
SENATE BILL 6152

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senator Prentice

Read first time 03/28/2001. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating an open primary with a public
2 declaration of party affiliation; amending RCW 29.42.040 and 29.42.050;
3 adding new sections to chapter 29.30 RCW; adding a new section to
4 chapter 29.36 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 29.51 RCW; adding a
5 new section to chapter 29.27 RCW; and repealing RCW 29.18.200.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 29.30 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 For the primary, a ballot will be created for each major political
10 party containing only that major political party's candidates for
11 partisan office, including candidates for precinct committee officer
12 under RCW 29.42.040. In addition, a separate ballot containing minor
13 party candidates and independent candidates for partisan office will be
14 created.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29.30 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 For the primary, all major political party ballots and the minor
18 party and independent candidate ballot will contain the names of all

1 candidates for nonpartisan office and any ballot measures that have
2 been properly certified for the ballot.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 29.36 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) Each major political party may require that the secretary of
6 state adopt rules to provide for any declaration of party affiliation
7 required by that party.

8 (2) The secretary of state shall adopt rules in accordance with
9 this title and chapter 34.05 RCW to provide for any declaration
10 required by a major political party and to provide for uniformity in
11 primary ballot preparation and the recording of voter party
12 affiliation.

13 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.42.040 and 1990 c 59 s 104 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 Any member of a major political party who is a registered voter in
16 the precinct may upon payment of a fee of one dollar file his or her
17 declaration of candidacy as prescribed under RCW 29.15.010 with the
18 county auditor for the office of precinct committee officer of his or
19 her party in that precinct. When elected the precinct committee
20 officer shall serve so long as the committee officer remains an
21 eligible voter in that precinct and until a successor has been elected
22 at the next ensuing state (~~general election~~) primary in the even-
23 numbered year.

24 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29.42.050 and 1991 c 363 s 34 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 The statutory requirements for filing as a candidate at the
27 primaries shall apply to candidates for precinct committee officer
28 (~~except that the filing period for this office alone shall be extended~~
29 ~~to and include the Friday immediately following the last day for~~
30 ~~political parties to fill vacancies in the ticket as provided by RCW~~
31 ~~29.18.150, and the office shall not be voted upon at the primaries, but~~
32 ~~the names of all candidates must appear under the proper party and~~
33 ~~office designations on the ballot for the general November election for~~
34 ~~each even-numbered year)), and the ((one)) precinct committee officer
35 candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared
36 elected: PROVIDED, That to be declared elected, a candidate must~~

1 receive at least ten percent of the number of votes cast for the
2 candidate of the candidate's party receiving the greatest number of
3 votes in the precinct. Any person elected to the office of precinct
4 committee officer who has not filed a declaration of candidacy shall
5 pay the fee of one dollar to the county auditor for a certificate of
6 election. The term of office of precinct committee officer shall be
7 for two years, commencing upon completion of the official canvass of
8 votes by the county canvassing board of election returns. Should any
9 vacancy occur in this office by reason of death, resignation, or
10 disqualification of the incumbent, or because of failure to elect, the
11 respective county chair of the county central committee shall be
12 empowered to fill such vacancy by appointment: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That
13 in legislative districts having a majority of its precincts in a county
14 with a population of one million or more, such appointment shall be
15 made only upon the recommendation of the legislative district chair:
16 PROVIDED, That the person so appointed shall have the same
17 qualifications as candidates when filing for election to such office
18 for such precinct: PROVIDED FURTHER, That when a vacancy in the office
19 of precinct committee officer exists because of failure to elect at a
20 state ((general election)) primary, such vacancy shall not be filled
21 until after the organization meeting of the county central committee
22 and the new county chair selected as provided by RCW 29.42.030.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 29.51 RCW
24 to read as follows:

25 (1) When a voter is signing the precinct list in order to cast a
26 ballot at a primary, the precinct election officials shall allow the
27 voter to select either a ballot for one of the major political parties
28 or a ballot that includes minor political party and independent
29 candidates. A voter may not cast more than one ballot.

30 (2) The precinct list will contain by each voter's name and address
31 a list of signature boxes for each major political party and for the
32 minor political party and independent candidate ballot. Next to each
33 signature box will be any statement of party affiliation as submitted
34 by the major political parties. No voter may receive a ballot before
35 signing the declaration of party affiliation if required by the
36 political party.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 29.27 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 At least forty-eight hours before the certification of election
4 results, each precinct list detailing the party ballot that each voter
5 selected must be sent by electronic facsimile to the state chair of
6 each major political party.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** RCW 29.18.200 (Blanket primary authorized)
8 and 1990 c 59 s 88 & 1965 c 9 s 29.18.200 are each repealed.

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