

**RCW 29A.40.050 Special ballots.** (1) County auditors shall provide special absentee ballots to be used for state primary or state general elections. An auditor shall provide a special absentee ballot only to a registered voter who completes an application stating that she or he will be unable to vote and return a regular ballot by normal mail delivery within the period provided for regular ballots.

A special absentee ballot may not be requested more than ninety days before the applicable state primary or general election. The special absentee ballot will list the offices and measures, if known, scheduled to appear on the state primary or general election ballot. The voter may use the special absentee ballot to write in the name of any eligible candidate for each office and vote on any measure.

(2) The county auditor shall include a listing of any candidates who have filed before the time of the application for offices that will appear on the ballot at that primary or election and a list of any issues that have been referred to the ballot before the time of the application.

(3) Write-in votes on special absentee ballots must be counted in the same manner provided by law for the counting of other write-in votes. The county auditor shall process and canvass the special absentee ballots provided under this section in the same manner as other ballots under this chapter and chapter 29A.60 RCW.

(4) A voter who requests a special absentee ballot under this section may also request a regular ballot. If the regular absentee ballot is properly voted and returned, the special absentee ballot is void, and the county auditor shall reject it in whole when special absentee ballots are canvassed. [2011 c 10 s 37; 2003 c 111 s 1005; 2001 c 241 s 5; 1991 c 81 s 35; 1987 c 346 s 21. Formerly RCW 29.36.250, 29.36.170.]

**Notice to registered poll voters—Elections by mail—2011 c 10:**  
See note following RCW 29A.04.008.

**Effective date—1991 c 81:** See note following RCW 29A.84.540.

**Legislative intent—Effective date—1987 c 346:** See notes following RCW 29A.40.010.