the state's response. Providing the voter rolls to the DOJ would substantially improve them by comparing them to federal records to remove ineligible voters.

OTHER: Political party declaration information should be protected similarly to the data in this bill.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Marcus Riccelli, Prime Sponsor; Alison McCaffree, League of Women Voters of Washington; Steve Hobbs, Office of Secretary of State; Sam Reed, Office of Secretary of State; Cindy Black, Fix Democracy First; Cassie Clayton, Northwest Progressive Institute.

CON: Laurie Layne; Richard Vermeers, Richard Vermeers; Jeff Pack, Washington Citizens Against Unfair Taxes.

OTHER: Gordy Lindstrom, Self.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.