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SENATE BILL 6503

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Nguyen, Lovelett, Wilson, C., and Das

1 AN ACT Relating to odd-numbered year elections; amending RCW  
2 29A.04.321, 29A.04.330, 29A.04.420, 29A.92.110, 36.105.090,  
3 35.17.020, 35.18.270, 35.23.051, 35.27.090, 35.30.080, 35.61.050,  
4 35A.02.050, 36.32.030, 36.32.0554, 36.69.070, 36.105.050, 36.105.060,  
5 36.69.090, 36.93.051, 36.93.061, and 36.93.063; reenacting and  
6 amending RCW 29A.92.050; creating a new section; and providing an  
7 effective date.

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

9 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.04.321 and 2015 c 146 s 1 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 (1) All state, county, city, town, and district general elections  
12 for the election of federal, state, legislative, judicial, county,  
13 city, town, and district officers, and for the submission to the  
14 voters of the state, county, city, town, or district of any measure  
15 for their adoption and approval or rejection, shall be held on the  
16 first Tuesday after the first Monday of November, in ~~((the year in  
17 which they may be called. A statewide general election shall be held  
18 on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November of each year.  
19 However, the statewide general election))~~ each even-numbered year,  
20 except as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

1        (2) Elections held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of  
2 November in odd-numbered years shall be limited to (a) city, town,  
3 and district (~~(general)~~) elections as provided for in RCW  
4 29A.04.330(1)(a), or as otherwise provided by law; (b) (~~(the)~~) a  
5 special election of federal officers for the remainder of any  
6 unexpired terms in the membership of either branch of the congress of  
7 the United States; (c) (~~(the election of state and county officers~~  
8 ~~for the remainder of any unexpired terms of offices created by or~~  
9 ~~whose duties are described in Article II, section 15, Article III,~~  
10 ~~sections 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23, and Article IV, sections 3~~  
11 ~~and 5 of the state Constitution and RCW 2.06.080;~~ (d) ~~the election of~~  
12 ~~county officers in any county governed by a charter containing~~  
13 ~~provisions calling for general county elections at this time; and (e)~~  
14 ~~the approval or rejection of state measures, including proposed~~  
15 ~~constitutional amendments, matters pertaining to any proposed~~  
16 ~~constitutional convention, initiative measures and referendum~~  
17 ~~measures proposed by the electorate, referendum bills, and any other~~  
18 ~~matter provided by the legislature for submission to the electorate))~~  
19 a special election called under subsection (3) of this section or RCW  
20 29A.04.330; or (d) a special election called for the recall of any  
21 elective public officer.

22        (~~(+2)~~) (3) A county legislative authority may call a special  
23 county election by presenting a resolution to the county auditor  
24 prior to the proposed election date. A special election called by the  
25 county legislative authority shall be held on one of the following  
26 dates as decided by such governing body in either an even-numbered or  
27 odd-numbered year:

- 28        (a) The second Tuesday in February;  
29        (b) The fourth Tuesday in April;  
30        (c) The day of the primary as specified by RCW 29A.04.311; or  
31        (d) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

32        (~~(+3)~~) (4) A resolution calling for a special election on a date  
33 set forth in subsection (~~(+2)~~) (3)(a) and (b) of this section must  
34 be presented to the county auditor at least sixty days prior to the  
35 election date. A resolution calling for a special election on a date  
36 set forth in subsection (~~(+2)~~) (3)(c) of this section must be  
37 presented to the county auditor no later than the Friday immediately  
38 before the first day of regular candidate filing. A resolution  
39 calling for a special election on a date set forth in subsection

1 ((2)) (3)(d) of this section must be presented to the county  
2 auditor no later than the day of the primary.

3 ((4)) (5) In addition to the dates set forth in subsection  
4 ((2)) (3)(a) through (d) of this section, a special election to  
5 validate an excess levy or bond issue may be called at any time to  
6 meet the needs resulting from fire, flood, earthquake, or other act  
7 of God. Such county special election shall be noticed and conducted  
8 in the manner provided by law.

9 ((5)) (6) This section shall supersede the provisions of any  
10 and all other statutes and of any local government charter, whether  
11 general or special in nature, having different dates for such county,  
12 city, town, and district elections, the purpose of this section being  
13 to establish mandatory dates for holding elections. This section  
14 shall not be construed as fixing the time for holding primary  
15 elections, or elections for the recall of any elective public  
16 officer.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.04.330 and 2015 c 146 s 2 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

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

23 This section shall not apply to:

24 (a) Elections held before the year 2026, although a county, city,  
25 town, or district may choose to hold its elections in even-numbered  
26 years before 2026;

27 (b) Elections for the recall of any elective public officer;

28 ((b)) (c) Public utility districts, conservation districts, or  
29 district elections at which the ownership of property within those  
30 districts is a prerequisite to voting, all of which elections shall  
31 be held at the times prescribed in the laws specifically applicable  
32 thereto;

33 ((e)) (d) Consolidation proposals as provided for in RCW  
34 28A.315.235 and nonhigh capital fund aid proposals as provided for in  
35 chapter 28A.540 RCW; and

36 ((d)) (e) Special flood control districts consisting of three  
37 or more counties.

38 (2) The county auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections,  
39 upon request in the form of a resolution of the governing body of a

1 city, town, or district, presented to the auditor prior to the  
2 proposed election date, shall call a special election in such city,  
3 town, or district, and for the purpose of such special election he or  
4 she may combine, unite, or divide precincts. Such a special election  
5 shall be held on one of the following dates as decided by the  
6 governing body in either an even-numbered or odd-numbered year:

7 (a) The second Tuesday in February;

8 (b) The fourth Tuesday in April;

9 (c) The day of the primary election as specified by RCW  
10 29A.04.311; or

11 (d) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

12 (3) A resolution calling for a special election on a date set  
13 forth in subsection (2)(a) and (b) of this section must be presented  
14 to the county auditor at least sixty days prior to the election date.  
15 A resolution calling for a special election on a date set forth in  
16 subsection (2)(c) of this section must be presented to the county  
17 auditor no later than the Friday immediately before the first day of  
18 regular candidate filing. A resolution calling for a special election  
19 on a date set forth in subsection (2)(d) of this section must be  
20 presented to the county auditor no later than the day of the primary.

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

30 (5) This section shall supersede the provisions of any and all  
31 other statutes and of any local government charter, whether general  
32 or special in nature, having different dates for such county, city,  
33 town, and district elections, the purpose of this section being to  
34 establish mandatory dates for holding elections.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Whenever, as a result of the application  
36 of this act, the term of office of an elected official is scheduled  
37 to expire under RCW 29A.60.280 but a general election for that office  
38 has not yet been held, the elected official shall continue to serve

1 until a successor is elected and qualified and assumes office in  
2 accordance with RCW 29A.60.280.

3 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.04.420 and 2019 c 161 s 2 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) Whenever state officers or measures are voted upon at a state  
6 primary or (~~general~~) special election held in an odd-numbered year  
7 under RCW 29A.04.321, the state of Washington shall assume a prorated  
8 share of the costs of that state primary or (~~general~~) special  
9 election.

10 (2) The state shall reimburse counties for the cost of return  
11 postage, required to be included on return envelopes pursuant to RCW  
12 29A.40.091, for all elections.

13 (3) Whenever a primary or vacancy election is held to fill a  
14 vacancy in the position of United States senator or United States  
15 representative under chapter 29A.28 RCW, the state of Washington  
16 shall assume a prorated share of the costs of that primary or vacancy  
17 election.

18 (4) The county auditor shall apportion the state's share of these  
19 expenses when prorating election costs under RCW 29A.04.410 and shall  
20 file such expense claims with the secretary of state.

21 (5) The secretary of state shall include in his or her biennial  
22 budget requests sufficient funds to carry out this section.  
23 Reimbursements for election costs shall be from appropriations  
24 specifically provided by law for that purpose.

25 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.92.050 and 2019 c 454 s 1 and 2019 c 64 s 8 are  
26 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

27 (1)(a) Prior to the adoption of its proposed plan, the political  
28 subdivision must provide public notice to residents of the  
29 subdivision about the proposed remedy to a potential violation of RCW  
30 29A.92.020. If a significant segment of the residents of the  
31 subdivision have limited English proficiency and speaks a language  
32 other than English, the political subdivision must:

33 (i) Provide accurate written and verbal notice of the proposed  
34 remedy in languages that diverse residents of the political  
35 subdivision can understand, as indicated by demographic data; and

36 (ii) Air radio or television public service announcements  
37 describing the proposed remedy broadcast in the languages that

1 diverse residents of the political subdivision can understand, as  
2 indicated by demographic data.

3 (b) The political subdivision shall hold at least one public  
4 hearing on the proposed plan at least one week before adoption.

5 (c) For purposes of this section, "significant segment of the  
6 community" means five percent or more of residents, or five hundred  
7 or more residents, whichever is fewer, residing in the political  
8 subdivision.

9 (2)(a) If the political subdivision invokes its authority under  
10 RCW 29A.92.040 and the plan is adopted during the period of time  
11 between the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November and on  
12 or before January 15th of the following year, the political  
13 subdivision shall (~~order new elections to occur at the next~~  
14 ~~succeeding general election~~) request new elections to occur at a  
15 special election under RCW 29A.04.330 held on the first Tuesday after  
16 the first Monday in the next November.

17 (b) If the political subdivision invokes its authority under RCW  
18 29A.92.040 and the plan is adopted during the period of time between  
19 January 16th and on or before the first Monday of November, the next  
20 election will occur as scheduled and organized under the current  
21 electoral system, but the political subdivision shall (~~order new~~  
22 ~~elections to occur pursuant to the remedy at the general election~~)  
23 request new elections to occur at a special election under RCW  
24 29A.04.330 held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in  
25 November of the following calendar year.

26 (3) If a political subdivision implements a district-based  
27 election system under RCW 29A.92.040(2), the plan shall be consistent  
28 with the following criteria:

29 (a) Each district shall be as reasonably equal in population as  
30 possible to each and every other such district comprising the  
31 political subdivision.

32 (b) Each district shall be reasonably compact.

33 (c) Each district shall consist of geographically contiguous  
34 area.

35 (d) To the extent feasible, the district boundaries shall  
36 coincide with existing recognized natural boundaries and shall, to  
37 the extent possible, preserve existing communities of related and  
38 mutual interest.

1 (e) District boundaries may not be drawn or maintained in a  
2 manner that creates or perpetuates the dilution of the votes of the  
3 members of a protected class or classes.

4 (f) All positions on the governing body must stand for election  
5 at the next election for the governing body, scheduled pursuant to  
6 subsection (2) of this section. The governing body may subsequently  
7 choose to stagger the terms of its positions.

8 (4) Within forty-five days after receipt of federal decennial  
9 census information applicable to a specific local area, the  
10 commission established in RCW 44.05.030 shall forward the census  
11 information to each political subdivision.

12 (5) No later than eight months after its receipt of federal  
13 decennial census data, the governing body of the political  
14 subdivision that had previously invoked its authority under RCW  
15 29A.92.040 to implement a district-based election system, or that was  
16 previously charged with redistricting under RCW 29A.92.110, shall  
17 prepare a plan for redistricting its districts, pursuant to RCW  
18 29A.76.010, and in a manner consistent with this chapter.

19 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29A.92.110 and 2019 c 454 s 2 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (1) The court may order appropriate remedies including, but not  
22 limited to, the imposition of a district-based election system. The  
23 court may order the affected jurisdiction to draw or redraw district  
24 boundaries or appoint an individual or panel to draw or redraw  
25 district lines. The proposed districts must be approved by the court  
26 prior to their implementation.

27 (2) Implementation of a district-based remedy is not precluded by  
28 the fact that members of a protected class do not constitute a  
29 numerical majority within a proposed district-based election  
30 district. If, in tailoring a remedy, the court orders the  
31 implementation of a district-based election district where the  
32 members of the protected class are not a numerical majority, the  
33 court shall do so in a manner that provides the protected class an  
34 equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. The court may  
35 also approve a district-based election system that provides the  
36 protected class the opportunity to join in a coalition of two or more  
37 protected classes to elect candidates of their choice if there is  
38 demonstrated political cohesion among the protected classes.

1 (3) In tailoring a remedy after a finding of a violation of RCW  
2 29A.92.020:

3 (a) If the court's order providing a remedy or approving proposed  
4 districts, whichever is later, is issued during the period of time  
5 between the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November and on  
6 or before January 15th of the following year, the court shall order  
7 new elections, conducted pursuant to the remedy, to occur at (~~the~~  
8 ~~next succeeding general election~~) a general or special election held  
9 on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in the next November. If  
10 a special filing period is required, filings for that office shall be  
11 reopened for a period of three business days, such three-day period  
12 to be fixed by the filing officer.

13 (b) If the court's order providing a remedy or approving proposed  
14 districts, whichever is later, is issued during the period of time  
15 between January 16th and on or before the first Monday of November,  
16 the next election will occur as scheduled and organized under the  
17 current electoral system, but the court shall order new elections to  
18 occur pursuant to the remedy at (~~the general election~~) a general or  
19 special election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in  
20 November of the following calendar year.

21 (c) The remedy may provide for the political subdivision to hold  
22 elections for the members of its governing body at the same time as  
23 regularly scheduled elections for statewide or federal offices. All  
24 positions on the governing body must stand for election at the next  
25 election for the governing body, scheduled pursuant to this  
26 subsection (3). The governing body may subsequently choose to stagger  
27 the terms of its positions.

28 (4) Within thirty days of the conclusion of any action filed  
29 under RCW 29A.92.100, the political subdivision must publish on the  
30 subdivision's web site, the outcome and summary of the action, as  
31 well as the legal costs incurred by the subdivision. If the political  
32 subdivision does not have its own web site, then it may publish on  
33 the county web site.

34 **Sec. 7.** RCW 36.105.090 and 1991 c 363 s 107 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36 A community council may provide for the annexation of adjacent  
37 unincorporated areas to the community that are not included within  
38 another community for which a community council has been established.  
39 Annexations shall be initiated by either resolution of the community



1 council proposing the annexation or petition of voters residing in  
2 the adjacent area, which petition: (a) Requests the annexation; (b)  
3 sets forth the boundaries of the area proposed to be annexed; and (c)  
4 contains signatures of voters residing within the area that is  
5 proposed to be annexed equal in number to at least ten percent of the  
6 voters residing in that area who voted at the last state general  
7 election. Annexation petitions shall be filed with the county auditor  
8 who shall determine if the petitions contain a sufficient number of  
9 valid signatures, certify the sufficiency of the petitions, and  
10 notify the community council of the sufficiency of the petitions  
11 within fifteen days of when the petitions are submitted.

12 A ballot proposition authorizing the annexation shall be  
13 submitted to the voters of the area that is proposed to be annexed at  
14 a primary ~~((or)),~~ general, or special election in either an odd-  
15 numbered or even-numbered year, if the community council initiated  
16 the annexation by resolution or if the community council concurs in  
17 an annexation that was initiated by the submission of annexation  
18 petitions containing sufficient valid signatures. The annexation  
19 shall occur if the ballot proposition authorizing the creation of the  
20 community is approved by a simple majority vote of the voters voting  
21 on the proposition. The county's comprehensive plan, and where  
22 applicable to the county's subarea plan, and zoning ordinances shall  
23 continue in effect in the annexed area until proposed amendments to  
24 the approved community comprehensive plans and approved community  
25 zoning ordinance have been approved that apply to the annexed area.

26 **Sec. 8.** RCW 35.17.020 and 2013 c 11 s 87 are each amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 (1) All regular elections in cities organized under the statutory  
29 commission form of government shall be held ~~((quadrennially in the  
30 odd-numbered years))~~ on the dates provided in RCW 29A.04.330.  
31 ~~((However, after commissioners are elected at the next general  
32 election occurring in 1995 or 1997, regular elections in cities  
33 organized under a statutory commission form of government shall be  
34 held biennially at municipal general elections.))~~

35 (2) The commissioners shall be nominated and elected at large.  
36 Their terms shall be for four years and until their successors are  
37 elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW  
38 29A.60.280. ~~((However, at the next regular election of a city  
39 organized under a statutory commission form of government, the terms~~

1 ~~of office of commissioners shall occur with the person who is elected~~  
2 ~~as a commissioner receiving the least number of votes being elected~~  
3 ~~to a two-year term of office and the other two persons who are~~  
4 ~~elected being elected to four-year terms of office. Thereafter,~~  
5 ~~commissioners shall be elected to four-year terms of office.)~~

6 (3) Vacancies on a commission shall occur and shall be filled as  
7 provided in chapter 42.12 RCW.

8 **Sec. 9.** RCW 35.18.270 and 1994 c 223 s 13 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 If the majority of the votes cast at a special election for  
11 organization on the council-manager plan favor the plan, the city or  
12 town shall elect the council required under the council-manager plan  
13 in number according to its population at the next municipal general  
14 election. However, special elections shall be held to nominate and  
15 elect the new city councilmembers at the next primary and general  
16 election held in an even-numbered year if the next municipal general  
17 election is more than one year after the date of the election at  
18 which the voters approved the council-manager plan. The staggering of  
19 terms of office shall occur at the election when the new  
20 councilmembers are elected, where the simple majority of the persons  
21 elected as councilmembers receiving the greatest numbers of votes  
22 shall be elected to four-year terms of office (~~if the election is~~  
23 ~~held in an odd-numbered year, or three-year terms of office if the~~  
24 ~~election is held in an even-numbered year)), and the remainder of the  
25 persons elected as councilmembers shall be elected to two-year terms  
26 of office (~~if the election is held in an odd-numbered year, or one-~~  
27 ~~year terms of office if the election is held in an even-numbered~~  
28 ~~year)). The initial councilmembers shall take office immediately when  
29 they are elected and qualified, but the lengths of their terms of  
30 office shall be calculated from the first day in January in the year  
31 following the election.~~~~

32 **Sec. 10.** RCW 35.23.051 and 2019 c 454 s 5 are each amended to  
33 read as follows:

34 General municipal elections in second-class cities shall be held  
35 biennially (~~in the odd-numbered years~~) on the date provided in RCW  
36 29A.04.330 and shall be subject to general election law.

37 The terms of office of the mayor, city attorney, clerk, and  
38 treasurer shall be four years and until their successors are elected

1 and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280:  
2 PROVIDED, That if the offices of city attorney, clerk, and treasurer  
3 are made appointive, the city attorney, clerk, and treasurer shall  
4 not be appointed for a definite term: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the term  
5 of the elected treasurer shall not commence in the same biennium in  
6 which the term of the mayor commences, nor in which the terms of the  
7 city attorney and clerk commence if they are elected.

8 Council positions shall be numbered in each second-class city so  
9 that council position seven has a two-year term of office and council  
10 positions one through six shall each have four-year terms of office.  
11 Each councilmember shall remain in office until a successor is  
12 elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance with RCW  
13 29A.60.280.

14 In its discretion the council of a second-class city may divide  
15 the city by ordinance, into a convenient number of wards, not  
16 exceeding six, fix the boundaries of the wards, and change the ward  
17 boundaries from time to time and as provided in RCW 29A.76.010. No  
18 change in the boundaries of any ward shall be made within one hundred  
19 twenty days next before the date of a general municipal election, nor  
20 within twenty months after the wards have been established or altered  
21 unless pursuant to RCW 29A.92.040 or 29A.92.110. However, if a  
22 boundary change results in one ward being represented by more  
23 councilmembers than the number to which it is entitled, those having  
24 the shortest unexpired terms shall be assigned by the council to  
25 wards where there is a vacancy, and the councilmembers so assigned  
26 shall be deemed to be residents of the wards to which they are  
27 assigned for purposes of determining whether those positions are  
28 vacant.

29 Whenever such city is so divided into wards, the city council  
30 shall designate by ordinance the number of councilmembers to be  
31 elected from each ward, apportioning the same in proportion to the  
32 population of the wards. Thereafter the councilmembers so designated  
33 shall be elected by the voters resident in such ward, or by general  
34 vote of the whole city as may be designated in such ordinance.  
35 Council position seven shall not be associated with a ward and the  
36 person elected to that position may reside anywhere in the city and  
37 voters throughout the city may vote at a primary to nominate  
38 candidates for position seven, when a primary is necessary, and at a  
39 general election to elect the person to council position seven.  
40 Additional territory that is added to the city shall, by act of the

1 council, be annexed to contiguous wards without affecting the right  
2 to redistrict at the expiration of twenty months after last previous  
3 division. The removal of a councilmember from the ward for which he  
4 or she was elected shall create a vacancy in such office.

5 Wards shall be redrawn as provided in chapter 29A.76 RCW. Wards  
6 shall be used as follows: (1) Only a resident of the ward may be a  
7 candidate for, or hold office as, a councilmember of the ward; and  
8 (2) only voters of the ward may vote at a primary to nominate  
9 candidates for a councilmember of the ward. Voters of the entire city  
10 may vote at the general election to elect a councilmember of a ward,  
11 unless the city had prior to January 1, 1994, limited the voting in  
12 the general election for any or all council positions to only voters  
13 residing within the ward associated with the council positions. If a  
14 city had so limited the voting in the general election to only voters  
15 residing within the ward, then the city shall be authorized to  
16 continue to do so. The elections for the remaining council position  
17 or council positions that are not associated with a ward shall be  
18 conducted as if the wards did not exist.

19 **Sec. 11.** RCW 35.27.090 and 2009 c 549 s 2056 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 All general municipal elections in towns shall be held biennially  
22 (~~in the odd-numbered years as~~) on the date provided in RCW  
23 29A.04.330. The term of office of the mayor and treasurer shall be  
24 four years and until their successors are elected and qualified and  
25 assume office in accordance with RCW (~~29A.20.040~~) 29A.60.280:  
26 PROVIDED, That the term of the treasurer shall not commence in the  
27 same biennium in which the term of the mayor commences.  
28 Councilmembers shall be elected for four year terms and until their  
29 successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance  
30 with RCW (~~29A.20.040~~) 29A.60.280; three at one election and two at  
31 the next succeeding biennial election.

32 **Sec. 12.** RCW 35.30.080 and 2015 c 53 s 42 are each amended to  
33 read as follows:

34 (1) When a majority of the legislative body of an unclassified  
35 city determines that it would serve the best interests and general  
36 welfare of such municipality to change the election procedures of  
37 such city to the procedures specified in this section, such  
38 legislative body may, by resolution, declare its intention to adopt

1 such procedures for the city. Such resolution must be adopted at  
2 least one hundred eighty days before the general municipal election  
3 at which the new election procedures are implemented. Within ten days  
4 after the passage of the resolution, the legislative body shall cause  
5 it to be published at least once in a newspaper of general  
6 circulation within the city.

7 (2) All general municipal elections in an unclassified city  
8 adopting a resolution under subsection (1) of this section shall be  
9 held biennially (~~in the odd-numbered years as~~) on the date provided  
10 in RCW 29A.04.330 and shall be held in accordance with the general  
11 election laws of the state.

12 The term of the treasurer shall not commence in the same biennium  
13 in which the term of the mayor commences. Candidates for the city  
14 council shall run for specific council positions. The staggering of  
15 terms of city officers shall be established at the first election,  
16 where the simple majority of the persons elected as councilmembers  
17 receiving the greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to four-year  
18 terms of office and the remainder of the persons elected as  
19 councilmembers and the treasurer shall be elected to two-year terms  
20 of office. Thereafter, all elected city officers shall be elected for  
21 four-year terms and until their successors are elected and qualified  
22 and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280.

23 **Sec. 13.** RCW 35.61.050 and 2015 c 53 s 44 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 (1) The resolution or petition submitting the ballot proposition  
26 shall designate the composition of the board of metropolitan park  
27 commissioners from among the alternatives provided under subsections  
28 (2) through (4) of this section. The ballot proposition shall clearly  
29 describe the designated composition of the board.

30 (2) The commissioners of the district may be selected by  
31 election, in which case at the same election at which the proposition  
32 is submitted to the voters as to whether a metropolitan park district  
33 is to be formed, five park commissioners shall be elected. The  
34 election of park commissioners shall be null and void if the  
35 metropolitan park district is not created. Candidates shall run for  
36 specific commission positions. No primary shall be held to nominate  
37 candidates. The person receiving the greatest number of votes for  
38 each position shall be elected as a commissioner. The staggering of  
39 the terms of office shall occur as follows: (a) The two persons who

1 are elected receiving the two greatest numbers of votes shall be  
2 elected to six-year terms of office (~~((if the election is held in an~~  
3 ~~odd-numbered year or five-year terms of office if the election is~~  
4 ~~held in an even-numbered year))~~); (b) the two persons who are elected  
5 receiving the next two greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to  
6 four-year terms of office (~~((if the election is held in an odd-~~  
7 ~~numbered year or three-year terms of office if the election is held~~  
8 ~~in an even-numbered year))~~); and (c) the other person who is elected  
9 shall be elected to a two-year term of office (~~((if the election is~~  
10 ~~held in an odd-numbered year or a one-year term of office if the~~  
11 ~~election is held in an even-numbered year))~~). The initial  
12 commissioners shall take office immediately when they are elected and  
13 qualified, and for purposes of computing their terms of office the  
14 terms shall be assumed to commence on the first day of January in the  
15 year after they are elected. Thereafter, all commissioners shall be  
16 elected to six-year terms of office. All commissioners shall serve  
17 until their respective successors are elected and qualified and  
18 assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. Vacancies shall  
19 occur and shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW.

20 (3) In a district wholly located within a city or within the  
21 unincorporated area of a county, the governing body of such city or  
22 legislative authority of such county may be designated to serve in an  
23 ex officio capacity as the board of metropolitan park commissioners,  
24 provided that when creation of the district is proposed by citizen  
25 petition, the city or county approves by resolution such designation.

26 (4) Where the proposed district is located within more than one  
27 city, more than one county, or any combination of cities and  
28 counties, each city governing body and county legislative authority  
29 may be designated to collectively serve ex officio as the board of  
30 metropolitan park commissioners through selection of one or more  
31 members from each to serve as the board, provided that when creation  
32 of the district is proposed by citizen petition, each city governing  
33 body and county legislative authority approve by resolution such  
34 designation. Within six months of the date of certification of  
35 election results approving creation of the district, the size and  
36 membership of the board shall be determined through interlocal  
37 agreement of each city and county. The interlocal agreement shall  
38 specify the method for filling vacancies on the board.

39 (5) Metropolitan park districts created by a vote of the people  
40 prior to June 13, 2002, may not change the composition and method of

1 selection of their governing authority without approval of the  
2 voters. Should such a change be desired, the board of park  
3 commissioners shall submit a ballot proposition to the voters of the  
4 metropolitan park district.

5 **Sec. 14.** RCW 35A.02.050 and 2015 c 53 s 48 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 The first election of officers where required for reorganization  
8 under a different general plan of government newly adopted in a  
9 manner provided in RCW 35A.02.020, 35A.02.030, 35A.06.030, or  
10 35A.06.060, as now or hereafter amended, shall be at the next general  
11 municipal election if one is to be held more than ninety days but not  
12 more than one hundred and eighty days after certification of a  
13 reorganization ordinance or resolution, or otherwise at a special  
14 election to be held for that purpose in accordance with RCW  
15 29A.04.330. In the event that the first election of officers is to be  
16 held at a general municipal election, such election shall be preceded  
17 by a primary election pursuant to RCW 29A.52.210 and 29A.04.311. In  
18 the event that the first election of all officers is to be held at a  
19 special election rather than at a general election, and  
20 notwithstanding any provisions of any other law to the contrary, such  
21 special election shall be preceded by a primary election to be held  
22 on a date authorized by RCW 29A.04.321, and the persons nominated at  
23 that primary election shall be voted upon at the next succeeding  
24 special election that is authorized by RCW 29A.04.321: PROVIDED, That  
25 in the event the ordinances calling for reclassification or  
26 reclassification and reorganization under the provisions of ((Title  
27 ~~35A-RCW~~)) this title have been filed with the secretary of state  
28 pursuant to RCW 35A.02.040 in an even-numbered year at least ninety  
29 days prior to a state general election then the election of new  
30 officers shall be concurrent with the state primary and general  
31 election and shall be conducted as set forth in general election law.

32 Upon reorganization, candidates for all offices shall file or be  
33 nominated for and successful candidates shall be elected to specific  
34 council positions. The initial terms of office for those elected at a  
35 first election of all officers shall be as follows: (1) A simple  
36 majority of the persons who are elected as councilmembers receiving  
37 the greatest numbers of votes and the mayor in a city with a mayor-  
38 council plan of government shall be elected to four-year terms of  
39 office(~~(, if the election is held in an odd-numbered year, or three-~~

1 ~~year terms of office, if the election is held in an even-numbered~~  
2 ~~year)); and (2) the other persons who are elected as councilmembers~~  
3 ~~shall be elected to two-year terms of office(, if the election is~~  
4 ~~held in an odd-numbered year, or one-year terms of office, if the~~  
5 ~~election is held in an even-numbered year)).~~ The newly elected  
6 officials shall take office immediately when they are elected and  
7 qualified, but the length of their terms of office shall be  
8 calculated from the first day of January in the year following the  
9 election. Thereafter, each person elected as a councilmember or mayor  
10 in a city with a mayor-council plan of government shall be elected to  
11 a four-year term of office. Each councilmember and mayor in a city  
12 with a mayor-council plan of government shall serve until a successor  
13 is elected and qualified and assumes office as provided in RCW  
14 29A.60.280.

15 The former officers shall, upon the election and qualification of  
16 new officers, deliver to the proper officers of the reorganized  
17 noncharter code city all books of record, documents and papers in  
18 their possession belonging to such municipal corporation before the  
19 reorganization thereof.

20 **Sec. 15.** RCW 36.32.030 and 2018 c 301 s 6 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 (1) Except as provided otherwise in subsection (2) of this  
23 section, the terms of office of county commissioners shall be four  
24 years and shall extend until their successors are elected and  
25 qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. The  
26 terms of office of county commissioners shall be staggered (~~so that~~  
27 ~~either one or two commissioners are elected at a general election~~  
28 ~~held in each even-numbered year)).~~

29 (2) At the general election held in 2022, any noncharter county  
30 with a population of four hundred thousand or more must elect county  
31 commissioners in accordance with a districting plan adopted under RCW  
32 36.32.054. Any county commissioner whose term is set to expire on or  
33 after January 1, 2023, is subject to the new election in accordance  
34 with the districting plan. The county commissioners shall begin their  
35 terms of office on January 1, 2023, and such terms shall be staggered  
36 terms, as designated in the districting plan.

37 **Sec. 16.** RCW 36.32.0554 and 1990 c 252 s 4 are each amended to  
38 read as follows:



1 The terms of the persons who are initially elected to positions  
2 four and five under RCW 36.32.0552 shall be as follows:

3 (1) (~~(If the year in which the primary and general elections are~~  
4 ~~held is an even-numbered year, the)~~) The person elected to position  
5 four shall be elected for a two-year term, and the person elected to  
6 position five shall be elected for a four-year term(~~(~~or~~~~

7 ~~(2) If the year in which the primary and general elections are~~  
8 ~~held is an odd-numbered year, the person elected to position four~~  
9 ~~shall be elected for a one-year term, and the person elected to~~  
10 ~~position five shall be elected for a three-year term)).~~

11 (2) The length of the terms shall be calculated from the first  
12 day of January in the year following the election. Each person  
13 elected pursuant to subsection (1) (~~(~~or~~(2))~~) of this section shall  
14 take office immediately upon the issuance of a certificate of his or  
15 her election.

16 (3) Thereafter, persons elected to commissioner positions four  
17 and five shall be elected for four-year terms and shall take office  
18 at the same time the other members of the board of county  
19 commissioners take office.

20 **Sec. 17.** RCW 36.69.070 and 2015 c 53 s 66 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 A ballot proposition authorizing the formation of the proposed  
23 park and recreation district shall be submitted to the voters of the  
24 proposed district for their approval or rejection at the next general  
25 state election occurring sixty or more days after the county  
26 legislative authority fixes the boundaries of the proposed district.  
27 Notices of the election for the formation of the park and recreation  
28 district shall state generally and briefly the purpose thereof and  
29 shall give the boundaries of the proposed district and name the day  
30 of the election and the hours during which the polls will be open.  
31 The proposition to be submitted to the voters shall be stated in such  
32 manner that the voters may indicate yes or no upon the proposition of  
33 forming the proposed park and recreation district.

34 The initial park and recreation commissioners shall be elected at  
35 the same election, but this election shall be null and void if the  
36 district is not authorized to be formed. No primary shall be held to  
37 nominate candidates for the initial commissioner positions.  
38 Candidates shall run for specific commission positions. A special  
39 filing period shall be opened as provided in RCW 29A.24.171 and

1 29A.24.181. The person who receives the greatest number of votes for  
2 each commission position shall be elected to that position. The three  
3 persons who are elected receiving the greatest number of votes shall  
4 be elected to four-year terms of office (~~((if the election is held in  
5 an odd-numbered year or three-year terms of office if the election is  
6 held in an even-numbered year))~~). The other two persons who are  
7 elected shall be elected to two-year terms of office (~~((if the  
8 election is held in an odd-numbered year or one-year terms of office  
9 if the election is held in an even-numbered year))~~). The initial  
10 commissioners shall take office immediately upon being elected and  
11 qualified, but the length of such terms shall be computed from the  
12 first day of January in the year following this election.

13 **Sec. 18.** RCW 36.105.050 and 2015 c 53 s 68 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 The initial members of the community council shall be elected at  
16 the same election as the ballot proposition is submitted authorizing  
17 the creation of the community council. However, the election of the  
18 initial community councilmembers shall be null and void if the ballot  
19 proposition authorizing the creation of the community council is not  
20 approved.

21 No primary election shall be held to nominate candidates for  
22 initial council positions. The initial community council shall  
23 consist of the candidate for each council position who receives the  
24 greatest number of votes for that council position. Staggering of  
25 terms of office shall be accomplished by having the majority of the  
26 winning candidates who receive the greatest number of votes being  
27 elected to four-year terms of office, and the remaining winning  
28 candidates being elected to two-year terms of office, (~~((if the  
29 election was held in an even-numbered year, or the majority of the  
30 winning candidates who receive the greatest number of votes being  
31 elected to three-year terms of office, and the remaining winning  
32 candidates being elected to one-year terms of office, if the election  
33 was held in an odd-numbered year,))~~) with the term computed from the  
34 first day of January in the year following the election. Initial  
35 councilmembers shall take office immediately when qualified in  
36 accordance with RCW 29A.04.133.

37 (~~(However, where the county operates under a charter providing  
38 for the election of members of the county legislative authority in  
39 odd-numbered years, the terms of office of the initial councilmembers~~

1 ~~shall be four years and two years, if the election of the initial~~  
2 ~~councilmembers was held on an odd-numbered year, or three years and~~  
3 ~~one year, if the election of the initial councilmembers was held on~~  
4 ~~an even-numbered year.))~~

5 **Sec. 19.** RCW 36.105.060 and 1991 c 363 s 104 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Community councilmembers shall be elected to staggered four-year  
8 terms until their successors are elected and qualified. Each council  
9 position shall be numbered separately. Candidates shall run for  
10 specific council positions. The number of council positions shall be  
11 five, seven, nine, or eleven, as specified in the petition calling  
12 for the creation of the community council.

13 Community councilmembers shall be nominated and elected at  
14 nonpartisan elections pursuant to general election laws, ~~((except))~~  
15 and the elections shall be held ~~((in even-numbered years, unless the~~  
16 ~~county operates under a charter and members of the county legislative~~  
17 ~~authority are elected in odd-numbered years, in which case, community~~  
18 ~~councilmembers shall be elected in odd-numbered years))~~ on the date  
19 provided in RCW 29A.04.330.

20 The provisions of this section apply to the election and terms of  
21 office of the initial community councilmembers, except as provided in  
22 RCW 36.105.050.

23 A councilmember shall lose his or her council position if his or  
24 her primary residence no longer is located within the community.  
25 Vacancies on a community council shall be filled by action of the  
26 remaining councilmembers.

27 **Sec. 20.** RCW 36.69.090 and 2015 c 53 s 67 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 A park and recreation district shall be governed by a board of  
30 five commissioners. Except for the initial commissioners, all  
31 commissioners shall be elected to staggered four-year terms of office  
32 and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified and  
33 assume office in accordance with RCW 29A.60.280. Candidates shall run  
34 for specific commissioner positions.

35 Elections for park and recreation district commissioners shall be  
36 held biennially in conjunction with the general election ~~((in each~~  
37 ~~odd-numbered year))~~ on the date provided in RCW 29A.04.330. Elections  
38 shall be held in accordance with the provisions of Title 29A RCW

1 dealing with general elections, except that there shall be no primary  
2 to nominate candidates. All persons filing and qualifying shall  
3 appear on the general election ballot and the person receiving the  
4 largest number of votes for each position shall be elected.

5 **Sec. 21.** RCW 36.93.051 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 21 s 23 are each  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 The boundary review board in each county with a population of one  
8 million or more shall consist of eleven members chosen as follows:

9 (1) Four persons shall be appointed by the county appointing  
10 authority;

11 (2) Four persons shall be appointed by the mayors of the cities  
12 and towns located within the county; and

13 (3) Three persons shall be appointed by the board from nominees  
14 of special districts in the county.

15 The governor shall designate one initial appointee to serve a  
16 term of two years, and two initial appointees to serve terms of four  
17 years, if the appointments are made in an (~~odd-numbered~~) even-  
18 numbered year, or one initial appointee to serve a term of one year,  
19 and two initial appointees to serve terms of three years, if the  
20 appointments are made in an (~~even-numbered~~) odd-numbered year, with  
21 the length of the term being calculated from the first day of  
22 February in the year the appointment was made.

23 The county appointing authority shall designate one of its  
24 initial appointees to serve a term of two years, and two of its  
25 initial appointees to serve terms of four years, if the appointments  
26 are made in an (~~odd-numbered~~) even-numbered year, or one of its  
27 initial appointees to serve a term of one year, and two of its  
28 initial appointees to serve terms of three years, if the appointments  
29 are made in an (~~even-numbered~~) odd-numbered year, with the length  
30 of the term being calculated from the first day of February in the  
31 year the appointment was made.

32 The mayors making the initial city and town appointments shall  
33 designate two of their initial appointees to serve terms of two  
34 years, and one of their initial appointees to serve a term of four  
35 years, if the appointments are made in an (~~odd-numbered~~) even-  
36 numbered year, or two of their initial appointees to serve terms of  
37 one year, and one of their initial appointees to serve a term of  
38 three years, if the appointments are made in an (~~even-numbered~~)

1 odd-numbered year, with the length of the term being calculated from  
2 the first day of February in the year the appointment was made.

3 The board shall make two initial appointments from the nominees  
4 of special districts, with one appointee serving a term of four years  
5 and one initial appointee serving a term of two years, if the  
6 appointments are made in an (~~odd-numbered~~) even-numbered year, or  
7 one initial appointee serving a term of three years and one initial  
8 appointee serving a term of one year if the appointments are made in  
9 an (~~even-numbered~~) odd-numbered year, with the length of the term  
10 being calculated from the first day of March in the year in which the  
11 appointment is made.

12 After the initial appointments, all appointees shall serve four-  
13 year terms.

14 No appointee may be an official or employee of the county or a  
15 governmental unit in the county, or a consultant or advisor on a  
16 contractual or regular retained basis of the county, any governmental  
17 unit in the county, or any agency or association thereof.

18 **Sec. 22.** RCW 36.93.061 and 1991 c 363 s 94 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 The boundary review board in each county with a population of  
21 less than one million shall consist of five members chosen as  
22 follows:

23 (1) Two persons shall be appointed by the governor;

24 (2) One person shall be appointed by the county appointing  
25 authority;

26 (3) One person shall be appointed by the mayors of the cities and  
27 towns located within the county; and

28 (4) One person shall be appointed by the board from nominees of  
29 special districts in the county.

30 The governor shall designate one initial appointee to serve a  
31 term of two years, and one initial appointee to serve a term of four  
32 years, if the appointments are made in an (~~odd-numbered~~) even-  
33 numbered year, or one initial appointee to serve a term of one year,  
34 and one initial appointee to serve a term of three years, if the  
35 appointments are made in an (~~even-numbered~~) odd-numbered year, with  
36 the length of a term being calculated from the first day of February  
37 in the year that the appointment was made.

38 The initial appointee of the county appointing authority shall  
39 serve a term of two years, if the appointment is made in an (~~odd-~~

1 ~~numbered~~) even-numbered year, or a term of one year, if the  
2 appointment is made in an (~~even-numbered~~) odd-numbered year. The  
3 initial appointee by the mayors shall serve a term of four years, if  
4 the appointment is made in an (~~odd-numbered~~) even-numbered year, or  
5 a term of three years, if the appointment is made in an (~~even-~~  
6 ~~numbered~~) odd-numbered year. The length of the term shall be  
7 calculated from the first day in February in the year the appointment  
8 was made.

9 The board shall make one initial appointment from the nominees of  
10 special districts to serve a term of two years if the appointment is  
11 made in an (~~odd-numbered~~) even-numbered year, or a term of one year  
12 if the appointment is made in an (~~even-numbered~~) odd-numbered year,  
13 with the length of the term being calculated from the first day of  
14 March in the year in which the appointment is made.

15 After the initial appointments, all appointees shall serve four-  
16 year terms.

17 No appointee may be an official or employee of the county or a  
18 governmental unit in the county, or a consultant or advisor on a  
19 contractual or regular retained basis of the county, any governmental  
20 unit in the county, or any agency or association thereof.

21 **Sec. 23.** RCW 36.93.063 and 1991 c 363 s 95 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 The executive of the county shall make the appointments under RCW  
24 36.93.051 and 36.93.061 for the county, if one exists, or otherwise  
25 the county legislative authority shall make the appointments for the  
26 county.

27 The mayors of all cities and towns in the county shall meet on or  
28 before the last day of January in each (~~odd-numbered~~) even-numbered  
29 year to make such appointments for terms to commence on the first day  
30 of February in that year. The date of the meeting shall be called by  
31 the mayor of the largest city or town in the county, and the mayor of  
32 the largest city or town in the county who attends the meeting shall  
33 preside over the meeting. Selection of each appointee shall be by  
34 simple majority vote of those mayors who attend the meeting.

35 Any special district in the county may nominate a person to be  
36 appointed to the board on or before the last day of January in each  
37 (~~odd-numbered~~) even-numbered year that the term for this position  
38 expires. The board shall make its appointment of a nominee or

1 nominees from the special districts during the month of February  
2 following the date by which such nominations are required to be made.

3 The county appointing authority and the mayors of cities and  
4 towns within the county shall make their initial appointments for  
5 newly created boards within sixty days of the creation of the board  
6 or shall make sufficient additional appointments to increase a five-  
7 member board to an eleven-member board within sixty days of the date  
8 the county obtains a population of one million or more. The board  
9 shall make its initial appointment or appointments of board members  
10 from the nominees of special districts located within the county  
11 within ninety days of the creation of the board or shall make an  
12 additional appointment of a board member from the nominees of special  
13 districts located within the county within ninety days of the date  
14 the county obtains a population of one million or more.

15 The term of office for all appointees other than the appointee  
16 from the special districts shall commence on the first day of  
17 February in the year in which the term is to commence. The term of  
18 office for the appointee from nominees of special districts shall  
19 commence on the first day of March in the year in which the term is  
20 to commence.

21 Vacancies on the board shall be filled by appointment of a person  
22 to serve the remainder of the term in the same manner that the person  
23 whose position is vacant was filled.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 24.** This act takes effect January 1, 2021.

--- END ---