



January 21, 2019

## Please support these pro-democracy bills!

### Voting Access:

**[SB 6228](#) / [HB 2292](#)** – Allows persons complying with conditions of community custody to register to vote. This restores voting rights to those convicted of a felony as soon as they are released from prison, regardless of the status of any court fines or fees owed.

- If passed, this bill would bring 18,000 voters back into our democracy.
- The freedom to vote is a fundamental American value.
- Our laws should encourage all eligible voters to participate, including those who have served their time and earned back the freedom to vote.
- People of color are overrepresented in WA prisons, but underrepresented in democracy. It's time we help correct this problem by expanding voting access to those most impacted.

**[SB 6313](#) / [HB 2558](#)** – **Voting Opportunities Through Education (VOTE) to increase youth participation** - Authorizes 17-year-olds to participate in primary elections if they will be 18 by the next election and adds Engagement Centers for voting & other civic engagement activities on college campuses.

- Registering and activating young voters before they move out of their childhood homes leads to higher turnout rates.
- Encouraging civic engagement and expanding civic education helps build a more enlightened community actively engaged in the democratic process.
- Primaries are an important component to our elections, so those who can vote in an upcoming general or special election, should be able to participate in the primary as well.
- Participation in the whole election process is good for the democratic process, civic engagement, and education for young voters, helping to build a lifetime habit of regular voting
- The turnout rate for young voters is typically lower compared to other demographics; our democracy should encourage, not make it more difficult, for eligible young adults to participate.
- A minor's information will not be public until after they vote.

### Redistricting & Election Methods:

**[HB 2575](#)** – **Redistricting Modernization** - Increase transparency & accountability in the WA Redistricting Commission & maximize public input through public forums around the state. This would improve our existing commission structure by:

- Getting started earlier, creating full time commissioners, and defining the public input process.
- Increases trust in the commissions map drawing process by:
  - Publishing priorities early, giving access to all their data and requiring comprehensive reporting.
  - Giving people with limited English a better chance to engage with the commission by requiring translation services and notices in major languages.



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**[HB 1722](#) / [SB 5708](#) - Local Options Bill - Allows jurisdictions to adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in local elections.**

Ranked Choice Voting

- Eliminates the spoiler effect; no more voting for the "lesser of two evils"
- Results in less negative campaigning
- Results in more diversity of elected officials
- Lowers election and campaign costs, by eliminating unnecessary primaries

**Campaign Finance and Ethics:**

**[HB 1067](#) / [SB 5033](#) - Closing the Lobbying Revolving Door – Effects employment after leaving office**

- Establishes a one-year "cooling off" period before elected officials can work as a lobbyist influencing state public policy.
- This practice allows undue influence by special interests, while someone is in office and after.
- The public perception of money controlling politics creates distrust and low involvement.
- Congress and over 31 states have a cooling off period.

**[SB 6361](#) / [HB 2674](#) - Campaign Transparency and Honesty - Covers administration of election campaign activities and reporting statements of financial affairs**

- Allows direct access to the public disclosure transparency funds, which by law can only be used for Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) special projects, without requiring the approval of the legislature.
- Clarifies that personal financial statements of elected officials, which are currently considered public records, can be published online by the PDC.
- Exempts legislative staff from such disclosure.
- Requires disclaimers for campaign communication that encourages votes for someone who is not running and references endorsements on the previous campaign.

**Election Administration:**

**[SB 6134](#) / [HB 2421](#) - Require the state to pay its fair share of election costs and fund additional voter outreach.**

- Currently every level of government pays a prorated share of elections costs except the State does this only in odd numbered years when there are very few state races
- Elections are facing increasing threats from cyber attacks and disinformation campaigns.
- Underfunding elections puts elections at greater risk
- Additional funding for voter education and outreach is needed, particularly to underrepresented communities



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**Other bills of importance**

**SB 5224 - Eliminates advisory votes** – Removes questions that appear on the ballot regarding bills on state revenue after they passed.

- The results do not have any impact.
- The phrasing of the question is misleading and similar to a push poll.
- The questions are confusing to voters and there is virtually no information available about them.
- The fact that they have no impact is inconsistent with the message that voting is important
- Add costs to elections, particularly in the printing and distribution of the Voters Pamphlet
- Passed the Senate State Government Committee unanimously, so strong bipartisan support.

**SB 6412 / HB 2647 - Election Security Package** – LWVWA Supporting with Concerns Requested by the Secretary of State to increase election security funding for local election officials, requiring improved chain of custody for voted ballots, eliminating email ballot return for military and overseas voters, and requiring all recounts be conducted manually. Post-election audit reports summarized statewide provide the public with confidence in our state's voting systems.

- Post-election audit reports summarized statewide provide the public with confidence in our state's voting systems.
- Email ballot return can expose election infrastructure to unacceptable risk.
- Chain of custody logs for ballot collection ensures voted ballots are tracked and returned to election officials.
- Replacing machine recounts with hand recounts provide increased confidence in outcomes of close races.