

CHAPTER 55.

[H. B. 324.]

ELECTIONS—TIME OF HOLDING.

AN ACT relating to elections; and amending section 1, chapter 101, Laws of 1951 and RCW 29.13.020, and section 3, chapter 257, Laws of 1951 and RCW 29.13.030, and section 4, chapter 101, Laws of 1951 and section 4, chapter 257, Laws of 1951 and RCW 29.13.040, and section 1, chapter 108, Laws of 1941 and sections 2 and 28, chapter 184, Laws of 1915 and section 1, chapter 182, Laws of 1929 and RCW 35.24.020 and 35.24.050, and section 1, chapter 183, Laws of 1943 and RCW 35.27.090, and section 1, chapter 25, Laws of 1943 and section 5, chapter 116, Laws of 1911 and RCW 35.17.020 and 35.17.400, and section 10, chapter 266, Laws of 1947 and RCW 28.58.080, and section 1, chapter 110, Laws of 1953 and RCW 56.12.020.

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

Amendment.

SECTION 1. Section 1, chapter 101, Laws of 1951 and RCW 29.13.020 are each amended to read as follows:

Class AA or class A counties; city, town and district election dates.

All city, town, school district, park district, river improvement district, commercial waterway district, water district, fire district, hospital district, ferry district, sewer district and all other municipal and district elections, except as hereinafter provided, whether general or special, and whether for the election of municipal or district officers or for the submission to the voters of any city, town or district of any question for their adoption and approval, or rejection, shall be held in class AA or class A counties on the second Tuesday in March in the even numbered years: *Provided*, That should the provisions of holding city elections on even numbered years be in conflict with any provision in any charter of a city, said charter provision, as to the year of the election, shall not be affected except in the instance of a first class city which has adopted a commission form of government and whose charter provides that regular city elections shall be held on a biennial basis on the odd numbered years.

Conflicting charter provisions.

This section shall not apply to (1) elections for the recall of city, town, or district officers, (2) elections in irrigation districts, port districts, and public utility districts, all of which elections shall be held at the times prescribed in the laws specifically applicable thereto.

Exceptions.

The county auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections, upon request in the form of a resolution of the governing body of a city, town or district, presented to him at least forty-five days prior to the proposed election date, may, if he deems an emergency to exist, call a special election at any time in such city, town, or district and for the purpose of such special election he may combine, unite or divide precincts. Such special election shall be noticed and conducted in the manner provided by law.

Special elections.

SEC. 2. Section 3, chapter 257, Laws of 1951 and RCW 29.13.030 are each amended to read as follows:

Amendment.

All city and town general elections, other than in class AA or class A counties, shall be held on the second Tuesday of March in the even numbered years: *Provided*, That should the provisions of holding city elections on even numbered years be in conflict with any provision in any charter of a city, said charter provision, as to the year of the election, shall not be affected.

Other than class AA and class A counties; city and town election dates.

All general school district elections, other than in class AA or class A counties, shall be held on the second Tuesday of March in the even numbered years: *Provided*, That this section shall not be construed as fixing the time for holding the elections for the recall of any city, town, or district officers or primary election or special bond election or any election held in a city of the first class for choosing qualified electors to prepare a new charter for such city by altering, changing, revising, adding to or repealing its existing charter, or any election held in any such city for ratifying such new charter. When-

School district election dates.

Exceptions.

Emergencies.

ever in the judgment of the governing board of any such city, town or school district, an emergency exists, such board may, by resolution, call a special election at any time in such municipality or district, and at any such special election said governing board may combine, unite or divide precincts for the purpose of holding such special election and every such special election so called shall be conducted and notice thereof given in the manner provided by law. This section and RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020 are referred to as the consolidated election laws.

Amendment.

SEC. 3. Section 4, chapter 257, Laws of 1951 and section 4, chapter 101, Laws of 1951 and RCW 29.13-.040 are each amended to read as follows:

Class AA and class A counties; city, town and district election officers.

All elections held under RCW 29.13.020 shall be conducted by the county auditor as ex officio county supervisor of elections and shall be canvassed by the county canvassing board. In all elections held under RCW 29.13.030, the duties enjoined upon the county auditor by RCW 29.04.020, as derived from section 1, chapter 182, Laws of 1947, shall be performed by the city, town or school district clerk. Such elections shall be canvassed by the city, town or school districts canvassing authority: *Provided*, That if the laws governing any such city, town or school district do not designate a canvassing authority, the canvass shall be made by the legislative body thereof.

Other than class AA and class A counties; city, town and school district election officers.

The county auditor in each county other than class AA or class A counties, shall have jurisdiction of and shall conduct all elections, whether special or general, for airport districts, cemetery districts, fire districts, water districts, sewer districts, public utility districts, port districts, commercial waterway districts, reclamation districts and intercounty diking and drainage districts and all city, town and district elections, special or general, that may be held on the same day as a state primary or state general election. The returns of any election, special

Jurisdiction and duties of county auditor relating to city, town and district elections.

Canvass.

or general, shall be canvassed by the county canvassing board of election returns whenever the county auditor has jurisdiction of the election.

For school district elections under RCW 29.13.030, the district officers shall determine the number of voting places and composition of the election board: *Provided*, That the officer charged with conducting city and town elections under RCW 29.13.030 shall, whenever requested by the school district officers, conduct the school district elections in conjunction with such city or town election and the results shall be canvassed by the school district officers.

School district elections.

Whenever a school district election is conducted under RCW 29.13.030, by a city or town officer, the school district officers may cooperate with the person conducting such election in uniting or dividing voting precincts to facilitate the orderly conduct of such election.

SEC. 4. Section 1, chapter 108, Laws of 1941 and sections 2 and 28, chapter 184, Laws of 1915 and section 1, chapter 182, Laws of 1929 (heretofore divided, combined, and codified as RCW 35.24.020 and 35.24.050) are amended to read as set forth in sections 5 and 6 of this act.

Amendment.

SEC. 5. (RCW 35.24.020) The government of a third class city shall be vested in a mayor, a city council of seven members, a city attorney, a clerk, a treasurer, all elective; and a chief of police, police judge, city engineer, street superintendent, health officer and such other appointive officers as may be provided for by statute or ordinance. If a free public library and reading room is established, five library trustees shall be appointed and if a public park is maintained, three park commissioners shall be appointed. The city council by ordinance shall prescribe the duties and fix the compensation of all officers: *Provided*, That the provisions of any such ordinance shall not be inconsistent with any statute.

Enacted without amendment.

The mayor shall appoint and at his pleasure may remove all appointive officers. Every appointment or removal must be in writing signed by the mayor and filed with the city clerk.

This Section amended by Sec. 3, Chap. 365, Laws of 1955.

Third class cities; election dates.

Terms of certain officers.

SEC. 6. (RCW 35.24.050) All general municipal elections in third class cities not operating under the commission form of government shall be held biennially, and, shall be held on the second Tuesday in March in the even numbered years. The term of office of the mayor, city attorney, clerk, and treasurer shall be four years and until their successors are elected and qualified: *Provided*, That the term of the treasurer shall not commence in the same biennium in which the terms of the mayor, city attorney, and clerk commence.

Election and terms of councilmen.

A councilman-at-large shall be elected biennially for a two-year term; of the other six councilmen, three shall be elected biennially as the terms of their predecessors expire for terms of four years.

Commencement of terms.

All officers elected at such election shall take office on the first Monday in June following the date of election.

Next election dates.

There shall be no primary or general elections held in the year 1957 and the officers whose terms would have expired in 1957, but for the provisions of this act, shall continue in office until their successors are elected at the general election to be held on the second Tuesday of March, 1958. There shall be no primary or general elections held in the year 1959 and the officers whose terms would have expired in 1959, but for the provisions of this act, shall continue in office until their successors are elected at the general election to be held on the second Tuesday of March, 1960.

This Section amended by Sec. 2, Chap. 365, Laws of 1955.

Amended.

SEC. 7. Section 1, chapter 183, Laws of 1943 and RCW 35.27.090 are each amended to read as follows:

Towns; election dates.

All general municipal elections in towns shall be held biennially, irrespective of the form of govern-

ment, on the second Tuesday of March in the even numbered years. The term of office of the mayor and treasurer shall be four years and until their successors are elected and qualified: *Provided*, That the term of the treasurer shall not commence in the same biennium in which the term of the mayor commences. Councilmen shall be elected for four year terms; three at one election and two at the next succeeding biennial election.

Terms of office.

There shall be no general municipal elections held in the year 1957 and the officers whose terms would have expired in 1957, but for the provisions of this act, shall continue in office until their successors are elected at the general election to be held on the second Tuesday of March, 1958. There shall be no general municipal elections held in the year 1959 and the officers whose terms would have expired in 1959, but for the provisions of this act, shall continue in office until their successors are elected at the general municipal election to be held on the second Tuesday of March, 1960.

Election dates.

SEC. 8. Section 1, chapter 25, Laws of 1943 and section 5, chapter 116, Laws of 1911 (heretofore divided, combined, and codified as RCW 35.17.020 and 35.17.400) are amended to read as set forth in sections 9 and 10 of this act.

Amendment.

SEC. 9. (RCW 35.17.020) All regular elections in cities organized under the commission form of government shall be held quadrennially and, shall be held on the second Tuesday of March in the even numbered years. The commissioners shall be nominated and elected at large. Their terms shall begin on the first Monday in June after their election, and shall continue for four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. If a vacancy occurs in the commission the remaining members shall appoint a person to fill it for the unexpired term.

Cities under commission government; elections.

Terms of office.

Vacancies.

There shall be no primary or general municipal

Election dates. election held in the year 1957 and the officers whose terms would have expired in 1957, but for the provisions of this act, shall continue in office until their successors are elected at the general municipal election to be held on the second Tuesday of March, 1958.

Cities under commission government; first election. **SEC. 10. (RCW 35.17.400)** The first election of commissioners shall be held within sixty days after the adoption of the proposition to organize under the commission form, and the commission first elected shall commence to serve as soon as they have been elected and have qualified and shall continue to serve until the first Monday in June of the even numbered year following such first election and for four years thereafter.

Terms of office.

Amendment. **SEC. 11.** Section 10, chapter 266, Laws of 1947 and RCW 28.58.080 are each amended to read as follows:

School districts; election of directors. The governing board of a school district shall be known as the board of directors of the district. Unless otherwise specifically provided, as in RCW 29.13-.060, members of a board of directors shall be elected by ballot by the qualified electors of the school district and shall hold office for a term of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. In case a member or members of a board of directors are to be elected to fill an unexpired term or terms, the ballot shall specify the term for which each such member is to be elected. The board of directors of a school district of the first class or of a school district of the second class shall consist of five members. The board of directors of a school district of the third class shall consist of three members.

Terms of office.

Ballot.

Number of directors.

Election dates. The terms of all school directors elected to office in March, 1956, shall be for four years. There shall be no general school district elections held in the year 1957 and the directors whose terms would have expired in 1957, but for the provisions of this act, shall continue in office until their successors are elected

for a four year term at the general election to be held on the second Tuesday of March, 1958. The directors whose terms expire in 1958 shall be elected for a four year term.

SEC. 12. Section 1, chapter 110, Laws of 1953 and RCW 56.12.020 are each amended to read as follows: Amendment.

At the election held to form or reorganize a district, there shall be elected three commissioners to hold office for terms of two, four, and six years respectively, and until their successors are elected and qualified. Sewer districts; election and terms of commissioners.

The term of each nominee shall be expressed on the ballot and shall be computed from the date of assuming office following the first general election for sewer districts. Thereafter, every two years there shall be elected a commissioner for a term of six years and until his successor is elected and qualified, at an election held on the second Tuesday of March in the even numbered years and conducted as provided by RCW 29.13.020, as now constituted or hereafter amended, in class AA or class A counties, and by RCW 29.13.040, as now constituted or hereafter amended, in all other counties.

All sewer district commissioners elected for a regular six year term on the second Tuesday of March, 1955, shall remain in office until their successors are elected and qualified at the general district election to be held on the second Tuesday of March, 1962. There shall be no general sewer district election held in the year 1957 and those sewer district commissioners whose terms would have expired in 1957, but for the provisions of this act, shall remain in office until their successors are elected and qualified at the general sewer district election to be held on the second Tuesday of March, 1958. There shall be no general sewer district election held in the year 1959 and those sewer district commissioners whose terms would have expired in 1959, but for the Election dates.

provisions of this act, shall remain in office until their successors are elected and qualified at the general sewer district election to be held on the second Tuesday of March, 1960.

Commence-
ment of terms
of office.

The terms of sewer district commissioners shall begin on the first Monday in June following their elections.

First class
cities under
commission
government;
election dates
and terms
of office.

SEC. 13. All regular elections in first class cities under a commission form of government whose charters provide that regular elections shall be held on odd numbered years shall be held on the second Tuesday of March in the even numbered years.

There shall be no primary or general municipal election held in the year 1957 and the commissioners whose terms would have expired in 1957, but for the provisions of this act, shall continue in office until their successors are elected at the general municipal election to be held on the second Tuesday of March, 1958. There shall be no primary or general municipal election held in the year 1959 and the commissioners whose terms would have expired in 1959, but for the provisions of this act, shall continue in office until their successors are elected at the general municipal election to be held on the second Tuesday of March, 1960.

First class
school dis-
tricts; election
dates.

SEC. 14. All first class school districts holding their regular elections under the provisions of RCW 29.13.060 in odd numbered years shall hold their regular elections in even numbered years.

There shall be no district general election held in the year 1957 and the directors whose terms would have expired in 1957, but for the provisions of this act, shall continue in office until their successors are elected at the district general election to be held on the second Tuesday of March, 1958. There shall be no district general election held in the year 1959 and the directors whose terms would have expired in 1959, but for the provisions of this act, shall continue in office until their successors are elected at the district

general election to be held on the second Tuesday of March, 1960. There shall be no district general election held in the year 1961 and the directors whose terms would have expired in 1961, but for the provisions of this act, shall continue in office until their successors are elected at the district general election to be held on the second Tuesday of March, 1962.

Passed the House February 9, 1955.

Passed the Senate February 21, 1955.

Approved by the Governor March 1, 1955.

CHAPTER 56.

[H. B. 447.]

PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICTS—INDEBTEDNESS— ELECTION.

AN ACT relating to public hospital districts; and amending section 12, chapter 264, Laws of 1945 and RCW 70.44.110.

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

SECTION 1. Section 12, chapter 264, Laws of 1945 and RCW 70.44.110 are each amended to read as follows: Amendment.

Whenever the commission deems it advisable that the district acquire or construct a public hospital, or make additions or betterments thereto, or extensions thereof, it shall provide therefor by resolution, which shall specify and adopt the plan proposed, and declare the estimated cost thereof, and specify the amount of indebtedness, the amount of interest and the time in which all bonds shall be paid, not to exceed thirty years. If the proposed general indebtedness will bring the indebtedness of the district to an amount exceeding one and one-half percent of the taxable property of the district, the proposition of incurring the indebtedness and the proposed plan shall be submitted to the electors of the district Resolution for improvements.

General indebtedness exceeding 1½ percent of taxable property; election procedure.