

Mason County Local Voters' Pamphlet Administrative Rules for Measures



Mason County Elections

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Local Voters' Pamphlet Content (RCW 29A.32.241)

The local voters' pamphlet shall include at a minimum:

- The words "Mason County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet" and the date of the election on the cover
- A list of districts that have measures or candidates in the pamphlet. This may be in the form of a table of contents or index
- Information on how a person may register to vote and obtain a ballot
- The text of each measure and an explanatory statement prepared by the Prosecuting Attorney for any Mason County measure or by the attorney for the local district submitting the measure
- Arguments 'for' and 'against' each measure submitted by committees
- Statements and photos submitted by eligible candidates in races on the ballot.

Mason County will publish submissions in reference to measures from the Elma or McCleary School Districts as approved by the Grays Harbor County Auditor Elections.

Ballot Measure Explanatory Statements (RCW 29A.32.230, RCW 29A.32.241)

The explanatory statement explains in common and neutral language the measure's purpose, the financial impact and the laws that will be affected by the measure's passage. The statement shall not exceed 200 words and should be prepared by the attorney for the district submitting the measure. A letter or email from the district's attorney confirming they prepared and approve the explanatory statement must be submitted with the statement, if legal counsel was retained. Once the statement is received, all statements are final and may not be amended. If there is not an approval from the district's attorney the statement will be submitted to the Mason County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for review and final approval.

Explanatory Statement Submission and Formatting Rules

All statements shall be submitted:

- Electronically in .doc, .docx or .txt format, such as a Word document or the text of an email. A .pdf is not an acceptable submission format
- Only text is permitted. Tables, lists, bullets, graphs, charts, photographs, cartoons, or caricatures are not allowed
- **Bolding** or use of ALL CAPS of more than ten percent of the word limit is not allowed

The Auditor's Office, Election Department reserves the right to edit the formatting, but will not correct errors in spelling, grammar or punctuation.

Public Inspection of Statements (RCW 29A.32.100)

Statements submitted for publication in the local voters' pamphlet shall not be released to the public until all statements pertaining to the specified ballot measure have been received, reviewed and approved. Requests for public inspection of statements shall be made in the same manner as requests for public records.

Explanatory Statement Content Responsibility

The contents of explanatory statements, 'for' and 'against' statements are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not represent the position of the Auditor or Mason County regarding the measure or of any material contained therein; neither the Auditor nor Mason County is responsible for the validity or

submitted, statements cannot be withdrawn or changed. Statements will become public record when both, 'for' and 'against' statements for each measure are received, reviewed and approved or at the deadline for receipt, whichever is later. Committee member names and contact information will be published in the voters' pamphlet and are not included in the 250-word count. At least one method of contact (phone or email) must be provided for each committee member.

'For' and 'Against' Statement Content Responsibility

The content of the 'for' and 'against' statements is the sole responsibility of the authors and do not represent the position of the Auditor or Mason County regarding the measure or of any material contained therein; neither the Auditor nor Mason County is responsible for the validity or accuracy of the statements. Statements should be edited and prepared carefully. Spelling, grammar and punctuation errors will not be corrected. Statement content will be printed exactly as received, so long as it complies with content, format and word limit specification.

Content Rejection and Appeal Process (RCW 29A.32.230)

The Mason County Auditor reserves the right to reject any submission to the local voters' pamphlet. Such rejection will be to the entire submission; the Auditor will not edit the submission to remove inappropriate content. Content submitted for publication may be rejected if it:

- Is deemed obscene, libelous or otherwise inappropriate
- Contains a commercial advertisement
- Contains matter prohibited by law from distribution through the mail
- Contains matter not relevant to the measure
- Contains matter that is otherwise inappropriate or does not comply with applicable law
- Does not comply with formatting and other rules herein
- Is received after the submission deadline.

If any material is rejected by the Mason County Auditor, a notice of rejection shall be sent to the submitter by email within five business days after receipt thereof and shall explain the specific grounds for rejection. The submitter will have until 4:00pm the next business day from sent date to submit amended material. The Auditor shall review the resubmitted material and will either accept or reject it and will inform the submitter of the decision within one business day.

The submitter may appeal the decision to reject the resubmitted material to the Mason County Prosecuting Attorney, by 4:00pm on the next business day from sent date and shall explain the specific grounds for appeal. The Prosecuting Attorney shall issue a decision granting or denying the appeal by email no more than five business days after receiving the notice of appeal. The decision of the Prosecuting Attorney to grant or deny an appeal shall be final.

If the material submitted is rejected, the local voters' pamphlet will be printed without the rejected material and will include a notice that the material was rejected.

Administrative Rules Adopted this 6 day of May 2024. (RCW 29A.32.230)



Steve Duenkel, Mason County Auditor

Adopted May 6, 2024