

INITIATIVE 975

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. 975 to the People is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

1 AN ACT Relating to compulsory voting registration of all
2 constituents of voting age; amending RCW 29A.08.340; reenacting and
3 amending RCW 29A.08.320; adding a new section to chapter 29A.08 RCW;
4 creating new sections; and providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Washington state has a long history of
7 public interest in increasing voter turnout. Today over thirty
8 countries around the world have some form of compulsory voter
9 registration implemented in their electoral system. With this measure
10 the people intend to increase voter turnout, and as a result citizens
11 of Washington state hope their interests will be better reflected
12 through the elected body.

13 The following encompasses the intent of section 2 of this act: It
14 is clear that the people want to increase voter turnout at each
15 election. One way to do that is through compulsory registration. This
16 section defines those who are not entitled to register to vote.
17 persons who are incarcerated in state or federal prison, and those in
18 the military stationed outside the United States, at the time of
19 renewal.

1 The following encompasses the intent of section 3 of this act: In
2 attaching compulsory registration to the renewal of licenses, an
3 enforcement mechanism is established. Those unwilling to register to
4 vote may not, under this law, renew their motor vehicle license. The
5 state of Washington already presents eligible voters with the option of
6 registering to vote at the department of motor vehicles, which
7 eliminates the need to establish a registration center elsewhere.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.08 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) All eligible voters, as defined by Article VI Sec. 1 of the
11 Wash. State Constitution must register to vote.

12 (2) A person who meets any of the following criteria are exempt
13 from compulsory voter registration at the time of license renewal under
14 RCW 29A.08.340:

15 a) Persons convicted of felonies. (RCW 29A.08.520)

16 (b) Persons who are incarcerated in state or federal prison; or

17 (c) Persons serving in the military who are stationed outside the
18 United States.

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.08.340 and 2003 c 111 s 225 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (1) A person ((may)) who is age eighteen or older and meets all
22 eligibility requirements must register to vote, transfer a voter
23 registration, or change his or her name for voter registration purposes
24 when he or she applies for or renews a driver's license or
25 identification card under chapter 46.20 RCW.

26 (2) To register to vote, transfer his or her voter registration, or
27 change his or her name for voter registration purposes under this
28 section, the applicant shall provide the information required by RCW
29 29A.08.210.

30 (3) The driver licensing agent shall record that the applicant has
31 requested to register to vote or transfer a voter registration.

32 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.08.320 and 2004 c 267 s 119 and 2004 c 266 s 7 are
33 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

34 (1) A person may register to vote or transfer a voter registration
35 when he or she applies for service or assistance and with each renewal,

1 recertification, or change of address at agencies designated under RCW
2 29A.08.310.

3 (2) A prospective applicant shall initially be offered a form
4 approved by the secretary of state designed to determine whether the
5 person wishes to register to vote. The form must comply with all
6 applicable state and federal statutes regarding content.

7 ~~((The form shall also contain a box that may be checked by the
8 applicant to indicate that he or she declines to register.~~

9 ~~—If the person indicates an interest in registering or has made no
10 indication as to a desire to register or not register to vote, the
11 person shall be given a mail-in voter registration application or a
12 prescribed agency application as provided by RCW 29A.08.330.)~~)

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act shall be known and cited as the
14 Compulsory Registration Act of 2008.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act takes effect December 1, 2008.

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