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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2496**

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**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. Immediately following the ballot instructions, the words:  
13 "BEGIN VOTING HERE" must appear in a font size larger than what is used  
14 for ballot instructions and ballot questions.

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

1        (~~(+3)~~) (4) In a year that president and vice president appear on  
2 the general election ballot, the names of candidates for president and  
3 vice president for each political party must be grouped together with  
4 a single response position for a voter to indicate his or her choice.

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

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

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