

SIMPLIFYING VOTER CHANGE OF ADDRESS



Washington state has a fully connected statewide voter registration system; but outdated state law regarding how voter records can be updated is a barrier to it operating as intended. Current law assumes each county has a separate voter registration database, and as such creates unnecessary processing steps for election officials and unnecessary hurdles for voters. Minor changes in state law would streamline the process of updating voter registration records, making our voter rolls more accurate and voter participation easier.

What we Propose:

- **Allow voters to be transferred between counties using National Change of Address (NCOA) data maintained by the U.S. Post Office and/or Election Registration Information Center (ERIC) data governed by the association of state election officials. Under current law, notification from these sources that a voter has moved out of county triggers inactivation of the voter's record and requires the voter to submit a new registration form for their new address instead of updating their record automatically.**
- **Allow voters to transfer their records between counties via phone call or email, instead of requiring submission of a new voter registration form.**

The cost savings to counties and reduced hassle for voters would be substantial. In King County alone, it is estimated this proposal would result in significant reduction of voter entering the inactivation process, meaning roughly 40,000 fewer confirmation cards sent each year, resulting in around \$25,000 savings on just printing and outbound mailing costs, not including the more substantial cost of staff processing time.

RCW – 29A.08.410; 29A.08.420; 29A.08.620; 29A.08.640

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