



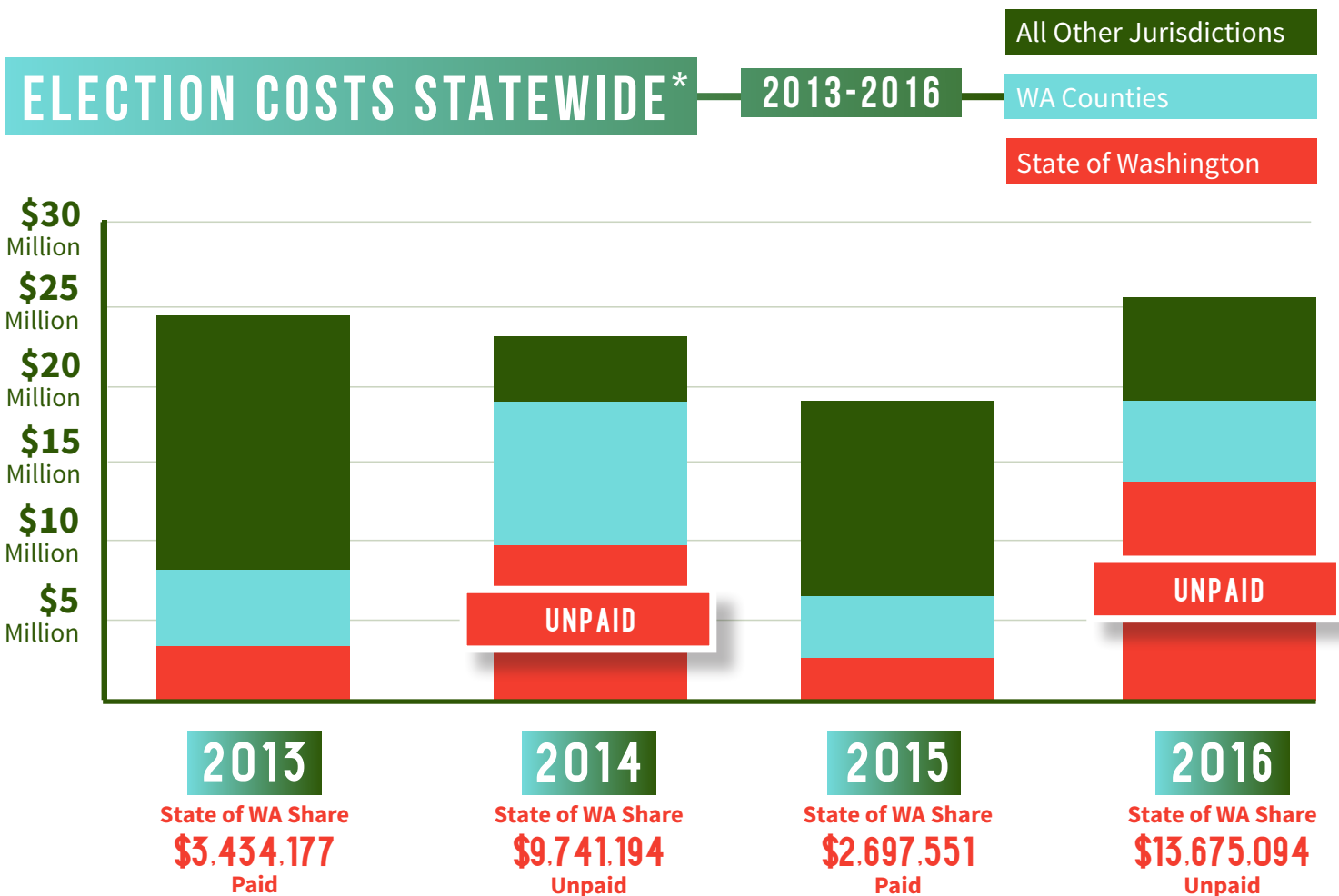
# 2019 SESSION LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## FAIR SHARE ELECTION FUNDING

### AN ACT RELATING TO STATE REIMBURSEMENT OF ELECTION COSTS.

This proposal asks the State to pay a proportionate share of elections and recounts, just as local jurisdictions and districts do. Currently, the State only pays its share of costs in odd years. This bill would extend the requirement for state payment of election costs to odd *and* even years.

Counties bill direct and indirect election costs to jurisdictions using the BARS Manual and accounting guidelines from the State Auditor's Office. The State is the only jurisdiction that doesn't pay its proportionate share in even years. When the State doesn't pay, state costs are absorbed by each county.



\*Wahkiakum County only provided General Election data.

# VEHICLE LICENSING FILING FEE

## AN ACT RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND APPROPRIATIONS.

This proposal adds \$1.50 to the filing fee. Vehicle licensing transactions have become increasingly complex. Service costs are more expensive than ever. Counties haven't received a filing fee increase since January 1997.

Adding \$1.50 to each transaction **will save the State of Washington more than \$600,000 in general fund** expenditure. The Department of Licensing currently reimburses 11 counties that can't generate enough revenue to cover the cost of licensing services. This proposal will not only modestly increase funding to counties but redistributes a portion of the fee to create equity among counties.

# VOTER REGISTRATION

## AN ACT RELATING TO WHEN VOTER REGISTRATIONS ARE RECEIVED BY AN ELECTION OFFICIAL.

This proposal harmonizes Automatic Voter Registration and Same Day Registration bills, passed during the 2018 Session.

### Registration Deadlines

- Received date, rather than postmark.
- Received by close of business; online or electronic by midnight on day of deadline.
- Applications from agencies must be received by Election Officials by the required deadline.

### Election Officials

- Clarifies registration must be received by an Election Official.
- Defines Election Official as County Auditor staff and Secretary of State staff.

### Online and Mail Registrations

- Distinguishes between in-person and non-in-person methods.
- Confirms that online and mail registrations must be received 8-days prior to an election.
- Clarifies that changes from agencies must be received by an Election Official 8-days prior to an election, not transmitted or received on subsequent days.
- Confirms that Automatic Voter Registration must be received by the deadline.



# OTHER POLICY POSITIONS



## Pre-Paid Postage

Auditors support a statewide mandate for pre-paid postage on ballot return envelopes. We strongly oppose local option, which creates inequities across counties. Rather than pay for this postage cost, we ask the legislature to adopt the Fair Share Election Funding bill, in which the State only pays for its portion of the postage. **Every jurisdiction should pay its proportionate share of postage.**

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## Ranked Choice Voting and Other Alternative Voting Methods

Auditors can support new balloting methods when properly resourced with state funding, when adequate, affordable, certified technology is available, and when there is sufficient time to plan implementation. Adequate time and money for voter education is also critically important.

Auditors strongly prefer uniform, statewide election law. Local options need to recognize County Auditors as the responsible election administrators.



## Election Audits

RCW 29A.60.170 (3) mandates “A random check of the ballot counting equipment . . .” prior to Certification. Washington’s election results are highly accurate and there is no indication that tabulation equipment is not reliable. Mandatory and requested recounts regularly prove this point. Our efforts are better directed toward reducing public skepticism pertaining to the privacy, accuracy, and singularity of voter registration.

If the legislature believes it’s important to pass an audit bill, Auditors recommend bolstering the existing audit requirement with a deeper or more specific sample size. NOTE: Additional pre-certification audits will slow ballot processing.



## Ballot Drop Boxes

Auditors support the use of Ballot Drop Boxes, which continue to play an important role even with pre-paid postage. Boxes allow last-minute voters to confidently cast a ballot on election day without the risk of being received too late to count. However, the prescriptive siting mandated by SSB 5472 has created box placements that are not beneficial to voters. Census-designated places are the most problematic. Auditors ask for siting requirements to be waived, while maintaining a threshold of 30,000 registered voters per box.



## Primary Election

Auditors support pushing the August Primary Election to a spring date. In conjunction with an earlier Primary Election, Auditors recommend elimination of the April Special Election.



## Presidential Preference Primary

Auditors enthusiastically endorse Secretary Wyman’s proposal to move the date of the Presidential Preference Primary, coordinate with other west-coast states, and allow unaffiliated voters to participate in the election.



# ABOUT WSACA

WSACA is the Washington State Association of County Auditors, an affiliate of the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO). WSACA's 39-county membership represents recognized experts and trusted professionals in the areas of elections, licensing, recording and finance. County Auditors (including the elected and appointed counterparts of King County) meet throughout the year to discuss issues of public policy and to exchange best practices.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### **Auditors "Hill Day" Part 1**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2019**

Recording, Licensing, Elections

WSACA on Capitol Campus

### **Auditors "Hill Day" Part 2**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2019**

Recording, Licensing, Elections

WSACA on Capitol Campus

### **Washington State Election Conference**

**June 10 - 13, 2019**

Renton, Washington

### **Western States Election Conference**

**July 7 -9, 2019**

Stevenson, Washington



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