
HOUSE BILL 2341

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Simmons, Ramel, Reed, Obras, Zahn, Doglio, Ormsby, Reeves, Farivar, Macri, Fosse, and Hill; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Prefiled 01/08/26. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to celebrating national voter registration day;
2 amending RCW 28A.230.150; adding a new section to chapter 28A.230
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the importance
6 of fostering lifelong civic engagement and that there is an
7 opportunity to align Washington state with the national voter
8 registration day celebrations and activities, both benefiting
9 teachers and improving the civic engagement of high school students.
10 The legislature further recognizes that moving some activities from
11 January 16th to the third Tuesday in September allows for teachers to
12 incorporate civic education lessons and voter registration activities
13 closer to the November general election. Therefore, the legislature
14 intends to align Washington state with national civic engagement
15 activities by celebrating national voter registration day.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) On the third Tuesday of September of each year, or the
19 following Tuesday if the third Tuesday of September falls on a major

1 religious holiday, each public high school shall observe "National
2 Voter Registration Day."

3 (2) Each year on "National Voter Registration Day," or within a
4 two-week period before or after that date to accommodate school
5 schedules, public high schools must, as resources allow, coordinate a
6 voter registration event in each history or social studies class
7 attended by high school seniors and when possible high school
8 students in other grades. This event is part of the future voter
9 program. Teachers must make voter sign up and registration available
10 to all students.

11 (3) County auditors may, as resources allow, help coordinate
12 elements of the future voter program, and participate in voter
13 registration events for students on "National Voter Registration
14 Day."

15 (4) On each "National Voter Registration Day" all students 16
16 years of age or older will be given the opportunity to register to
17 vote or sign up to register to vote online in the classroom as part
18 of the future voter program. Paper registration forms must also be
19 made available in the classroom. Students who cannot use the online
20 registration must be provided a paper registration form. The event
21 must include adequate time for students to complete the registration
22 process in class.

23 (5) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation
24 with the secretary of state, must update and distribute youth voter
25 registration materials annually for eligible students to register to
26 vote at school. Electronic notification of the availability of the
27 materials must be distributed to high school principals and secondary
28 social studies and history teachers.

29 (6) The superintendent of public instruction must consult with
30 the secretary of state to provide registration methods that enable
31 the electronic collection of information on the number of students
32 who registered to vote on "National Voter Registration Day," with the
33 goal of achieving at least 50,000 new voter registrations for high
34 school students annually.

35 (7) Each year the superintendent of public instruction must
36 report on yearly progress toward the goal established in subsection
37 (6) of this section, including the number of high school students
38 registered to vote by county and recommendations for increasing youth
39 voter registration, to the governor and the appropriate standing
40 committees of the legislature in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

1 (8) For the purposes of this section:

2 (a) "Future voter program" refers to the information that may be
3 collected by a number of processes about a future voter. Information
4 about a future voter that is otherwise disclosable under chapter
5 29A.08 RCW is subject to RCW 29A.08.725.

6 (b) "Sign up" means the act of providing information relevant to
7 eventual official voter registration, prior to such time that the
8 student will be 18 years of age by the next election.

9 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.230.150 and 2018 c 109 s 3 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) On January 16th of each year or the preceding Friday when
12 January 16th falls on a nonschool day, there shall be observed within
13 each public school "Temperance and Good Citizenship Day." Annually
14 the state superintendent of public instruction shall duly prepare and
15 publish for circulation among the teachers of the state a program for
16 use on such day embodying topics pertinent thereto and may from year
17 to year designate particular laws for special observance.

18 (2) Each year on "Temperance and Good Citizenship Day," (~~social~~
19 ~~studies teachers~~) public high schools must, as resources allow,
20 coordinate a voter registration event in each history or social
21 studies class attended by high school seniors in alignment with
22 section 2 of this act. The primary focus of these events must be to
23 support eligible students who missed the opportunity to become future
24 voters or registered voters on "National Voter Registration Day"
25 earlier in the school year. (~~This event is part of the future voter~~
26 ~~program. Teachers must make voter sign up and registration available~~
27 ~~to all students.~~

28 ~~(3) County auditors may, as resources allow, help coordinate~~
29 ~~elements of the future voter program, and participate in voter~~
30 ~~registration events for students on "Temperance and Good Citizenship~~
31 ~~Day."~~

32 ~~(4) On each temperance and good citizenship day all students who~~
33 ~~will be eighteen years of age or older by the time of the next~~
34 ~~general election will be given the opportunity to register to vote~~
35 ~~online in the classroom. Paper registration must also be made~~
36 ~~available in the classroom. Students who do not possess a state~~
37 ~~identificard or driver's license must be provided a paper registration~~
38 ~~form. The event must include adequate time for students to complete~~
39 ~~the registration process in class.~~

1 ~~(5) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation~~
2 ~~with the secretary of state, must update and distribute youth voter~~
3 ~~registration materials annually, by December 1st, for eligible~~
4 ~~students to register to vote at school. Electronic notification of~~
5 ~~the availability of the materials must be distributed to high school~~
6 ~~principals and secondary social studies and history teachers.~~

7 ~~(6) The superintendent of public instruction must consult with~~
8 ~~the secretary of state to provide registration methods that enable~~
9 ~~the electronic collection of information on the number of students~~
10 ~~who registered to vote on "Temperance and Good Citizenship Day," with~~
11 ~~the goal of achieving at least fifty thousand new voter registrations~~
12 ~~for seventeen and eighteen year olds annually, beginning in January~~
13 ~~2020.~~

14 ~~(7) Beginning March 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the~~
15 ~~superintendent of public instruction must report on yearly progress~~
16 ~~toward the goal established in subsection (5) of this section,~~
17 ~~including the number of seventeen and eighteen year olds registered~~
18 ~~to vote by county and recommendations for increasing youth voter~~
19 ~~registration, to the governor and the appropriate standing committees~~
20 ~~of the legislature in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.~~

21 ~~(8) For the purposes of this section:~~

22 ~~(a) "Future voter program" refers to the information that may be~~
23 ~~collected by a number of processes about a future voter. Information~~
24 ~~that is otherwise disclosable under chapter 29A.08 RCW cannot be~~
25 ~~disclosed on the future voter until the person reaches age eighteen,~~
26 ~~except for the purpose of processing and delivering ballots.~~

27 ~~(b) "Sign up" means the act of providing information relevant to~~
28 ~~eventual official voter registration, prior to such time that he or~~
29 ~~she will be eighteen years of age by the next election.))~~

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