
HOUSE BILL 1071

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, McLean, R. Fisher, Moyer, Dorn, Chandler, Sheldon, Bowman, Winsley, Broback, Edmondson, Paris, Holland, D. Sommers, May, Wynne, Brumsickle, Nealey, Miller, P. Johnson, Casada, Wood, Forner and Mitchell.

Read first time January 18, 1991. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to the appointment of precinct election officers;
2 and amending RCW 29.45.010 and 29.45.030.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.45.010 and 1983 1st ex.s. c 71 s 7 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) At least ten days prior to any primary or election, general or
7 special, the county auditor shall appoint one inspector and two judges
8 of election for each precinct (or each combination of precincts
9 temporarily consolidated as a single precinct for that primary or
10 election), other than those precincts designated as vote-by-mail
11 precincts pursuant to RCW 29.36.120(~~(, from)~~). Except as provided in
12 subsection (2) of this section, the persons appointed shall be among
13 ((the)) those whose names are contained on the lists furnished under
14 RCW 29.45.030 by the ((chairman)) chairpersons of the county central
15 committees of the political parties entitled to representation thereon.

1 Such precinct election officers, whenever possible, should be residents
2 of the precinct in which they serve.

3 (2) The county auditor may delete from the lists of names submitted
4 to the auditor by the chairpersons of the county central committees
5 under RCW 29.45.030: (a) The names of those persons who indicate to
6 the auditor that they cannot or do not wish to serve as precinct
7 election officers for the primary or election or who otherwise cannot
8 so serve; and (b) the names of those persons who lack the ability to
9 conduct properly the duties of an inspector or judge of election after
10 training in that proper conduct has been made available to them by the
11 auditor. The lists which are submitted to the auditor in a timely
12 manner under RCW 29.45.030, less the deletions authorized by this
13 subsection, constitute the official nomination lists for inspectors and
14 judges of election. The auditor may appoint a properly trained person
15 whose name does not appear on such an official nomination list as an
16 inspector or judge of election for a precinct to the extent that the
17 number of persons whose names appear on the official nomination lists
18 is insufficient to provide the number of inspectors and judges required
19 for the primary or election.

20 (3) The county auditor shall designate the inspector and one judge
21 in each precinct from that political party which polled the highest
22 number of votes in the county for its candidate for president at the
23 last preceding presidential election and one judge from that political
24 party polling the next highest number of votes in the county for its
25 candidate for president at the same election. The provisions of this
26 subsection apply only if the number of names on the official nomination
27 list for inspectors and judges of election for a political party is
28 sufficient to satisfy the requirements imposed by this subsection.

29 (4) Except as provided in RCW 29.45.040 for the filling of
30 vacancies, this shall be the exclusive method for the appointment of

1 inspectors and judges to serve as precinct election officers at any
2 primary or election, general or special, and shall supersede the
3 provisions of any and all other statutes, whether general or special in
4 nature, having different requirements.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.45.030 and 1987 c 295 s 16 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The precinct committee officer of each major political party shall
8 certify to the officer's county chair a list of those persons belonging
9 to the officer's political party qualified to act upon the election
10 board in the officer's precinct.

11 ~~((At least sixty days prior to the primary or election))~~ By the
12 first day of June each year, the chair of the county central committee
13 of each major political party shall certify to the officer having
14 jurisdiction of the election((7)) a list of those persons belonging to
15 the county chair's political party in each precinct who are qualified
16 to act on the election board therein.

17 The county chair shall compile this list from the names certified
18 by the various precinct committee officers unless no names or not
19 sufficient names have been certified from a precinct, in which event
20 the county chair may include therein the names of qualified members of
21 the county chair's party selected by the county chair. The county
22 chair shall also have the authority to substitute names of persons
23 recommended by the precinct committee officers if in the judgment of
24 the county chair such persons are not qualified to serve as precinct
25 election officers.