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**SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2210**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** House Appropriations (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 02/09/26.

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;

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

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

21 (e) If a voter provides the same number ranking to more than one  
22 candidate, the county auditor may not count that vote ranking for any  
23 candidate and may not count a vote for any subsequent number ranking  
24 for that office;

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

34 (g) If the requisite number of officers have not been elected, or  
35 selected to continue to further rounds of vote tabulation, by reason  
36 of two or more persons having an equal and highest number of votes  
37 for the same office, the official empowered by state law to issue the  
38 original certificate of election shall resolve the tie as provided in  
39 RCW 29A.60.221.

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

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

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

22 (8) As used in this section:

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

26 (b) "Instant runoff voting method" means a method of counting  
27 votes in which ballots are counted in rounds and the candidate  
28 receiving the fewest number of votes is eliminated, continuing until  
29 one candidate receives a majority of all votes counted in that round  
30 and is declared the winner.

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

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

35 (ii) Ballots are counted in rounds, and at the end of each round  
36 any candidate who receives enough votes to pass the winning threshold  
37 is declared elected. Any votes received by that candidate in excess  
38 of the threshold to win are transferred to other candidates. After  
39 all such votes have been transferred so that no candidate has votes  
40 exceeding the winning threshold, the candidate with the least number

1 of votes is eliminated, and their votes are transferred to other  
2 candidates in the next round; and

3 (iii) The counting process stops when the number of elected  
4 candidates equals the number of seats to be filled, or the number of  
5 candidates remaining equals the number of seats not yet filled by an  
6 elected candidate.

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

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

13 (1) If the requisite number of any federal, state, county, city,  
14 or district offices have not been nominated in a primary by reason of  
15 two or more persons having an equal and requisite number of votes for  
16 being placed on the general election ballot, the official empowered  
17 by state law to certify candidates for the general election ballot  
18 shall give notice to the several persons so having the equal and  
19 requisite number of votes to attend at the appropriate office at the  
20 time designated by that official, who shall then and there proceed  
21 publicly to decide by lot which of those persons will be declared  
22 nominated and placed on the general election ballot.

23 (2) If the requisite number of any federal, state, county, city,  
24 district, or precinct officers have not been elected by reason of two  
25 or more persons having an equal and highest number of votes for one  
26 and the same office, the official empowered by state law to issue the  
27 original certificate of election shall give notice to the several  
28 persons so having the highest and equal number of votes to attend at  
29 the appropriate office at the time to be appointed by that official,  
30 who shall then and there proceed publicly to decide by lot which of  
31 those persons will be declared duly elected, and the official shall  
32 make out and deliver to the person thus duly declared elected a  
33 certificate of election.

34 (3) For a tie occurring at any point in the counting process of  
35 an election conducted using ranked choice voting as provided in  
36 section 2 of this act, the official empowered by state law to certify  
37 candidates for the general election ballot shall resolve the tie  
38 using the lot method described in this section. If the tie occurs

1 before the final round of counting, the tie must be resolved as  
2 expeditiously as possible.

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

5 "Primary" or "primary election" means a procedure for winnowing  
6 candidates for public office to a final list of two as part of a  
7 special or general election, or to a final list of five in a county,  
8 city, town, or district election that uses ranked choice voting as  
9 provided in section 2 of this act. Each voter has the right to cast a  
10 vote for any candidate for each office without any limitation based  
11 on party preference or affiliation, of either the voter or the  
12 candidate.

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

15 For any office for which a primary was held, only the names of  
16 the top two candidates will appear on the general election ballot,  
17 unless the election will be conducted using ranked choice voting as  
18 provided in section 2 of this act, in which case only the names of  
19 the top five candidates will appear on the general election ballot;  
20 the name of the candidate who received the greatest number of votes  
21 will appear first and the candidate who received the next greatest  
22 number of votes will appear second. No candidate's name may be  
23 printed on the subsequent general election ballot unless he or she  
24 receives at least one percent of the total votes cast for that office  
25 at the preceding primary, if a primary was conducted. On the ballot  
26 at the general election for an office for which no primary was held,  
27 the names of the candidates shall be listed in the order determined  
28 pursuant to RCW 29A.36.131.

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

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

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

1       (3) Based upon votes cast at the primary, the top two candidates,  
2 or the top five candidates in a primary for a single-winner general  
3 election conducted using ranked choice voting as provided in section  
4 2 of this act, will be certified as qualified to appear on the  
5 general election ballot (~~(, unless only one candidate qualifies as~~  
6 ~~provided in RCW 29A.36.170)~~).

7       ~~((3))~~ (4) No primary may be held for any single county partisan  
8 office to fill an unexpired term if, after the last day allowed for  
9 candidates to withdraw, only one candidate has filed for the  
10 position.

11       ~~((4))~~ (5) For partisan office, if a candidate has expressed a  
12 party preference on the declaration of candidacy, then that  
13 preference will be shown after the name of the candidate on the  
14 primary and general election ballots as set forth in rules of the  
15 secretary of state. A candidate may choose to express no party  
16 preference. Any party preferences are shown for the information of  
17 voters only and may in no way limit the options available to voters.

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

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

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

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

32       ~~((3))~~ (4) Names of candidates for offices that do not appear on  
33 the primary ballot shall be printed upon the general election ballot  
34 in the manner specified by RCW 29A.36.131.

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

37       (1) Not less than thirty days before the first day for filing  
38 declarations of candidacy under RCW 29A.24.050 for legislative,

1 judicial, county, city, town, or district office, where more than one  
2 position with the same name, district number, or title will be voted  
3 upon at the succeeding election, the filing officer shall designate  
4 the positions to be filled by number, except as provided in  
5 subsection (3) of this section.

6 (2) The positions so designated shall be dealt with as separate  
7 offices for all election purposes. With the exception of the office  
8 of justice of the supreme court, the position numbers shall be  
9 assigned, whenever possible, to reflect the position numbers that  
10 were used to designate the same positions at the last full-term  
11 election for those offices.

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

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

20 (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this  
21 section, the qualified electors of each county commissioner district,  
22 and they only, shall nominate from among their own number, candidates  
23 for the office of county commissioner of such commissioner district  
24 to be voted for at the following general election. Such candidates  
25 shall be nominated in the same manner as candidates for other county  
26 and district offices are nominated in all other respects.

27 (2) ~~((Where))~~ Except as provided in subsection (3) of this  
28 section, where the commissioners of a county composed entirely of  
29 islands with a population of less than thirty-five thousand have  
30 chosen to divide the county into unequal-sized commissioner districts  
31 pursuant to the exception provided in RCW 36.32.020, the qualified  
32 electors of the entire county shall nominate from among their own  
33 number who reside within a commissioner district, candidates for the  
34 office of county commissioner of such commissioner district to be  
35 voted for at the following general election. Such candidates shall be  
36 nominated in the same manner as candidates for other county offices  
37 are nominated in all other respects.

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

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

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

5       (1) Except as provided otherwise in subsection (2) of this  
6 section or this chapter, county commissioners shall be elected by the  
7 qualified voters of the county and the person receiving the highest  
8 number of votes for the office of commissioner for the district in  
9 which he or she resides shall be declared duly elected from that  
10 district.

11       (2) Beginning in 2022, in any noncharter county with a population  
12 of four hundred thousand or more, county commissioners must be  
13 nominated and elected by the qualified electors of the commissioner  
14 district in which he or she resides. The person receiving the highest  
15 number of votes at a general election for the office of commissioner  
16 for the district in which he or she resides must be declared duly  
17 elected from that district.

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

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

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

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

31       (1) Officers shall be elected at biennial municipal elections to  
32 be conducted as provided in chapter 35A.29 RCW. The mayor and the  
33 councilmembers shall be elected for four-year terms of office and  
34 until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in  
35 accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. At any first election upon  
36 reorganization, councilmembers shall be elected as provided in RCW  
37 35A.02.050. Thereafter the requisite number of councilmembers shall  
38 be elected biennially as the terms of their predecessors expire and

1 shall serve for terms of four years. ((The)) Except as provided in  
2 subsection (2) of this section, the positions to be filled on the  
3 city council shall be designated by consecutive numbers and shall be  
4 dealt with as separate offices for all election purposes. Election to  
5 positions on the council shall be by majority vote from the city at  
6 large, unless provision is made by charter or ordinance for election  
7 by wards. The mayor and councilmembers shall qualify by taking an  
8 oath or affirmation of office and as may be provided by law, charter,  
9 or ordinance.

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

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

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

18 ((The)) (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section,  
19 the positions of school directors in each district shall be dealt  
20 with as separate offices for all election purposes, and where more  
21 than one position is to be filled, each candidate shall file for one  
22 of the positions so designated: PROVIDED, That in school districts  
23 containing director districts, or a combination of director districts  
24 and director at large positions, candidates shall file for such  
25 director districts or at large positions. Position numbers shall be  
26 assigned to correspond to director district numbers to the extent  
27 possible.

28 (3) If the school board uses ranked choice voting as provided in  
29 section 2 of this act, the school board shall choose whether to deal  
30 with the positions of school directors as separate offices for  
31 elections purposes.

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

34 A board of fire commissioners may conduct an election for fire  
35 commissioner using ranked choice voting as provided in section 2 of  
36 this act.

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

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

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

7        (1) Whenever a voting jurisdiction changes to a method of ranking  
8    candidates, the county auditor, in coordination with that  
9    jurisdiction, must notify the public of the change and create a  
10   public education campaign focused on familiarizing voters with any  
11   unique elements of the new process pursuant to best practices. The  
12   public education campaign should consider the needs of all voters in  
13   the jurisdiction, including:

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

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

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

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

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

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

30        (1) Every county, city, town, and district, and the state is  
31   liable for its proportionate share of the costs when such elections  
32   are held in conjunction with other elections held under RCW  
33   29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330, except as provided in subsection (2) of  
34   this section.

35        (2) The costs of implementing a ranked choice voting election, as  
36   provided in section 2 of this act, borne by a county must be  
37   apportioned under this section to the jurisdiction using ranked

1 choice voting. Implementation costs that must be apportioned under  
2 this subsection include the costs associated with:

3 (a) Obtaining, upgrading, or developing any tabulation system  
4 components necessary for ranked choice voting, including hardware and  
5 software;

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

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

10 (d) Voter education and outreach associated with ranked choice  
11 voting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (b) For stand-alone components of voting systems that have been  
15 tested by an independent testing authority designated by the United  
16 States election assistance commission but that cannot be officially  
17 "certified" because the authority can certify only complete voting  
18 systems.

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

21 (1) The positions or offices on a primary consolidated ballot  
22 shall be arranged in substantially the following order: United States  
23 senator; United States representative; governor; lieutenant governor;  
24 secretary of state; state treasurer; state auditor; attorney general;  
25 commissioner of public lands; superintendent of public instruction;  
26 insurance commissioner; state senator; state representative; county  
27 officers; justices of the supreme court; judges of the court of  
28 appeals; judges of the superior court; and judges of the district  
29 court. (~~For~~) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section,  
30 for all other jurisdictions on the primary ballot, the offices in  
31 each jurisdiction shall be grouped together and be in the order of  
32 the position numbers assigned to those offices, if any.

33 (2) The order of the positions or offices on a general election  
34 ballot shall be substantially the same as on a primary ballot except  
35 that state ballot issues must be placed before all offices. The  
36 offices of president and vice president of the United States shall  
37 precede all other offices on a presidential election ballot. The  
38 positions on a ballot to be assigned to ballot measures regarding

1 local units of government shall be established by the secretary of  
2 state by rule.

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

11 NEW SECTION. Sec. 19. RCW 29A.04.127 (Primary) and 2005 c 2 s 5  
12 & 2003 c 111 s 122 are each repealed.

13 NEW SECTION. Sec. 20. This act is necessary for the immediate  
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
15 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
16 effect immediately.

--- END ---