
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2496

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By House State Government & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives White, Orwall, Chase, Dickerson, Carlyle, Upthegrove, Springer, Nelson, Simpson, Miloscia, Dunshee, and Hunt)

READ FIRST TIME 01/20/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to ballot design; and amending RCW 29A.36.161.

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

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.36.161 and 2004 c 271 s 132 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) On the top of each ballot must be printed clear and concise
6 instructions directing the voter how to mark the ballot, including
7 write-in votes. On the top of each primary ballot must be printed the
8 instructions required by this chapter.

9 (2) The ballot must have a clear delineation between the ballot
10 instructions and the first ballot measure or office through the use of
11 white space, illustration, shading, color, symbol, font size, or bold
12 type. The secretary of state shall establish standards for ballot
13 design and layout consistent with this act and RCW 29A.04.611.

14 (3) The questions of adopting constitutional amendments or any
15 other state measure authorized by law to be submitted to the voters at
16 that election must appear after the instructions and before any
17 offices.

18 ((+3+)) (4) In a year that president and vice president appear on

1 the general election ballot, the names of candidates for president and
2 vice president for each political party must be grouped together with
3 a single response position for a voter to indicate his or her choice.

4 ~~((4))~~ (5) On a general election ballot, the candidate or
5 candidates of the major political party that received the highest
6 number of votes from the electors of this state for the office of
7 president of the United States at the last presidential election must
8 appear first following the appropriate office heading. The candidate
9 or candidates of the other major political parties will follow
10 according to the votes cast for their nominees for president at the
11 last presidential election, and independent candidates and the
12 candidate or candidates of all other parties will follow in the order
13 of their qualification with the secretary of state.

14 ~~((5))~~ (6) All paper ballots and ballot cards used at a polling
15 place must be sequentially numbered in such a way to permit removal of
16 such numbers without leaving any identifying marks on the ballot.

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