

2011 Legislative Package

SECRETARY OF STATE SAM REED



PRIMARY DATE/MILITARY VOTING

- House Bill 1080 would move Washington's Primary Election two weeks earlier, to early August, to ensure that Washington complies with a new federal law requiring military ballots to be mailed 45 days before Election Day. This bill also would count military and overseas ballots that are returned by fax or e-mail, as long as the signed declaration accompanies the ballot and the signature is verified.

VOTE BY MAIL

- House Bill 1079 would establish Washington as a full vote-by-mail state, meaning that Pierce County would join the rest of the state in conducting its elections by mail.

ELECTION DAY BALLOT RETURN

- A bill will be introduced that would require absentee and mail ballots to be received by each county elections office no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day, rather than just postmarked no later than Election Day.

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

- Secretary of State Sam Reed and Gov. Chris Gregoire have jointly requested the Legislature to suspend the 2012 Washington Presidential Primary, which would save the state budget \$10 million as legislators work to fix a \$4.6 billion budget deficit. Reed said the plan includes a provision that makes sure the state's Presidential Primary resumes in 2016.

MAKING IT EASIER TO NOTIFY CORPORATIONS

- House Bill 1040 would allow the Secretary of State to send registration renewal notices to domestic and foreign profit and nonprofit corporations, corporation soles, charitable organizations and commercial fundraiser by either postal mail or e-mail, as the business chooses. Under current law, the notices must be sent only by postal mail. The measure also would allow local and state agencies more options in choosing to use different types of electronic signatures.



MAKING CHANGES TO CHARITIES LAW

- A bill will be introduced in late January to improve the state's Charitable Solicitations Act, which governs how commercial fundraisers and charitable organizations register and raise funds from the public. The bill would eliminate the requirement that charities submit copies of their annual return, known as the Form 990, to the state when registering. Another key part would prohibit commercial fundraisers from collecting donations in person under certain conditions. The bill would not increase registration fees.