

Update of 2018 Legislation Passed in Olympia

The following pieces of election-related legislation were passed in this 2018 Legislative Session and their effective dates: (a more comprehensive list can be found at: <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/33538>)

Effective 6/7/2018:

- **ESSB6002 – Voting Rights Act.** Brief Summary: Creates a state voting rights act to protect the equal opportunity for minority groups to participate in local elections. School districts, cities, fire commissioners, port commissioners and public utility districts may choose to adopt district-based elections.
- **SHB2406 – Election Security Practices.** Brief Summary: Expands upon audits performed on duplicated ballots and electronic ballot counting; authorizes the Secretary to decertify a voting system or component for certain reasons.
- **SHB2628 – Election Continuity of Operations.** Brief Summary: Requires the Washington Military Department to maintain a copy of all county continuity of operations plans for election operations.
- **SB6058 – Write-In Voting.** Brief Summary: Requires write-in candidates to file declarations of candidacy to be eligible to have votes for the candidate tabulated; eliminates filing fee for write-in candidates who declare candidacy at least 18 days before the election; requires fees for filing within 18 days of the election.

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Effective 6/30/2019:

- **SSB6021 – Voter Registration Period.** Brief Summary: Sections 1-4. Voter registration by mail and electronically must be received no later than eight days before election date rather than 29 days before; changes in-person registration for new registrations and of existing registrations to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Effective 7/1/2019:

- **E2SHB2595 – Automatic Voter Registration.** Brief Summary: Provides for an automatic voter registration procedure for enhanced driver's licenses or identicards applicants; and other requirements for state agencies such as Health Benefit Exchange (HBE), other agencies that include citizenship information including those providing public assistance or services to persons with disabilities, the Department of Agriculture, Veterans Affairs, the Military Department and the business professions division of DOL to offer the option to be automatically registered to vote.

- **2SHB1513 – Youth Voter Registration.** Brief Summary: Authorizes a person to sign up to register to vote upon turning 16 years old but are not added to the official list of registered voters until the person will be at least 18 years old by the next election; exempts the information related to voter registration from public disclosure requirements until the subject of the information reaches age 18, with exceptions; provides for a voter sign-up and registration event in high school classes on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day.

A more comprehensive listing may be found at:

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