

Voting & Elections

Just two weeks into the 2014 session, the House approved bills to make major, needed improvements in the elections system and help turn the "one person-one vote" American ideal into a reality. Strong election guidelines and an open government protect and strengthen every American, regardless of political party or background.

Less confusion for voters

Uniform ballot design / [HB 1103](#) - This measure would have required the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Washington State Association of County Auditors, to develop a uniform ballot format to be used by each county by the year 2022, or upon replacement of vote tallying equipment, whichever occurs first. *(Died in Senate)*



Moving online voter registration closer to Election Day

Voter registration / [HB 1267](#) – Would have changed the time period for online registration from 29 to 11 days before a primary or election; the time period for in-person registration from 8 to 11 days before a primary or election; and the time period for mail-in registrations from 29 to 28 days before a primary or election. *(Died in Senate)*

Preregistration for soon-to-be voters

Motor-voter preregistration for 16- and 17-year-olds / [HB 1279](#) – This bill would allow 16 and 17 year olds to preregister to vote when they apply for a driver's license or identicard. *(Died in Senate)*

Equal voting opportunity

The Voting Rights Act / [HB 1413](#) - The Voting Rights Act emphasizes equal voting opportunity where communities of color have historically been disenfranchised. HB 1413 establishes a voting rights act to promote equal voting opportunity in certain political subdivisions by authorizing political subdivisions who already conduct district-based elections, as well as those with at-large election systems, to change their election system if necessary to remedy a potential violation. It prohibits election districts that are drawn or maintained in a manner that denies an equal opportunity for members of a race, color, or language group to elect candidates of their choice or influence the outcome of an election, and establishes a cause of action to redress violations. *(Died in Senate)*