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HOUSE BILL 1142

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representative Appleton

Read first time 01/13/11. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to candidates appearing on the general election  
2 ballot; and amending RCW 29A.52.112.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.52.112 and 2005 c 2 s 7 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) A primary is a first stage in the public process by which  
7 voters elect candidates to public office.

8 (2) Whenever candidates for a partisan office are to be elected,  
9 the general election must be preceded by a primary conducted under this  
10 chapter. Based upon votes cast at the primary, the top two candidates  
11 will be certified as qualified to appear on the general election  
12 ballot, unless only one candidate qualifies as provided in RCW  
13 29A.36.170.

14 (3) For partisan office, if a candidate has expressed a party or  
15 independent preference on the declaration of candidacy, then that  
16 preference will be shown after the name of the candidate on the primary  
17 and general election ballots by appropriate abbreviation as set forth  
18 in rules of the secretary of state. A candidate may express no party

1 or independent preference. Any party or independent preferences are  
2 shown for the information of voters only and may in no way limit the  
3 options available to voters.

4 (4) No primary may be held for any single position in any partisan  
5 primary, as required by RCW 29A.52.111, if, after the last day allowed  
6 for candidates to withdraw, there are no more than two candidates filed  
7 for the position. The county auditor shall, as soon as possible,  
8 notify all the candidates so affected that the office for which they  
9 filed will not appear on the primary ballot.

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