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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2210**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** House State Government & Tribal Relations (originally sponsored by Representatives Gregerson, Farivar, Ryu, Doglio, Parshley, Ramel, Simmons, Pollet, Reed, Callan, Obras, Duerr, Scott, Thomas, Ormsby, Macri, Fosse, Hill, and Zahn)

READ FIRST TIME 01/27/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting local representation by  
2 strengthening and securing fair elections in local governments;  
3 amending RCW 29A.60.221, 29A.52.112, 29A.52.220, 29A.24.010,  
4 36.32.040, 36.32.050, 35A.12.040, 28A.343.320, 29A.04.410,  
5 29A.12.080, and 29A.36.121; reenacting and amending RCW 29A.36.170;  
6 adding new sections to chapter 29A.52 RCW; adding a new section to  
7 chapter 29A.04 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 52.14 RCW; adding  
8 a new section to chapter 53.12 RCW; creating a new section; repealing  
9 RCW 29A.04.127; and declaring an emergency.

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

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that Washington  
12 has a proud tradition of promoting voter freedom and secure  
13 elections, which are the bedrock of our state democracy.

14 (2) The legislature recognizes that federal voting rights  
15 protections are undergoing significant changes, and additional  
16 uncertainty is expected in the coming years. These developments may  
17 limit or alter the tools historically available to protect against  
18 vote dilution and ensure equitable access to the electoral process.

19 (3) The legislature further finds that election methods such as  
20 ranked choice voting and proportional representation are used in  
21 other jurisdictions to reduce vote splitting, more accurately reflect

1 voter preferences, and support effective and representative local  
2 governance.

3 (4) Local governments require clear and flexible authority to  
4 select election methods that support fair representation, accountable  
5 leadership, and voter confidence. Current law does not provide  
6 sufficient clarity for jurisdictions interested in adopting  
7 alternative election systems.

8 (5) To ensure that local jurisdictions retain effective and  
9 legally durable options during this period of threats known and  
10 unknown, the legislature intends to authorize local governments, for  
11 a period of six years, to choose to adopt ranked choice voting,  
12 proportional representation, or other approved election methods. Once  
13 a jurisdiction elects to use an authorized method within this six-  
14 year period, it may continue using that method thereafter. This  
15 authority is intended to provide practical tools, reduce litigation  
16 risk, and promote stable, transparent local governance while federal  
17 standards continue to evolve.

18 (6) Nothing in this act diminishes existing rights or remedies  
19 under state law, including the Washington voting rights act, chapter  
20 29A.92 RCW. This act is intended solely to expand the range of lawful  
21 election tools available to local jurisdictions during the specified  
22 decision period.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.52  
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this  
26 section, a county, city, town, school district, fire district, or  
27 port district may conduct its elections using ranked choice voting. A  
28 county, city, town, school district, fire district, or port district  
29 that opts to conduct its elections using ranked choice voting must  
30 adopt ranked choice voting before December 31, 2032. A county, city,  
31 town, school district, fire district, or port district that adopts  
32 ranked choice voting may, but need not, use ranked choice voting for  
33 all offices in an election.

34 (2) A city, town, school district, fire district, or port  
35 district that has voters in more than one county may conduct an  
36 election using ranked choice voting only if:

37 (a) Another city, town, or district that lies entirely within at  
38 least two of the counties in which the city, town, or district has  
39 voters uses ranked choice voting; or

1 (b) A court orders the use of ranked choice voting as provided in  
2 this section as a remedy under RCW 29A.92.110.

3 (3) Ranked choice voting may not be used in an election for an  
4 office for which two or fewer candidates are competing.

5 (4) An election using ranked choice voting must meet the  
6 following requirements:

7 (a) The county auditor shall design the ballot to allow a voter  
8 to rank the candidates for a particular office in order of  
9 preference, including one write-in candidate;

10 (b) The county auditor must allow a voter to rank at least five  
11 candidates per office. The secretary of state may adopt rules that  
12 determine the maximum number of candidates per office that a voter is  
13 allowed to rank on a ballot in order to accommodate technical  
14 limitations from voting systems and ensure compatibility with all  
15 ballot formats;

16 (c) A voter does not need to rank the maximum number of  
17 candidates. The county auditor shall count a ballot regardless of how  
18 many candidates the voter has ranked. The county auditor shall not  
19 count votes for rankings made by a voter that are greater than the  
20 maximum number of rankings allowed for each office;

21 (d) If a voter skips one or more numbers in ranking candidates,  
22 or ranks an invalid write-in candidate, the county auditor shall  
23 count any votes after the skipped number for the voter's next-highest  
24 ranked candidates as if the voter had not skipped the number;

25 (e) If a voter provides the same number ranking to more than one  
26 candidate, the county auditor may not count that vote ranking for any  
27 candidate and may not count a vote for any subsequent number ranking  
28 for that office;

29 (f) The election must be one of two types of ranked choice voting  
30 elections. If the election is a single-winner contest, including an  
31 election in which multiple positions with the same name, district  
32 number, or title are dealt with as separate offices, the winner of  
33 each contest must be determined using the instant runoff voting  
34 method, as defined in this section and further provided in secretary  
35 of state rules. If the election is a multiwinner contest in which the  
36 positions are not dealt with as separate offices, the winners must be  
37 determined using the single transferable vote method, as defined in  
38 this section and further provided in secretary of state rules;

39 (g) If the requisite number of officers have not been elected, or  
40 selected to continue to further rounds of vote tabulation, by reason

1 of two or more persons having an equal and highest number of votes  
2 for the same office, the official empowered by state law to issue the  
3 original certificate of election shall resolve the tie as provided in  
4 RCW 29A.60.221.

5 (5) A county, city, town, or district that conducts a general  
6 election for a single-winner contest using ranked choice voting must  
7 hold a primary to winnow candidates for the election to a final list  
8 of five candidates. The primary is not conducted using ranked choice  
9 voting. Voters in the primary may vote for one candidate, and the top  
10 five candidates will be certified as qualified to appear on the  
11 general election ballot. A county, city, town, or district that  
12 conducts a general election for a multiwinner contest using ranked  
13 choice voting may not hold a primary.

14 (6) A county, city, town, or district that adopts ranked choice  
15 voting must consult with its county auditor to determine the date  
16 when ranked choice voting will be implemented, which must be within  
17 two years following its adoption, unless a specific implementation  
18 date is provided in a court order directing a jurisdiction to use  
19 ranked choice voting as a remedy under RCW 29A.92.110.

20 (7) The county auditor whose county encompasses a county, city,  
21 town, or district that adopts ranked choice voting is responsible for  
22 the implementation of the system. If a city, town, or district has  
23 voters in two or more counties, each county auditor in which the  
24 city, town, or district has voters is responsible for its  
25 implementation.

26 (8) The secretary of state shall adopt rules to administer this  
27 section by May 1, 2027. The secretary's rules must address, at  
28 minimum:

29 (a) Procedures for administering an election that includes voters  
30 in more than one county as provided in subsection (2) of this  
31 section; and

32 (b) Procedures for tabulating votes under the instant runoff  
33 voting method and single transferable vote method as provided in  
34 subsection (4) of this section.

35 (9) As used in this section:

36 (a) "Ranked choice voting" means a method of counting votes in  
37 which votes are tabulated based on a voter's ranking of candidates in  
38 order of preference as provided in this section.

39 (b) "Instant runoff voting method" means a method of counting  
40 votes in which ballots are counted in rounds and the candidate

1 receiving the fewest number of votes is eliminated, continuing until  
2 one candidate receives a majority of all votes counted in that round  
3 and is declared the winner.

4 (c) "Single transferable vote method" means a method of counting  
5 votes in which:

6 (i) A winning threshold is calculated based on the number of  
7 votes cast and the number of seats to be filled, plus one;

8 (ii) Ballots are counted in rounds, and at the end of each round  
9 any candidate who receives enough votes to pass the winning threshold  
10 is declared elected. Any votes received by that candidate in excess  
11 of the threshold to win are transferred to other candidates. After  
12 all such votes have been transferred so that no candidate has votes  
13 exceeding the winning threshold, the candidate with the least number  
14 of votes is eliminated, and their votes are transferred to other  
15 candidates in the next round; and

16 (iii) The counting process stops when the number of elected  
17 candidates equals the number of seats to be filled, or the number of  
18 candidates remaining equals the number of seats not yet filled by an  
19 elected candidate.

20 (10) A jurisdiction that, by the effective date of this section,  
21 has adopted ranked choice voting may continue to use ranked choice  
22 voting, and the provisions of subsection (5) do not apply to that  
23 jurisdiction.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.60.221 and 2004 c 271 s 176 are each amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 (1) If the requisite number of any federal, state, county, city,  
27 or district offices have not been nominated in a primary by reason of  
28 two or more persons having an equal and requisite number of votes for  
29 being placed on the general election ballot, the official empowered  
30 by state law to certify candidates for the general election ballot  
31 shall give notice to the several persons so having the equal and  
32 requisite number of votes to attend at the appropriate office at the  
33 time designated by that official, who shall then and there proceed  
34 publicly to decide by lot which of those persons will be declared  
35 nominated and placed on the general election ballot.

36 (2) If the requisite number of any federal, state, county, city,  
37 district, or precinct officers have not been elected by reason of two  
38 or more persons having an equal and highest number of votes for one  
39 and the same office, the official empowered by state law to issue the

1 original certificate of election shall give notice to the several  
2 persons so having the highest and equal number of votes to attend at  
3 the appropriate office at the time to be appointed by that official,  
4 who shall then and there proceed publicly to decide by lot which of  
5 those persons will be declared duly elected, and the official shall  
6 make out and deliver to the person thus duly declared elected a  
7 certificate of election.

8 (3) For a tie occurring at any point in the counting process of  
9 an election conducted using ranked choice voting as provided in  
10 section 2 of this act, the official empowered by state law to certify  
11 candidates for the general election ballot shall resolve the tie  
12 using the lot method described in this section. If the tie occurs  
13 before the final round of counting, the tie must be resolved as  
14 expeditiously as possible.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.04  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 "Primary" or "primary election" means a procedure for winnowing  
18 candidates for public office to a final list of two as part of a  
19 special or general election, or to a final list of five in a county,  
20 city, town, or district election that uses ranked choice voting as  
21 provided in section 2 of this act. Each voter has the right to cast a  
22 vote for any candidate for each office without any limitation based  
23 on party preference or affiliation, of either the voter or the  
24 candidate.

25 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.36.170 and 2013 c 143 s 1 and 2013 c 11 s 45 are  
26 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

27 For any office for which a primary was held, only the names of  
28 the top two candidates will appear on the general election ballot,  
29 unless the election will be conducted using ranked choice voting as  
30 provided in section 2 of this act, in which case only the names of  
31 the top five candidates will appear on the general election ballot;  
32 the name of the candidate who received the greatest number of votes  
33 will appear first and the candidate who received the next greatest  
34 number of votes will appear second. No candidate's name may be  
35 printed on the subsequent general election ballot unless he or she  
36 receives at least one percent of the total votes cast for that office  
37 at the preceding primary, if a primary was conducted. On the ballot  
38 at the general election for an office for which no primary was held,

1 the names of the candidates shall be listed in the order determined  
2 pursuant to RCW 29A.36.131.

3 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29A.52.112 and 2014 c 7 s 1 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 (1) A primary is a first stage in the public process by which  
6 voters elect candidates to public office.

7 (2) Whenever candidates for a partisan office are to be elected,  
8 the general election must be preceded by a primary conducted under  
9 this chapter, unless the general election is a multiwinner contest  
10 using ranked choice voting as provided in section 2 of this act.

11 (3) Based upon votes cast at the primary, the top two candidates,  
12 or the top five candidates in a primary for a single-winner general  
13 election conducted using ranked choice voting as provided in section  
14 2 of this act, will be certified as qualified to appear on the  
15 general election ballot (~~(, unless only one candidate qualifies as~~  
16 ~~provided in RCW 29A.36.170)) ).~~

17 ~~((3))~~ (4) No primary may be held for any single county partisan  
18 office to fill an unexpired term if, after the last day allowed for  
19 candidates to withdraw, only one candidate has filed for the  
20 position.

21 ~~((4))~~ (5) For partisan office, if a candidate has expressed a  
22 party preference on the declaration of candidacy, then that  
23 preference will be shown after the name of the candidate on the  
24 primary and general election ballots as set forth in rules of the  
25 secretary of state. A candidate may choose to express no party  
26 preference. Any party preferences are shown for the information of  
27 voters only and may in no way limit the options available to voters.

28 **Sec. 7.** RCW 29A.52.220 and 2013 c 195 s 1 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 (1) No primary may be held for any single position in any  
31 nonpartisan office if, after the last day allowed for candidates to  
32 withdraw, there are no more than two candidates filed for the  
33 position. The county auditor shall as soon as possible notify all the  
34 candidates so affected that the office for which they filed will not  
35 appear on the primary ballot.

36 (2) No primary may be held for an office in a county, city, town,  
37 or district that is conducting a multiwinner general election using  
38 ranked choice voting as provided in section 2 of this act.

1       (3) No primary may be held for the office of commissioner of a  
2 park and recreation district or for the office of cemetery district  
3 commissioner.

4       ~~((3))~~ (4) Names of candidates for offices that do not appear on  
5 the primary ballot shall be printed upon the general election ballot  
6 in the manner specified by RCW 29A.36.131.

7       **Sec. 8.** RCW 29A.24.010 and 2003 c 111 s 601 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9       (1) Not less than thirty days before the first day for filing  
10 declarations of candidacy under RCW 29A.24.050 for legislative,  
11 judicial, county, city, town, or district office, where more than one  
12 position with the same name, district number, or title will be voted  
13 upon at the succeeding election, the filing officer shall designate  
14 the positions to be filled by number, except as provided in  
15 subsection (3) of this section.

16       (2) The positions so designated shall be dealt with as separate  
17 offices for all election purposes. With the exception of the office  
18 of justice of the supreme court, the position numbers shall be  
19 assigned, whenever possible, to reflect the position numbers that  
20 were used to designate the same positions at the last full-term  
21 election for those offices.

22       (3) In an election conducted using ranked choice voting as  
23 provided in section 2 of this act in which there is more than one  
24 position with the same name, district number, or title, the county,  
25 city, town, or district shall choose whether the filing officer will  
26 designate the positions to be filled by number and deal with  
27 positions as separate offices.

28       **Sec. 9.** RCW 36.32.040 and 2018 c 113 s 205 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30       (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this  
31 section, the qualified electors of each county commissioner district,  
32 and they only, shall nominate from among their own number, candidates  
33 for the office of county commissioner of such commissioner district  
34 to be voted for at the following general election. Such candidates  
35 shall be nominated in the same manner as candidates for other county  
36 and district offices are nominated in all other respects.

37       (2) ~~((Where))~~ Except as provided in subsection (3) of this  
38 section, where the commissioners of a county composed entirely of

1 islands with a population of less than thirty-five thousand have  
2 chosen to divide the county into unequal-sized commissioner districts  
3 pursuant to the exception provided in RCW 36.32.020, the qualified  
4 electors of the entire county shall nominate from among their own  
5 number who reside within a commissioner district, candidates for the  
6 office of county commissioner of such commissioner district to be  
7 voted for at the following general election. Such candidates shall be  
8 nominated in the same manner as candidates for other county offices  
9 are nominated in all other respects.

10 (3) A county may conduct an election for county commissioners  
11 using ranked choice voting as defined in section 2 of this act.

12 (4) The commissioners of any county may authorize a change to  
13 their electoral system pursuant to RCW 29A.92.040.

14 **Sec. 10.** RCW 36.32.050 and 2018 c 301 s 7 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (1) Except as provided otherwise in subsection (2) of this  
17 section or this chapter, county commissioners shall be elected by the  
18 qualified voters of the county and the person receiving the highest  
19 number of votes for the office of commissioner for the district in  
20 which he or she resides shall be declared duly elected from that  
21 district.

22 (2) Beginning in 2022, in any noncharter county with a population  
23 of four hundred thousand or more, county commissioners must be  
24 nominated and elected by the qualified electors of the commissioner  
25 district in which he or she resides. The person receiving the highest  
26 number of votes at a general election for the office of commissioner  
27 for the district in which he or she resides must be declared duly  
28 elected from that district.

29 (3) A county may conduct an election for county commissioners  
30 using ranked choice voting as provided in section 2 of this act.

31 (a) A county that deals with commissioner positions as separate  
32 offices and adopts ranked choice voting using the instant runoff  
33 voting method as provided in section 2 of this act shall hold a  
34 primary to winnow the list of candidates in the district to five.

35 (b) A county that chooses not to deal with commissioner positions  
36 as separate offices and instead adopts ranked choice voting in a  
37 multiwinner contest using the single transferable vote method as  
38 provided in section 2 of this act may not hold a primary for those  
39 positions.

1       **Sec. 11.** RCW 35A.12.040 and 2015 c 53 s 52 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Officers shall be elected at biennial municipal elections to  
4 be conducted as provided in chapter 35A.29 RCW. The mayor and the  
5 councilmembers shall be elected for four-year terms of office and  
6 until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in  
7 accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. At any first election upon  
8 reorganization, councilmembers shall be elected as provided in RCW  
9 35A.02.050. Thereafter the requisite number of councilmembers shall  
10 be elected biennially as the terms of their predecessors expire and  
11 shall serve for terms of four years. ((The)) Except as provided in  
12 subsection (2) of this section, the positions to be filled on the  
13 city council shall be designated by consecutive numbers and shall be  
14 dealt with as separate offices for all election purposes. Election to  
15 positions on the council shall be by majority vote from the city at  
16 large, unless provision is made by charter or ordinance for election  
17 by wards. The mayor and councilmembers shall qualify by taking an  
18 oath or affirmation of office and as may be provided by law, charter,  
19 or ordinance.

20       (2) If a city or town uses ranked choice voting as provided in  
21 section 2 of this act, the city or town shall choose whether the  
22 council positions to be filled will be designated by number and dealt  
23 with as separate offices.

24       **Sec. 12.** RCW 28A.343.320 and 2015 c 53 s 11 are each amended to  
25 read as follows:

26       (1) Candidates for the position of school director shall file  
27 their declarations of candidacy as provided in Title 29A RCW.

28       ((The)) (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section,  
29 the positions of school directors in each district shall be dealt  
30 with as separate offices for all election purposes, and where more  
31 than one position is to be filled, each candidate shall file for one  
32 of the positions so designated: PROVIDED, That in school districts  
33 containing director districts, or a combination of director districts  
34 and director at large positions, candidates shall file for such  
35 director districts or at large positions. Position numbers shall be  
36 assigned to correspond to director district numbers to the extent  
37 possible.

38       (3) If the school board uses ranked choice voting as provided in  
39 section 2 of this act, the school board shall choose whether to deal

1 with the positions of school directors as separate offices for  
2 elections purposes.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** A new section is added to chapter 52.14  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 A board of fire commissioners may conduct an election for fire  
6 commissioner using ranked choice voting as provided in section 2 of  
7 this act.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** A new section is added to chapter 53.12  
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 A port commission may conduct an election for port commissioner  
11 using ranked choice voting as provided in section 2 of this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.52  
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) Whenever a voting jurisdiction changes to a method of ranking  
15 candidates, the county auditor, in coordination with that  
16 jurisdiction, must notify the public of the change and create a  
17 public education campaign focused on familiarizing voters with any  
18 unique elements of the new process pursuant to best practices. The  
19 public education campaign should consider the needs of all voters in  
20 the jurisdiction, including:

21 (a) Persons with limited English proficiency and for whom English  
22 is not their first language; and

23 (b) Persons with developmental disabilities and other  
24 disabilities that require assistance in understanding the new method.

25 (2) In jurisdictions where federal, state, or local law requires  
26 services for voting in languages other than English, there must also  
27 be advertising and education efforts undertaken in each required non-  
28 English language.

29 (3) All advertising and education efforts must clearly identify  
30 the voting jurisdiction that is covered under the new method of  
31 ranking candidates to ensure information is effective and consistent.

32 (4) All work done by the county auditor under this section is  
33 subject to RCW 29A.04.410 and all costs to the county auditor shall  
34 be reimbursed by the voting jurisdiction.

35 **Sec. 16.** RCW 29A.04.410 and 2020 c 337 s 1 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

1       (1) Every county, city, town, and district, and the state is  
2 liable for its proportionate share of the costs when such elections  
3 are held in conjunction with other elections held under RCW  
4 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330, except as provided in subsection (2) of  
5 this section.

6       (2) The costs of implementing a ranked choice voting election, as  
7 provided in section 2 of this act, borne by a county must be  
8 apportioned under this section to the jurisdiction using ranked  
9 choice voting. Implementation costs that must be apportioned under  
10 this subsection include the costs associated with:

11       (a) Obtaining, upgrading, or developing any tabulation system  
12 components necessary for ranked choice voting, including hardware and  
13 software;

14       (b) The use or maintenance of any tabulation system components  
15 necessary for ranked choice voting;

16       (c) Hiring, training, and maintaining employees or other  
17 personnel needed to conduct ranked choice voting elections; and

18       (d) Voter education and outreach associated with ranked choice  
19 voting.

20       (3) Whenever any county, city, town, or district, or the state  
21 holds any primary or election, general or special, on an isolated  
22 date, all costs of such elections must be borne by the county, city,  
23 town, or district concerned, or the state as appropriate.

24       (4) The purpose of this section is to clearly establish that the  
25 county is not responsible for any costs involved in the holding of  
26 any city, town, district, state, or federal election.

27       (5) In recovering such election expenses, including a reasonable  
28 proration of administrative costs, the county auditor shall certify  
29 the cost to the county treasurer with a copy to the clerk or auditor  
30 of the city, town, or district concerned, or the secretary of state  
31 as appropriate. Upon receipt of such certification relating to a  
32 city, town, or district, the county treasurer shall make the transfer  
33 from any available and appropriate city, town, or district funds to  
34 the county current expense fund or to the county election reserve  
35 fund if such a fund is established. Each city, town, or district must  
36 be promptly notified by the county treasurer whenever such transfer  
37 has been completed. However, in those districts wherein a treasurer,  
38 other than the county treasurer, has been appointed such transfer  
39 procedure does not apply, but the district shall promptly issue its  
40 warrant for payment of election costs. State and federal offices are

1 to be considered one entity for purposes of election cost proration  
2 and reimbursement.

3 **Sec. 17.** RCW 29A.12.080 and 2013 c 11 s 22 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 No voting system or voting device shall be approved by the  
6 secretary of state unless it:

7 (1) Secures to the voter secrecy in the act of voting;

8 (2) Permits the voter to vote for any person for any office and  
9 upon any measure that he or she has the right to vote for;

10 (3) Correctly registers all votes cast for any and all persons  
11 and for or against any and all measures;

12 (4) Provides that a vote for more than one candidate cannot be  
13 cast by one single operation of the voting device or vote tally  
14 system except when voting for president and vice president of the  
15 United States or in an election using ranked choice voting; and

16 (5) (~~Except for functions or capabilities unique to this state,~~  
17 ~~has~~) Has been tested and certified by an independent testing  
18 authority designated by the United States election assistance  
19 commission, except:

20 (a) For functions or capabilities unique to this state; or

21 (b) For stand-alone components of voting systems that have been  
22 tested by an independent testing authority designated by the United  
23 States election assistance commission but that cannot be officially  
24 "certified" because the authority can certify only complete voting  
25 systems.

26 **Sec. 18.** RCW 29A.36.121 and 2013 c 11 s 42 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 (1) The positions or offices on a primary consolidated ballot  
29 shall be arranged in substantially the following order: United States  
30 senator; United States representative; governor; lieutenant governor;  
31 secretary of state; state treasurer; state auditor; attorney general;  
32 commissioner of public lands; superintendent of public instruction;  
33 insurance commissioner; state senator; state representative; county  
34 officers; justices of the supreme court; judges of the court of  
35 appeals; judges of the superior court; and judges of the district  
36 court. (~~For~~) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section,  
37 for all other jurisdictions on the primary ballot, the offices in

1 each jurisdiction shall be grouped together and be in the order of  
2 the position numbers assigned to those offices, if any.

3 (2) The order of the positions or offices on a general election  
4 ballot shall be substantially the same as on a primary ballot except  
5 that state ballot issues must be placed before all offices. The  
6 offices of president and vice president of the United States shall  
7 precede all other offices on a presidential election ballot. The  
8 positions on a ballot to be assigned to ballot measures regarding  
9 local units of government shall be established by the secretary of  
10 state by rule.

11 (3) All offices that are elected using ranked choice voting as  
12 provided in section 2 of this act must be grouped together, appearing  
13 consecutively and in an order consistent with subsections (1) and (2)  
14 of this section. The county auditor may, in the auditor's discretion,  
15 place the grouping of offices elected using ranked choice voting at  
16 any place on the ballot, except that the grouping of offices may not  
17 be placed before any office that is required to come before it under  
18 subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 19. RCW 29A.04.127 (Primary) and 2005 c 2 s 5  
20 & 2003 c 111 s 122 are each repealed.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 20. This act is necessary for the immediate  
22 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
23 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
24 effect immediately.

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