

**STATE OF WASHINGTON,  
GENERAL  
ELECTION LAWS. 1905**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649400416

State of Washington, General Election Laws. 1905 by Sam H. Nichois

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**SAM H. NICHOLS**

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STATE OF WASHINGTON.

*Laws, statutes, etc.*

# GENERAL ELECTION LAWS

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COMPILED BY

SAM H. NICHOLS,  
SECRETARY OF STATE.

1905

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PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

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## GENERAL ELECTION LAWS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

### 1. Qualifications of Electors.

All male persons of the age of twenty-one years, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections: All persons who at the time of the taking effect of this act are qualified electors of this state; all other male persons who are over the age of twenty-one years, citizens of the United States, who have lived in the state one year and in the county ninety days and in the city, town, ward or precinct thirty days immediately preceding the election at which they offer to vote, and who shall be able to read and speak the English language: *Provided*, That Indians not taxed shall never be allowed the elective franchise. (L. '01, Sec. 1, p. 284.)

### 2. Residents—Who Are.

For the purpose of voting, no person shall be deemed to have gained or lost a residence by reason of his presence or absence while employed in the service of the United States, nor while engaged in the navigation of the waters of this territory, or of the United States, or of the high seas; nor while a student of any seminary of learning, nor while kept at any almshouse or other asylum, nor while confined in any public prison, excepting when serving out a sentence in the penitentiary for an infamous crime. (L. '66, Sec. 2, p. 25.)

### 3. Who Disqualified.

No idiot, or insane person, or persons convicted of an infamous crime, shall be entitled to the privilege of an elector. (L. '66, Sec. 3, p. 25.)

**4. Absence on Business.**

Absence from the territory, on business, shall not affect the question of residence of any person: *Provided*, The right to vote has not been claimed or exercised elsewhere. (L. '66, Sec. 4, p. 25.)

**5. Infamous Crime.**

A crime shall be deemed infamous which is punishable by death or imprisonment in the penitentiary. (L. '66, Sec. 5, p. 25.)

**TIME AND MANNER OF HOLDING ELECTIONS.**

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**6. Election of Presidential Electors.**

On the Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-two, and on the same day of every fourth year thereafter, there shall be elected by the qualified electors of the State of Washington, as many electors of president and vice-president of the United States as this state may be entitled to elect of senators and representatives in Congress. (L. '91, Sec. 1, p. 364.)

**7. Votes, How to Be Received, Returned, Canvassed, Etc.**

The votes for the electors shall be given, received, returned and canvassed as the same are given, returned and canvassed for members of congress. The Secretary of State shall prepare three lists of the names of the electors elected and affix the seal of the state to the same. Such lists shall be signed by the Governor and Secretary of State, and by the latter delivered to the college of electors at the hour of their meeting, prescribed in section three hundred and forty-nine of this volume of General Statutes. (L. '91, Sec. 2, p. 364.)

**8. Electors to Meet, When, Etc.**

The electors of president and vice-president shall convene at the seat of government on the first Wednesday of December



next after their election at the hour of twelve of the clock, at noon of that day, and if there shall be any vacancy in the office of an elector occasioned by death, refusal to act, neglect to attend, or otherwise, the electors present shall immediately proceed to fill, by *viva voce* and plurality of votes, such vacancy; and when all of the electors shall appear, or the vacancies, if any, shall have been filled as above provided, such shall constitute the college of electors of the State of Washington, and shall proceed to perform the duties required of them by the constitution and laws of the United States. (L. '91, Sec. 3, p. 365.)

[This conflicts with the act of congress on the same subject, which provides "That the electors of each state shall meet and give their votes on the second Monday in January next following their appointment, at such place in each state as the legislature of such state shall direct." Act of February 3, 1887, 24 Stat. L.]

**9. Compensation of Electors.**

Every such elector who shall attend at the time and place appointed, and give his vote for president and vice-president, shall be entitled to receive from this state five dollars for each day's attendance at such meeting of the college of electors, and ten cents per mile for travel in going to and returning from the place where the electors shall meet, on the usually traveled route. (L. '91, Sec. 4, p. 365.)

**10. Biennial Elections to Be Held—Day of Election.**

The election of legislative, district, county and precinct officers in this state shall be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November, *Anno Domini* eighteen hundred and eighty-two, and thereafter biennially on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November; and all elective state, legislative, district, county and precinct officers shall hereafter be elected at the times herein specified. (L. '81, Sec. 13, p. 35.)

**11. Special Elections Defined.**

Special elections are such as are held to supply vacancies in any office, whether the same be filled by the qualified electors

of the state or any district, county, or township, and may be held at such time as may be designated by the proper officer. (L. '66, Sec. 2, p. 27.)

**12. Governor to Issue Proclamation.**

It shall be the duty of the Governor, at least sixty days before any general election, to issue his proclamation, designating the offices to be filled by the state at large at such election, and to transmit a copy thereof to the county auditor of each county. (L. '66, Sec. 4, p. 27.)

**13. Form of Election Notice.**

It shall be the duty of each county auditor to give at least thirty days' notice of any general election and at least fifteen days previous to any special election by posting or causing to be posted up, at each place of holding election in the county, a written or printed notice thereof; said notice to be as circumstances will admit, as follows: Notice is hereby given that on the—day of—next, at—, in the—district or precinct of—, in the county of—, an election will be held for state, county, town or district officers (naming the offices to be filled, as the case may be), which election will be opened at nine o'clock in the morning and will continue until seven o'clock in the afternoon of the same day. Dated this — day of —, A. D. 19—. A. B. county auditor. (L. '66, Sec. 6, p. 27.)

**14. Appointment of Election Officers.**

It shall be the duty of the county commissioners, at their regular session held previous to the day of holding the general election, to appoint for each precinct, from the qualified electors of said precinct, one inspector and two judges, who shall constitute a board of judges of election. In case said board be not appointed for any precinct by the board of county commissioners, as specified in this section, or those appointed in accordance with this section shall not be present at the place designated by the county commissioners in a precinct for

holding the polls at the hour to open the polls, the electors present may appoint a board of judges for such precinct. (L. '66, Sec. 2, p. 30.)

**15. Appointment of Clerks of Election.**

The inspector and judges for each precinct having more than one hundred voters shall, before the time of opening the polls, appoint two suitable persons to act as clerks, who shall be qualified electors: *Provided*, That in precincts having less than one hundred voters the said judges shall keep a tally of the voters voting at said election, and shall perform all of the duties pertaining to and required to be performed by the clerks of elections: *And provided further*, That each of the recognized political parties may have one challenger at the polls of each voting precinct. (L. '95, Sec. 1, p. 386.)

**16. Oath of Election Officers, How to Be Administered.**

The inspector, judges and clerks aforesaid shall, before entering upon the duties of their offices, severally take and subscribe the oath or affirmation hereinafter directed, which shall be administered to them by any person authorized to administer oaths, but if no such person be present, the inspector shall administer the same to the judges and clerks, and one of the judges shall administer the oath to the inspector. (L. '66, Sec. 4, p. 31.)

**17. Oath of Inspector.**

The following shall be the form of the oath, or affirmation, to be taken by each inspector: I, A B, do swear (or affirm) that I will duly attend the ensuing election during the continuance thereof as an inspector, and that I will not receive any ticket or vote from any person other than such as I shall firmly believe to be according to the provisions of the laws of this state entitled to vote at such election without requiring such evidence of the right to vote as is directed by law; nor will I vexatiously delay or refuse to receive any vote from any person whom I shall believe to be entitled to vote as aforesaid;