

Legislation signed by the Governor

OSOS request bill making nonsubstantive changes to election laws. [Substitute Senate Bill 5518](#), signed into law on April 17, removes outdated language and statutory citations that are no longer relevant and conforms state law to changes in federal law, including the following:

- statutes related to the pick-a-party primary system are repealed or amended to comply with the top-two primary;
- laws declared unconstitutional, including term limits, the blanket primary, and the superior court judge residency requirement are amended or repealed;
- the time period when ballots must be mailed to military and overseas voters is corrected;
- dates relating to the primary election are corrected;
- language regarding restoration of voter rights and the voter's oath are corrected; and
- other language is clarified or updated.

The bill clarifies felon eligibility language in the declaration on the voter registration form. The Secretary's office is updating the form and ordering a new supply. Feedback collected from the counties and others regarding the current form are under consideration as well.

With agreement from our office, the Governor vetoed a section that would have modified the definition of minor political parties in a way that could adversely impact these entities.

Although technical in nature, the bill is lengthy and reaches into many state election laws. If you haven't done so yet, you may want to read the final version. This bill takes effect July 28, 2013.

Legislation sent to the Governor for signature (as of April 22)

- **More Superior Court Judges.** [Senate Bill 5052](#) and [House Bill 1175](#) authorize additional Superior Court judges for Whatcom County and Benton/Franklin.
- **Port Commissioner elections.** Under [Senate Bill 5411](#), ballot propositions to reduce the term of office of port commissioners may only be submitted for a vote at the General Election.
- **Fire Protection District benefit charges.** [Substitute Senate Bill 5332](#) modifies the percentage of votes required to continue benefit charges for fire protection districts.
- **Eliminating the 50 percent rule.** [House Bill 1474](#) requires the names of the two candidates who receive the most votes in races for state Supreme Court, judge of the Court of Appeals, judge of Superior Court and Superintendent of Public Instruction to appear on the General Election Ballot.
- **Cemetery Districts.** [House Bill 1207](#) modifies laws regarding how cemetery districts are formed.

Legislation still active and that may be sent to the Governor (as of April 22)

- **Requiring PDC contact information on voting materials.** [Substitute Senate Bill 5507](#) requires a specific statement, including the PDC's website, be included in the voters' pamphlet. It also requires the same statement, and PDC website address, be printed on ballots or on both the ballot envelope and within the ballot materials.

Legislation related to the budget

Bills deemed necessary to implement the budget are exempt from cut-off deadlines and remain in play until the final budget is passed. Cost savings created by two election related bills are assumed in the Senate and House budget proposals:

- **Ballot measure text.** [House Bill 2033](#) allows the Secretary of State provide information about how to access the full text of ballot measures. The Secretary may choose to not print the full text of ballot measures in the voters' pamphlet. This bill saves an estimated \$626,000 in the next two years.
- **Primary elections.** [House Bill 1195](#) modifies laws regarding primary elections for vacancies held in odd-numbered years and primaries for city, town, district and district court positions. This bill increases and reduces costs, creating an estimated net savings to the state of about \$800,000.