



Secretary of State

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PDC Information and Ballot Materials

Clearinghouse Elections Notice

Issue #13-03

May 17, 2013

During the 2013 Legislative session, RCW 29A.36.161 was amended to require that a statement regarding Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) information be printed on ballot materials. This requirement becomes effective July 28, 2013; the statement must be included in 2013 Primary ballot materials.

[SSB 5507](#) requires the following statement:

“For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov.”

The required statement must be printed at the top of each ballot, or “in a prominent position” on the ballot envelope (or sleeve) **and** in the accompanying ballot materials. This means the County Auditor must place the required statement either:

- On the ballot itself; or
- On the envelope *and* in the ballot materials.

When the statement appears on the ballot, it is not required anywhere else in the materials or envelope. Ballot format requirements are provided in the updated [OSOS Elections Ballot Format Checklist](#).

The bill authorizes the Secretary of State to modify the wording of the PDC statement as necessary for accuracy and clarity. The Office of the Secretary of State has formulated the graphic attached to this Clearinghouse, which is consistent with the new requirements. The graphic (or one containing this exact language) may be used as an alternative to the language in the law.

For example, if a County Auditor chooses to print a complete sentence, the auditor must use the language in the law, “For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov.” Or, at the discretion of the County

Auditor or local election official, the language may be substituted with the precise language in the attached graphic using a style consistent with other county materials.

The bill also requires the statement be included in all state voters' pamphlets. Although the statement is not required for local voters' pamphlets, counties independently publishing a pamphlet are encouraged to include it.

Previous law already required the state voters' pamphlet to include contact information for the PDC. The intent of the bill is to provide voters with further explanation on what information is available at the PDC. The graphic does not function to merely list the PDC's contact information.



For more information, please contact the Certification & Training Program of the Office of the Secretary of State's Elections Division.