NEW SECTION

WAC 434-261-046 Alternative identity verification. The county auditor may conduct initial identity verification by using an alternative verification method approved by the office of the secretary of state in accordance with RCW 29A.40.111.

If the voter's identity is not accepted by the alternative verification method, the county auditor must verify the signature on the ballot return envelope using the standards set forth in WAC 434-261-051 through 434-261-053.

NEW SECTION

WAC 434-261-047 Alternative identity verification application deadline. This section addresses the process for submitting an alternative identity verification proposal pursuant to RCW 29A.40.111. An alternative identity verification option may be used only for a special election held on the second Tuesday in February or the fourth Tuesday in April, as provided in RCW 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330.

(1) The deadline for a county auditor to submit an alternative identity verification proposal is no later than 104 days before the special election at which the alternative identity verification option would be used.

(2) The office of the secretary of state will provide a response to the county auditor no later than 90 days before the election at which the alternative identity verification option would be used.

(3) For a multicounty special election, the county auditor for each county involved must agree to participate. The proposal must be submitted to the office of the secretary of state by the county auditor for the county with the largest number of voters eligible to participate in the election.

NEW SECTION

WAC 434-261-048 Alternative identity verification application contents. In addition to the application requirements in RCW 29A.40.111, the county auditor must include how information about the alternative identity verification method will be targeted to groups with higher rates of ballot rejection and any other groups included in the county's community outreach plan established in accordance with RCW 29A.60.168.

NEW SECTION

WAC 434-261-049 Alternative identity verification method approval guidelines. Following the approval of an alternative identity verification method, the office of the secretary of state must issue

written guidance that specifies the approved use of the method and conditions of its use. Alternative identity verification methods are only approved for use in the election specified in the proposal.