
HOUSE BILL 1713

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Stearns and Lekanoff

1 AN ACT Relating to automatic voter registration for tribal
2 members; amending RCW 29A.08.110 and 29A.08.370; and adding new
3 sections to chapter 29A.08 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.08
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The definition in this section applies throughout this chapter
8 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

9 "Tribe" means any federally recognized Indian tribe whose
10 traditional lands and territories included parts of Washington.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.08
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) The secretary of state is authorized to enter into state-
14 tribal compacts with tribes for the purposes of automatic voter
15 registration of members of a tribe under section 3 of this act.

16 (2) No later than six months after July 1, 2025, the secretary of
17 state shall establish an application and approval process,
18 procedures, and timelines for negotiation, approval or disapproval,
19 and execution of state-tribal compacts for the purposes of automatic
20 registration of the members of a tribe.

1 (3) The process may be initiated by submission, to the secretary
2 of state, of a resolution by the governing body of a tribe.

3 (4) Within 90 days of receipt of a resolution and application
4 under this section, the secretary of state must convene a government-
5 to-government meeting for the purpose of considering the resolution
6 and application and initiating negotiations.

7 (5) The secretary of state shall adopt such rules as are
8 necessary to implement this chapter.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.08
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) Upon final execution of a state-tribal compact under section
12 2 of this act, the secretary of state must receive and process voter
13 registration information for all members of a tribe from the tribe by
14 automated process if:

15 (a) The applicant meets requirements for voter registration;

16 (b) The record associated with each member of the tribe contains:

17 (i) The data required to determine whether the applicant meets
18 requirements for voter registration under RCW 29A.08.010;

19 (ii) The name, traditional or nontraditional residence address,
20 address where the person receives mail, if different from the
21 residence address, and date of birth of the applicant;

22 (iii) Documentation confirming the individual is a United States
23 citizen;

24 (iv) Other information as required by the secretary of state; and

25 (v) A signature image.

26 (2) For applicants served under this section, the application is
27 marked as an automatic voter registrant.

28 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.08.110 and 2023 c 466 s 4 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 (1) For persons registering under RCW 29A.08.120, 29A.08.123,
31 29A.08.170, 29A.08.330, 29A.08.340, 29A.08.362, and 29A.08.365, an
32 application is considered complete only if it contains the
33 information required by RCW 29A.08.010. The applicant is considered
34 to be registered to vote as of:

35 (a) The original date of receipt;

36 (b) When the person will be at least eighteen years old by the
37 next election;

1 (c) When the person will be at least seventeen years old by the
2 next primary election or presidential primary election and eighteen
3 years old by the general election, whichever is applicable; or

4 (d) For voters utilizing automatic voter registration under RCW
5 29A.08.315 at the department of licensing or under section 3 of this
6 act, the date that an election official receives the information to
7 register the person to vote, unless:

8 (i) The voter declines registration by the deadline in RCW
9 29A.08.359(4)(a); or

10 (ii) An election official receives the information to register
11 the person to vote after the deadline to register to vote under RCW
12 29A.08.140(1)(a), in which case the applicant is considered to be
13 registered to vote as of the day after the election.

14 (2) As soon as practicable, the auditor shall record the
15 appropriate precinct identification, taxing district identification,
16 and date of registration on the voter's record in the state voter
17 registration list. The secretary of state shall, pursuant to RCW
18 29A.04.611, establish procedures to enable new or updated voter
19 registrations to be recorded on an expedited basis. Any mailing
20 address provided shall be used only for mail delivery purposes, and
21 not for precinct assignment or residency purposes.

22 (3) The voter must be sent an acknowledgment notice using first-
23 class nonforwardable mail:

24 (a) For voters utilizing automatic voter registration services at
25 the department of licensing, within five business days after the
26 receipt of an application or residential address change, or, if the
27 application or residential address change is received after the
28 deadline to register to vote or update a voter registration under RCW
29 29A.08.140 (1)(a) or (2)(a)(i), within five business days after the
30 election, the auditor shall send an automatic voter registration
31 acknowledgment notice package as required by RCW 29A.08.030.

32 (b) For voters utilizing automatic voter registration services
33 under section 3 of this act, within five business days after the
34 receipt of an application, or, if the application is received after
35 the deadline to register to vote or update a voter registration under
36 RCW 29A.08.140(1)(a), within five business days after the election,
37 the auditor shall send an automatic voter registration acknowledgment
38 notice package as required by RCW 29A.08.030.

1 (c) For all other voters, within 60 days after the receipt of an
2 application or residential address change, the auditor shall send an
3 acknowledgment notice as required by RCW 29A.08.030.

4 (4) If an application is not complete, the auditor shall promptly
5 mail a verification notice to the applicant. The verification notice
6 shall require the applicant to provide the missing information. If
7 the applicant provides the required information within forty-five
8 days, the applicant shall be registered to vote as of the original
9 date of application. The applicant shall not be placed on the
10 official list of registered voters until the application is complete.

11 (5) Once a future voter is no longer in pending status, as
12 described in RCW 29A.08.615, his or her application to sign up to
13 register to vote is no longer pending and is subject to this section.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.08
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1)(a) For persons registering under section 3 of this act, an
17 application is considered complete only if it contains the
18 information required by RCW 29A.08.010 and other information as
19 required by the secretary of state. The applicant is considered to be
20 registered to vote as of the date set forth in RCW 29A.08.110(1).

21 (b) If the information shows no name change or change of
22 residence or mailing address for an existing voter registration, the
23 auditor may choose to send the voter an acknowledgment notice.

24 (c) If the information is an application for new registration or
25 updates any element of an existing voter registration, the auditor
26 shall update the voter's record and, if the information updates the
27 voter's name, residence address, or mailing address, record the
28 appropriate precinct identification, taxing district identification,
29 and date of registration on the voter's record in the state voter
30 registration list and send an automatic voter registration
31 acknowledgment notice package within five business days of the
32 original application, or, if the information is received after the
33 deadline to register to vote or update a voter registration under RCW
34 29A.08.140(1)(a), within five business days after the election. Any
35 mailing address provided shall be used only for mail delivery
36 purposes, and not for precinct assignment or residency purposes.

37 (d) An auditor may use other means to communicate with potential
38 and registered voters such as, but not limited to, email, phone, or
39 text messaging. The alternate form of communication must not be in

1 lieu of the mail requirements. The auditor shall act in compliance
2 with all voter notification processes established in federal law.

3 (2) If an application is not complete, the auditor shall promptly
4 mail a verification notice to the applicant. The verification notice
5 must require the applicant to provide the missing information. If the
6 applicant provides the required information within 45 days, the
7 applicant must be registered to vote. The applicant must not be
8 placed on the official list of registered voters until the
9 application is complete.

10 (3) If the prospective registration applicant responds to the
11 automatic voter registration acknowledgment notice and declines to
12 register to vote or the information provided by the department of
13 licensing does not indicate citizenship, the information must not be
14 included on the list of registered voters.

15 (4) (a) For new registrants who decline registration in a reply
16 that is received by the auditor within 15 days from the date of
17 mailing of the automatic voter registration acknowledgment notice
18 package, the voter registration record shall be removed from the list
19 of registered voters, and the person is deemed to have never
20 registered to vote.

21 (b) If the reply declining registration is received after the
22 deadline, the auditor shall cancel the voter's registration.

23 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29A.08.370 and 2023 c 466 s 19 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 (1) If a person who is ineligible to vote becomes, in the rare
26 occasion, registered to vote under RCW 29A.08.355 (~~(e)~~), 29A.08.362,
27 or section 3 of this act in the absence of a knowing violation by
28 that person of RCW 29A.84.140, that person shall be deemed to have
29 performed an authorized act of registration and such act may not be
30 considered as evidence of a claim to citizenship.

31 (2) Unless a person willfully and knowingly votes or attempts to
32 vote knowing that he or she is not entitled to vote, a person who is
33 ineligible to vote and becomes registered to vote under RCW
34 29A.08.355 or 29A.08.362, and subsequently votes or attempts to vote
35 in an election held after the effective date of the person's
36 registration, is not guilty of violating RCW 29A.84.130, and shall be
37 deemed to have performed an authorized act, and such act may not be
38 considered as evidence of a claim to citizenship.

1 (3) A person who is ineligible to vote, who successfully
2 completes the voter registration process under RCW 29A.08.355 or
3 29A.08.362 or votes in an election, must have their voter
4 registration, or record of vote, removed from the voter registration
5 database and any other application records.

6 (4) Should an ineligible individual become registered to vote,
7 the office of the secretary of state and the relevant agency shall
8 jointly determine the cause. If the cause is found to be intentional
9 registration of ineligible persons by a person employed by the state
10 or county government tasked with assisting the public with voter
11 registration, that government employee is subject to the penalties of
12 RCW 29A.84.110.

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