

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6035**

69th Legislature  
2026 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 10, 2026  
Yeas 29 Nays 19

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House March 3, 2026  
Yeas 57 Nays 36

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**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6035** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6035**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2026 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Kauffman, Frame, Lias, Nobles, Riccelli, Slatter, Stanford, Trudeau, and Valdez)

READ FIRST TIME 02/09/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring access to voting services for  
2 military, overseas, Native American, and disabled voters; adding a  
3 new chapter to Title 29A RCW; and providing a contingent expiration  
4 date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) To the extent practicable, each county  
7 auditor shall schedule the following meetings with each federally  
8 recognized Indian tribe located in whole or in part within the  
9 county:

10 (a) Not later than August 1st of each odd-numbered year, a  
11 meeting to discuss the details for the next regularly scheduled  
12 election cycle. Such a meeting may address, without limitation:

13 (i) The establishment and operation of voting centers or ballot  
14 drop boxes within an Indian reservation and the size requirements for  
15 any such voting centers or ballot drop boxes;

16 (ii) The dates and times of the upcoming elections for which  
17 voting centers or ballot drop boxes may be established;

18 (iii) The deadlines relating to the next regularly scheduled  
19 election cycle for the federally recognized Indian tribe to submit a  
20 request for the establishment of voting centers or ballot drop boxes;

1 (iv) Responsibilities for the recruitment of election officers;  
2 and

3 (v) Any other information relating to the establishment and  
4 operation of voting centers and ballot drop boxes;

5 (b) Not later than September 1st of each odd-numbered year, a  
6 meeting to confirm any details relating to the establishment and  
7 operation of voting centers or ballot drop boxes. Such a meeting may  
8 address, without limitation:

9 (i) Whether the federally recognized Indian tribe will request or  
10 has requested to establish any voting centers or ballot drop boxes  
11 within an Indian reservation and the size requirements for any such  
12 voting centers and ballot drop boxes;

13 (ii) The days and hours of any voting center or ballot drop box  
14 established within an Indian reservation;

15 (iii) Election officers for any voting center or ballot drop box  
16 established within an Indian reservation; and

17 (iv) The deadlines relating to the next regularly scheduled  
18 election cycle for the federally recognized Indian tribe to submit a  
19 request for the establishment of voting centers or ballot drop boxes;  
20 and

21 (c) A meeting on an ongoing basis during the year of an election  
22 if a federally recognized Indian tribe elects to establish any voting  
23 centers or ballot drop boxes within an Indian reservation.

24 (2) If a county auditor:

25 (a) Is unable to make contact with a federally recognized Indian  
26 tribe to carry out the requirements of subsection (1) of this  
27 section, the county auditor shall contact the secretary of state to  
28 facilitate contact; or

29 (b) Has not contacted a federally recognized Indian tribe, a  
30 representative of the federally recognized Indian tribe may contact  
31 the secretary of state to facilitate contact.

32 (3) The tribal liaison designated by the secretary of state may  
33 assist the county auditor or a federally recognized Indian tribe to  
34 facilitate any contact required pursuant to this section.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Each biennium, the secretary of state must  
36 meet with the federally recognized Indian tribes of the state to  
37 provide a forum for discussing and addressing barriers to voting,  
38 including but not limited to:

39 (1) Education and outreach tools for tribal voters;

1 (2) The use of tribal identification card data for online voter  
2 registration;

3 (3) Assistance with tribal-led voter registration drives;

4 (4) Establishment of ballot mailing sites on tribal land for  
5 voters with nontraditional mailing addresses;

6 (5) Installation of ballot drop boxes on or near tribal lands;

7 (6) Providing students with information about voting and  
8 opportunities to register or preregister to vote;

9 (7) Personalized voter registration links, emails with election  
10 date reminders, and meetings or presentations on various elections  
11 topics; and

12 (8) Any other policy issues or tribal concerns.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The secretary of state may, within  
14 existing resources, study the feasibility of employing an electronic  
15 ballot portal that enables covered voters to return a voted ballot.

16 (2) Any electronic ballot portal design being studied must:

17 (a) Be secure against electronic monitoring and incursion or  
18 interference;

19 (b) Provide the maximum level of voter secrecy and privacy  
20 available;

21 (c) Ensure that only a single vote is cast by any voter  
22 authorized to use the electronic ballot portal to return a voted  
23 ballot;

24 (d) Have the capability to produce an auditable paper record at  
25 the receiving end; and

26 (e) Authorize only covered voters to return a voted ballot.

27 (3) In studying electronic ballot portal designs, the secretary  
28 of state may rely on the results of independent design, engineering,  
29 and performance evaluations as well as contract or consult with  
30 experts such as county auditors, representatives with expertise in  
31 electronic voting methods, and cybersecurity experts.

32 (4) Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize the use  
33 of an electronic ballot portal to return a voted ballot in this  
34 state.

35 (5) If the secretary of state conducts a feasibility study in  
36 accordance with this section, the secretary of state shall, within  
37 180 days of completing the study and in compliance with RCW  
38 43.01.036, provide the appropriate committees of the legislature with  
39 a report of the results of its feasibility study and any

1 recommendations on whether the state should employ an electronic  
2 ballot portal for use in elections in this state.

3 (6) For purposes of this section, "covered voter" means:

4 (a) Service voters as defined in RCW 29A.04.163;

5 (b) Overseas voters as defined in RCW 29A.04.109;

6 (c) Disabled voters as defined in RCW 29A.04.037; and

7 (d) Any elector who is a member of a federally recognized Indian  
8 tribe and resides on an Indian reservation.

9 (7) This section expires 30 days after the secretary of state  
10 submits its report to the legislature described in subsection (5) of  
11 this section. The secretary of state must provide written notice of  
12 the expiration date of this section to affected parties, the chief  
13 clerk of the house of representatives, the secretary of the senate,  
14 the office of the code reviser, and others as deemed appropriate by  
15 the secretary of state.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The definitions in this section apply  
17 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
18 otherwise.

19 "Federally recognized Indian tribe" means any federally  
20 recognized Indian tribe whose traditional lands and territories  
21 included parts of Washington as described in RCW 43.376.010.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act  
23 constitute a new chapter in Title 29A RCW.

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