

Board Policies

Section: 1000 – Board of Directors

Policy Number: 1105 – Electoral System

Effective Date: January 23, 2025

Classification: Encouraged



It is the responsibility of the board of directors to establish the electoral system used for electing board members.

Authority under RCW 28A.343.040

The board of directors, with the assistance of the administration, the educational service district, the state redistricting commission, and consultants (e.g., attorneys, demographic experts, etc.) as appropriate, will prepare for the division or redivision of the district into director districts no later than eight months after any of the following:

1. Receipt of federal decennial census data from the redistricting commission;
2. Consolidation of the district with one or more other districts into one district;
3. Transfer of territory to or from the district or dissolution and annexation of the district; or
4. Approval by a majority of the district's registered voters of a proposition to divide the district into director districts pursuant to RCW 28A.343.030.

The districting or redistricting plan shall be adopted according to the procedure established under RCW 29A.76.010.

Authority under Washington Voting Rights Act

The district will ensure that its voting system does not impair the ability of a protected class or classes, as defined by the Washington Voting Rights Act, to have an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice as a result of the dilution or abridgment of the rights of voters who are members of a protected class or classes.

To remedy a potential violation of the Washington Voting Rights Act, the district may change its electoral system, which may include, but is not limited to, implementing director districts.

Legal References

Chapter 29A.92 RCW Voting Rights Act

RCW 28A.343.670 - First-class districts having city with population of 400,000 people or more—Initial director district boundaries—Appointments to fill vacancies for new director districts—Director district numbers

RCW 28A.343.030 Certain school districts — Election to authorize division in school districts not already divided into directors' districts

RCW 28A.343.040 Division or redivision of district into director districts

RCW 28A.343.050 Dissolution of directors' districts

RCW 28A.315.195 Transfer of territory by petition — Requirements — Rules

RCW 28A.315.199 Transfer of territory or dissolution of financially insolvent school district by petition - Notification to affected districts - Mediation - Request for hearing - Notification to regional committee - Costs

RCW 28A.315.205 Transfer of territory or dissolution by petition - Regional committee responsibilities - Rules - Appeals

RCW 28A.315.215 Transfer of territory or annexation of financially insolvent district by agreement or order - Approval Order - Previously approved and imposed excess tax levies

RCW 29A.76.010 Counties, municipal corporations, and special purpose districts

Chapter 44.05 RCW Washington State Redistricting Act

Management Resources

2019 - July Policy Issue

2018 - May Policy Issue

2015 - December Issue

2011 - June Issue

Policy News, August 2008 Restructuring First Class Director Districts

Washington State Redistricting Commission – <http://www.redistricting.wa.gov/>