
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5701

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Benton, Pridemore, Roach, Swecker and Stevens)

READ FIRST TIME 02/26/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a procedure for the election of
2 county commissioners by district; amending RCW 36.32.050; and adding a
3 new section to chapter 36.32 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.32.050 and 1963 c 4 s 36.32.050 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 County commissioners shall be elected by:

8 (1) The qualified voters of the county ((and)); or

9 (2) The qualified voters of the commissioner district, pursuant to
10 section 2 of this act.

11 The person receiving the highest number of votes for the office of
12 commissioner for the district in which he or she resides shall be
13 declared duly elected from that district.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.32 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 (1)(a) The board of commissioners of any noncharter county may
17 cause a ballot proposition to be submitted at a general election to the

1 voters of the county authorizing the board of commissioners to be
2 elected by district.

3 (b) As an alternative procedure, a ballot proposition may be
4 submitted to the voters of a noncharter county authorizing the board of
5 commissioners to be elected by district, upon petition of the county
6 voters equal to at least ten percent of the voters voting at the last
7 county general election. At least twenty percent of the signatures on
8 the petition must come from each of the existing commissioner
9 districts.

10 Any petition requesting that such an election be held must be
11 submitted to the county auditor for verification of the signatures on
12 the petition. Within thirty days after the submission of the petition,
13 the auditor shall determine if the petition contains the requisite
14 number of valid signatures. The auditor shall certify whether or not
15 the petition has been signed by the requisite number of county voters
16 and forward the petition to the board of county commissioners. If the
17 petition has been signed by the requisite number of county voters, the
18 board of county commissioners shall submit the proposition to the
19 voters for their approval or rejection at the next general election
20 held at least sixty days after the proposition has been certified by
21 the auditor.

22 (2) The board of commissioners of a county, or the voters of a
23 county, in which the board of county commissioners is elected by
24 commissioner district under this section, may cause a ballot
25 proposition to be submitted to the voters authorizing the board of
26 commissioners to be elected by the qualified voters of the county. The
27 ballot proposition must be submitted in the same manner as ballot
28 propositions submitted under subsection (1) of this section.

29 (3) This section applies only to a noncharter county with a
30 population greater than three hundred thousand that is located west of
31 the Cascade mountains.

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