

INITIATIVE 780

I, Sam Reed, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 780 to the People is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring all candidates who desire to have
2 their name printed on the ballot for election to an office other than
3 president or vice-president of the United States to complete all
4 sections of the tenth grade Washington assessment of student learning
5 before filing for office and to list their Washington assessment of
6 student learning scores on their declaration and affidavit of
7 candidacy; amending RCW 29.15.010 and 29.81.220; adding a new section
8 to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** POLICIES AND PURPOSES. The state of
11 Washington has determined that mastery of the state's essential
12 academic learning requirements is needed by high school students if
13 they are to succeed in adult life, both in terms of economic competence
14 and effective citizenship. Such mastery is demonstrated by passing all
15 sections of the tenth grade Washington assessment of student learning.
16 The tenth grade Washington assessment of student learning provides
17 accountability for high school students. The citizens of Washington
18 require similar accountability from candidates for public office.
19 Since the tenth grade Washington assessment of student learning

1 measures knowledge and skills required for adult success, the citizens
2 of Washington state want to know whether or not candidates for public
3 office in Washington have mastered the essential academic learning
4 requirements measured by the tenth grade Washington assessment of
5 student learning.

6 This act will make this information available to the citizens in
7 relation to all candidates for public office in Washington state.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.15.010 and 1990 c 59 s 82 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 A candidate who desires to have his or her name printed on the
11 ballot for election to an office other than president of the United
12 States, vice-president of the United States, or an office for which
13 ownership of property is a prerequisite to voting shall complete and
14 file a declaration and affidavit of candidacy. The secretary of state
15 shall adopt, by rule, a declaration of candidacy form for the office of
16 precinct committee officer and a separate standard form for candidates
17 for all other offices filing under this chapter. Included on the
18 standard form shall be:

19 (1) A place for the candidate to declare that he or she is a
20 registered voter within the jurisdiction of the office for which he or
21 she is filing, and the address at which he or she is registered;

22 (2) A place for the candidate to indicate the position for which he
23 or she is filing;

24 (3) A place for the candidate to indicate a party designation, if
25 applicable;

26 (4) A place for the candidate to indicate the amount of the filing
27 fee accompanying the declaration of candidacy or for the candidate to
28 indicate that he or she is filing a nominating petition in lieu of the
29 filing fee under RCW 29.15.050;

30 (5) A place for the candidate to list the scores that he or she has
31 received through completion of all sections of the tenth grade
32 Washington assessment of student learning;

33 (6) A place for the candidate to sign the declaration of candidacy,
34 stating that the information provided on the form is true and swearing
35 or affirming that he or she will support the Constitution and laws of
36 the United States and the Constitution and laws of the state of
37 Washington.

1 The secretary of state may require any other information on the
2 form he or she deems appropriate to facilitate the filing process.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 In the year of every general election and at least three months
6 before deadlines for filing a candidacy, the superintendent of public
7 instruction shall offer administration of the tenth grade Washington
8 assessment of student learning to potential candidates at no fewer than
9 ten locations throughout the state on at least two separate dates. The
10 superintendent of public instruction shall provide proctors for the
11 exam to ensure compliance with testing procedures and safeguard the
12 integrity of the Washington assessment of student learning scores.

13 For any other election of new officials, the superintendent of
14 public instruction shall offer administration of the tenth grade
15 Washington assessment of student learning at least at one location in
16 Olympia and one in Spokane at least three months before the deadline
17 for filing. For these administrations the superintendent of public
18 instruction shall also provide proctors for the exam to ensure
19 compliance with testing procedures and safeguard the integrity of the
20 Washington assessment of student learning scores.

21 Every candidate for office who takes the tenth grade Washington
22 assessment of student learning under the terms of this section shall
23 pay for the cost of administration and scoring his or her test. This
24 cost shall be set at the same amount as the cost for administering and
25 scoring the test for tenth graders in that fiscal year. The
26 superintendent of public instruction shall cause the tenth grade
27 Washington assessment of student learnings completed by candidates to
28 be scored within two weeks of their administration. The superintendent
29 shall deliver the Washington assessment of student learning scores both
30 to the candidates themselves and to the secretary of state.

31 Every candidate must complete all sections of the tenth grade
32 Washington assessment of student learning before filing a declaration
33 and affidavit of candidacy and must list all of his or her scores
34 accurately on the standard form. Any falsehood listed on the
35 declaration and affidavit of candidacy in relation to the Washington
36 assessment of student learning scores shall be subject to prosecution
37 under penalty of perjury.

1 The secretary of state shall list all candidates' Washington
2 assessment of student learning scores both on a web site established
3 for this purpose and in every edition of the voters' pamphlet.

4 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.81.220 and 1999 c 260 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The voters' pamphlet must contain:

7 (1) Information about each ballot measure initiated by or referred
8 to the voters for their approval or rejection as required by RCW
9 29.81.250;

10 (2) In even-numbered years, statements, if submitted, advocating
11 the candidacies of nominees for the office of president and vice-
12 president of the United States, United States senator, United States
13 representative, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state,
14 state treasurer, state auditor, attorney general, commissioner of
15 public lands, superintendent of public instruction, insurance
16 commissioner, state senator, state representative, justice of the
17 supreme court, judge of the court of appeals, or judge of the superior
18 court. Candidates may also submit a campaign mailing address and
19 telephone number and a photograph not more than five years old and of
20 a size and quality that the secretary of state determines to be
21 suitable for reproduction in the voters' pamphlet;

22 (3) In odd-numbered years, if any office voted upon statewide
23 appears on the ballot due to a vacancy, then statements and photographs
24 for candidates for any vacant office listed in subsection (2) of this
25 section must appear;

26 (4) In even-numbered years, a section explaining how voters may
27 participate in the election campaign process; the address and telephone
28 number of the public disclosure commission established under RCW
29 42.17.350; and a summary of the disclosure requirements that apply when
30 contributions are made to candidates and political committees;

31 (5) In even-numbered years the name, address, and telephone number
32 of each political party with nominees listed in the pamphlet, if filed
33 with the secretary of state by the state committee of a major political
34 party or the presiding officer of the convention of a minor political
35 party;

36 (6) In each odd-numbered year immediately before a year in which a
37 president of the United States is to be nominated and elected,
38 information explaining the precinct caucus and convention process used

1 by each major political party to elect delegates to its national
2 presidential candidate nominating convention. The pamphlet must also
3 provide a description of the statutory procedures by which minor
4 political parties are formed and the statutory methods used by the
5 parties to nominate candidates for president;

6 (7) In even-numbered years, a description of the office of precinct
7 committee officer and its duties;

8 (8) Scores obtained by candidates on the tenth grade Washington
9 assessment of student learning;

10 (9) An application form for an absentee ballot;

11 ((+9)) (10) A brief statement explaining the deletion and addition
12 of language for proposed measures under RCW 29.81.260;

13 ((+10)) (11) Any additional information pertaining to elections as
14 may be required by law or in the judgment of the secretary of state is
15 deemed informative to the voters.

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