



Washington Association  
of COUNTY OFFICIALS

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## HB 2478 / SB 6058

An act relating to write-in voting.

### **Supported by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of County Auditors (WSACA)**

WACO and the County Auditors are seeking legislation to require write-in candidates to file a declaration of candidacy. This will clarify when write-in votes must be counted and reported.

Under the proposed legislation write-in candidates who wish to have votes counted for them would have to file a declaration of candidacy.

The proposed legislation relieves elections officials from tallying fictitious persons. It would also provide an off-ramp for individuals not wishing to seek or take up office but who have received adequate write-in votes to qualify for the ballot.

No write-in votes shall be counted for a write-in candidate who has not properly filed a declaration of candidacy. The proposed bill also clarifies that the filing fees for write-in candidates follows the same fee schedule as other candidates.

**The proposed legislation creates administrative efficiencies, which will help increase accuracy and reduce the time to certify certain elections.**