

DEMOCRACY IS FOR PEOPLE



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Washington

Petitioning is explicitly prohibited within voting centers. Petitioning is explicitly prohibited within 25 feet of a ballot drop off site.

The law reads:

"29A.84.510: (1) During the voting period that begins eighteen days before and ends the day of a special election, general election, or primary, no person may, within a voting center:

- (a) Suggest or persuade or attempt to suggest or persuade any voter to vote for or against any candidate or ballot measure;
- (b) Circulate cards or handbills of any kind;
- (c) Solicit signatures to any kind of petition; or
- (d) Engage in any practice which interferes with the freedom of voters to exercise their franchise or disrupts the administration of the voting center."

"29A.84.630: Any person who in any way, directly or indirectly, by menace or unlawful means, attempts to influence any person in refusing to give his or her vote in any primary or special or general election is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable to the same extent as a gross misdemeanor that is punishable under RCW 9A.20.021."

"WAC 434-250-100: Ballot deposit sites.

(1) If a location only receives ballots and does not issue any ballots, it is considered a ballot deposit site. Ballot deposit sites may be staffed or unstaffed.

(a) If a ballot deposit site is staffed, it must be staffed by at least two people. Deposit site staff may be employees of the county auditor's office or persons appointed by the auditor. If a deposit site is staffed by two or more persons appointed by the county auditor, the appointees shall be representatives of different major political parties whenever possible. Deposit site staff shall subscribe to an oath regarding the discharge of their duties. Staffed deposit sites open on election day must be open until 8:00 p.m. Staffed deposit sites may be open according to dates and times established by the county auditor. Staffed deposit sites must have a secure ballot box that is constructed in a manner to allow return envelopes, once deposited, to only be removed by the county auditor or by the deposit site staff. If a ballot envelope is returned after 8:00 p.m. on election day, deposit site staff must note the time and place and refer the ballot to the canvassing board.

(b) Unstaffed ballot deposit sites consist of secured ballot boxes that allow return envelopes, once deposited, to only be removed by authorized staff. Ballot boxes located outdoors must be constructed of durable material able to withstand inclement weather, and be sufficiently secured to the ground or another structure to prevent their removal. From eighteen days prior to election day until 8:00 p.m. on election day, two people who are either employees of or appointed by the county auditor must empty each ballot box with sufficient frequency to prevent damage and unauthorized access to the ballots.

(2) Ballot boxes must be secured at all times, with seal logs that document each time the box is opened and by whom. Ballots must be placed into secured transport carriers and returned to the county auditor's office or another designated location. At exactly 8:00 p.m.



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on election day, all ballot boxes must be emptied or secured to prevent the deposit of additional ballots.

(3) Within twenty-five feet of a ballot deposit site that is not located within a voting center, no person may electioneer, circulate campaign material, solicit petition signatures, or interfere with or impede the voting process. Whenever it is necessary to maintain order around a ballot deposit site, the county auditor may contact a law enforcement agency for assistance.”

The Washington Secretary of State’s [website](http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditorsCTP/clearinghouse/2012/1203.pdf) (<http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/auditorsCTP/clearinghouse/2012/1203.pdf>) has provided an overview of laws around voting centers and ballot deposit sites.



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