

Referendum Measure No. 14

BALLOT TITLE

"AN ACT relating to primary nominations and the registration of voters, and requiring electors to state their party affiliations at the time of registration."

AN ACT relating to primary nominations, and to registration of voters and amending sections 4815, 4757, 4762, 4763, 4765, 4767, and 4768 of Remington & Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. That Section 4815 of Rem. & Bal. Code be amended to read as follows:

Section 4815. Every qualified person, properly registered as a voter in his election precinct, shall be entitled to participate in the primary election. When he desires to vote at said primary each elector shall have the right to receive the ballot only of the party with which affiliated as shown on the registration books; and he shall, if challenged, be required to make oath or affirmation that he intends to affiliate with said party at the ensuing election and intends to support its candidates generally. Thereupon he shall retire to one of the booths and without undue delay mark the ballot received by him and fold it so that its face shall be concealed. He shall thereafter deliver said ballot received by him to the election officers. In the event said voter shall soil or deface the ballot he desires to vote he shall at once return the ballot received by him and get a new ballot and the election officers shall destroy or render unfit for use the ballot so returned. The elector shall designate his choice on his ballot by making a cross in each of the small squares nearest the names of the candidates for whom he desires to vote and shall not vote for more candidates for an office than are to be elected thereto at the election to follow the primary

election as indicated on the ballot at the right of each office for which candidates are to be elected.

SEC. 2. That Section 4757 of Rem. & Bal. Code be amended to read as follows:

Section 4757. There shall be in 1922 and biennially thereafter to continue for two years, in incorporated cities and towns and quadrennially thereafter to continue for four years outside such cities and towns, except as hereinafter provided, in each precinct of the state, a new and complete registration of the legal voters therein. Such registration shall begin on the 2nd day of January of such year, and the registration books shall be open for the registration of voters at all times except during the twenty days immediately preceding any general state or county or general municipal election or any primary election of any nature or any special municipal election, except as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 3. That Section 4762 of Rem. & Bal. Code be amended to read as follows:

Section 4762. It shall be the duty of the comptroller or clerk of any incorporated city or town to procure and open for the registration of voters, duplicate poll books on the 2nd day of January, 1922, for each precinct of such city or town; and on the 2nd day of January of each biennial year thereafter to procure and open like books of registration for each of said precincts; and it shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners of each county on the 2nd day of January, 1922, and quadrennially thereafter, in like manner to procure and open a poll book for the registration of voters in each precinct of such county out-

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side of incorporated cities or towns, and to designate a legal voter in each of said precincts, to be the registration officer in such precinct whose duties shall be the same as those devolving upon the city or town clerk of incorporated cities or towns under the provisions of this act: *Provided*, That the board of county commissioners of any county may, for the convenience of voters, designate a legal voter of such county at some convenient place to be the registration officer for one or more such precincts outside of incorporated cities and towns.

SEC. 4. That Section 4763 of Rem. & Bal. Code be amended to read as follows:

Section 4763. Such poll books shall at all times, except as herein otherwise provided, be kept in the office of such city or town clerk or precinct registration officer of such city, town or precinct; and the city or town clerk, and the person designated by the board of county commissioners as herein provided, shall be the registration officer of such city, town or precinct, and it shall be his duty to register all legal voters of such city, town or precinct on such poll books, as hereinafter provided: *Provided*, That in all cities of the first class, the city council may, by ordinance or resolution, direct that in all or certain of the precincts of such city, designated in such ordinance or resolution, the poll books of such precincts shall be kept open in such precincts for the registration of voters thereof, at and during such time as shall be designated in such ordinance or resolution. It shall be the duty of the city clerk, in cities of the first class, to designate by the notice required by Section 4765 the time and place where the registration poll books for each precinct so designated by ordinance or resolution will be open in such precinct for the registration of voters of such precincts; and the city clerk shall provide for the precinct books in charge of an officer of registration to be kept at the place and kept open for the registration of voters qualified to register, between the hours of 9 a. m. and 9:30 p. m. on the days designated in said published notice:

Provided, further, That in precincts outside of incorporated cities or towns, the registration officer of any such precincts, may, with the written consent of the county auditor, during the time such poll books are kept open for the registration of voters therein, for the convenience of the voters, and at such time or times and by giving such notice of his intention so to do, as he may deem expedient, designate some centrally located place in addition to the usual place where such poll books are kept, where the said poll books will be kept open for the registration of voters of such precincts.

SEC. 5. That Section 4765 of Rem. & Bal. Code be amended to read as follows:

Section 4765. It shall be the duty of the city or town clerk of each incorporated city or town, beginning the first week in January, 1922, and biennially thereafter, and of the county auditor of each county, beginning the first week in January 1922, and quadrennially thereafter, to cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in such city, town or county, for two successive weeks, a notice that the legal voters of said city, town or county can register at the office of the said city or town clerk, or at the residence of the registration officers of the precincts of said county outside of incorporated cities and towns; and if in a city of the first class, in each precinct, at a place which has been designated by the city council, during the time designated in such notice: *Provided*, That the notices to be given by the county auditor shall refer only to precincts outside of incorporated cities or towns and shall in addition give the name of the registration officer of each precinct outside of such incorporated cities or towns, together with his place of residence, as near as may be.

SEC. 6. That Section 4767 of Rem. & Bal. Code be amended to read as follows:

Section 4767. The registration books of aforesaid shall be so arranged as to admit the alphabetical classification of the names of the voters, and ruled in parallel columns,

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with appropriate heads, as follows: Date of registration; voted; names; ages; occupation; place of residence; place of birth; time of residence in the state, county, ward and precinct; whether taxpayer of the State of Washington; political faith; if of foreign birth, name and place of court and date of declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States, or date of naturalization. Column head "Signature" for a signature of voter at time of registration, and another and similar column immediately following, headed "identification" for the signature of the voter in case he is challenged when he offers to vote, and a column for "remarks." If the voter registering is of foreign birth, he shall at the time of registering be questioned by the registration officer and shall produce satisfactory evidence to the registration officer, that he was at the time of the adoption of the constitution of the State of Washington, a qualified elector of the state, or that he is a naturalized citizen of the United States (in which latter case he shall be required to produce satisfactory evidence to the registration officer of his naturalization unless the said officer shall know of his own knowledge that such voter is in fact a naturalized citizen), or if a woman of foreign birth that she has married a citizen of the United States. Under the head of place of residence shall be noted the number of lot and block, or number and street where the applicant resides, or some other definite description sufficient to locate and establish the residence with reasonable certainty; and the voter so registered as provided in this act shall sign his name in each of the duplicate poll books to be procured and opened for the registration of voters in the precincts of incorporated cities and towns or in the poll book to be procured and opened for the registration of voters in each precinct outside such incorporated cities or towns as provided by this chapter on the registry opposite the entry above required, in the column headed "signature," unless he is a qualified elector at the time of the taking effect of this act and shall not be capable of writing his

name, or in case of physical infirmity he be unable to write his name, in either of which cases he shall on the left hand margin of said column make his mark or cross and such other mark as is usual in indicating his signature, and some person who personally knows said voter, and who is personally known to the registration officer, and who is capable of writing his name, shall sign in said column immediately opposite said mark, as an identifying witness thereto.

At the time of registering, each elector shall declare the name of the political party with which he intends to affiliate at the ensuing primary election or elections, and the name of such political party shall be stated in the column headed "Political Faith." If the elector declines to state his political party the fact of such declination shall likewise be stated and no person shall be entitled to vote the ticket of any political party at any primary election, by virtue of such registration, unless he has stated the name of the political party with which he intends to affiliate at the time of registration. In cases of transfer of registration the same entry shall be made in the column headed "Political Faith" as was made in the original registration: *Provided, however,* That any person registered outside any incorporated city or town, may change his political affiliation, one time, by re-registering after any biennial general election.

SEC. 7. That Section 4768 of Rem. & Bal. Code be amended to read as follows:

Section 4768. No person shall be registered unless he appears in person, before the city or town clerk, or officer of registration at the place where the registration books are kept during office hours and apply to be registered, and give his name, age, occupation, number and place of residence, place of birth, time of residence in the state, and county, and ward, and precinct, and furnish satisfactory evidence to the said registration officer that he is capable of reading and speaking the English language, so as comprehend the meaning of ordinary English prose,

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unless he is incapacitated through physical infirmities, in which case he shall furnish satisfactory evidence that he was before such infirmity capable of reading and speaking the English language, unless such person so offering was a qualified elector at the time of the taking effect of this act, in which case the provisions with reference to reading and speaking the English language shall not apply; and shall furnish to said officer all the facts required by this act to be stated, and in addition thereto shall make and subscribe to the following oath or affirmation:

State of Washington,
County of.....
ss.

I,do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am a person over twenty (20) years eleven (11) months and ten (10) days of age, that I am a native born or naturalized citizen of the United States, or was a legal elector of the territory of Washington at the time of the adoption of the constitution of the State of Washington; that I have been an actual, permanent resident of the State of Washington for eleven (11) months and ten (10) days last past, of the county of..... for seventy (70) days last past; and of the.....precinct ten (10) days last past; that I have not lost any civil rights by being convicted of an infamous crime; that I

was either a qualified elector on the last day of July, 1901, or that I can read or speak the English language; that I have not registered during the present biennium (or quadrennium) in any other precinct except as herein set down by the officer of registration; that my answer in the column headed "Political Faith" is true and correct; that I have read or heard read, the statements preceding my name herein, as set down by the officer of registration, know the contents thereof and believe the same to be true.

.....
Subscribed and sworn to before me this.....day of.....19...

.....
(Official character.)

The said affidavit shall be bound in book form and preserved with the other records of the city, town or precinct.

And every registration officer when required so to do by a writ of mandate of a court of competent jurisdiction, shall register the voter as directed by said writ.

Passed the Senate March 1, 1921.

Passed the House March 8, 1921.

Approved by the Governor March 19, 1921.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of Secretary of State April 9, 1921.

J. GRANT HINKLE, *Secretary of State.*