
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5271

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Senate Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Pridemore, Benton, Kline, Swecker, Roach, and Rasmussen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the dates on which a special election
2 may be held; amending RCW 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330; and providing an
3 effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.04.321 and 2006 c 344 s 2 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) All state, county, city, town, and district general elections
8 for the election of federal, state, legislative, judicial, county,
9 city, town, and district officers, and for the submission to the voters
10 of the state, county, city, town, or district of any measure for their
11 adoption and approval or rejection, shall be held on the first Tuesday
12 after the first Monday of November, in the year in which they may be
13 called. A statewide general election shall be held on the first
14 Tuesday after the first Monday of November of each year. However, the
15 statewide general election held in odd-numbered years shall be limited
16 to (a) city, town, and district general elections as provided for in
17 RCW 29A.04.330, or as otherwise provided by law; (b) the election of
18 federal officers for the remainder of any unexpired terms in the
19 membership of either branch of the Congress of the United States; (c)

1 the election of state and county officers for the remainder of any
2 unexpired terms of offices created by or whose duties are described in
3 Article II, section 15, Article III, sections 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22,
4 and 23, and Article IV, sections 3 and 5 of the state Constitution and
5 RCW 2.06.080; (d) the election of county officers in any county
6 governed by a charter containing provisions calling for general county
7 elections at this time; and (e) the approval or rejection of state
8 measures, including proposed constitutional amendments, matters
9 pertaining to any proposed constitutional convention, initiative
10 measures and referendum measures proposed by the electorate, referendum
11 bills, and any other matter provided by the legislature for submission
12 to the electorate.

13 (2) A county legislative authority may call a special county
14 election by presenting a resolution to the county auditor prior to the
15 proposed election date. Except as provided in subsection ~~((4))~~ (5)
16 of this section, a special election called by the county legislative
17 authority shall be held on one of the following dates as decided by
18 such governing body:

- 19 (a) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in February;
20 (b) ~~((The second Tuesday in March;~~
21 ~~(c) The fourth Tuesday in April;~~
22 ~~(d))~~ The third Tuesday in May;
23 ~~((e))~~ (c) The day of the primary as specified by RCW 29A.04.311;

24 or

- 25 ~~((f))~~ (d) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

26 (3) A resolution calling for a special election on a date set forth
27 in subsection (2)(a) ~~((through (d)))~~ and (b) of this section must be
28 presented to the county auditor at least fifty-two days prior to the
29 election date. A resolution calling for a special election on a date
30 set forth in subsection (2)~~((e))~~ (c) or ~~((f))~~ (d) of this section
31 must be presented to the county auditor at least eighty-four days prior
32 to the election date.

33 (4) In addition to the dates set forth in subsection (2)(a) through
34 ~~((f))~~ (d) of this section, a special election to validate an excess
35 levy or bond issue may be called at any time to meet the needs
36 resulting from fire, flood, earthquake, or other act of God. Such
37 county special election shall be noticed and conducted in the manner
38 provided by law.

1 (5) In a presidential election year, if a presidential preference
2 primary is conducted in February(~~(, March, April,)~~) or May under
3 chapter 29A.56 RCW, the date on which a special election may be called
4 by the county legislative authority under subsection (2) of this
5 section during the month of that primary is the date of the
6 presidential primary.

7 (6) This section shall supersede the provisions of any and all
8 other statutes, whether general or special in nature, having different
9 dates for such city, town, and district elections, the purpose of this
10 section being to establish mandatory dates for holding elections except
11 for those elections held pursuant to a home-rule charter adopted under
12 Article XI, section 4 of the state Constitution. This section shall
13 not be construed as fixing the time for holding primary elections, or
14 elections for the recall of any elective public officer.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.04.330 and 2006 c 344 s 3 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 (1) All city, town, and district general elections shall be held
18 throughout the state of Washington on the first Tuesday following the
19 first Monday in November in the odd-numbered years.

20 This section shall not apply to:

21 (a) Elections for the recall of any elective public officer;

22 (b) Public utility districts, conservation districts, or district
23 elections at which the ownership of property within those districts is
24 a prerequisite to voting, all of which elections shall be held at the
25 times prescribed in the laws specifically applicable thereto;

26 (c) Consolidation proposals as provided for in RCW 28A.315.235 and
27 nonhigh capital fund aid proposals as provided for in chapter 28A.540
28 RCW.

29 (2) The county auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections, upon
30 request in the form of a resolution of the governing body of a city,
31 town, or district, presented to the auditor prior to the proposed
32 election date, may call a special election in such city, town, or
33 district, and for the purpose of such special election he or she may
34 combine, unite, or divide precincts. Except as provided in subsection
35 (~~(+3+)~~) (4) of this section, such a special election shall be held on
36 one of the following dates as decided by the governing body:

37 (a) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in February;

1 (b) (~~The second Tuesday in March;~~

2 ~~(c) The fourth Tuesday in April;~~

3 ~~(d)~~) The (~~(third)~~) first Tuesday in May;

4 (~~(e)~~) (c) The day of the primary election as specified by RCW
5 29A.04.311; or

6 (~~(f)~~) (d) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

7 (3) A resolution calling for a special election on a date set forth
8 in subsection (2)(a) (~~through (d)~~) and (b) of this section must be
9 presented to the county auditor at least fifty-two days prior to the
10 election date. A resolution calling for a special election on a date
11 set forth in subsection (2)(~~(e)~~) (c) or (~~(f)~~) (d) of this section
12 must be presented to the county auditor at least eighty-four days prior
13 to the election date.

14 (4) In a presidential election year, if a presidential preference
15 primary is conducted in February(~~, March, April,~~) or May under
16 chapter 29A.56 RCW, the date on which a special election may be called
17 under subsection (2) of this section during the month of that primary
18 is the date of the presidential primary.

19 (5) In addition to subsection (2)(a) through (~~(f)~~) (d) of this
20 section, a special election to validate an excess levy or bond issue
21 may be called at any time to meet the needs resulting from fire, flood,
22 earthquake, or other act of God, except that no special election may be
23 held between the first day for candidates to file for public office and
24 the last day to certify the returns of the general election other than
25 as provided in subsection (2)(~~(e)~~) (c) and (~~(f)~~) (d) of this
26 section. Such special election shall be conducted and notice thereof
27 given in the manner provided by law.

28 (6) This section shall supersede the provisions of any and all
29 other statutes, whether general or special in nature, having different
30 dates for such city, town, and district elections, the purpose of this
31 section being to establish mandatory dates for holding elections.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2009.

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