

Subject Voter Guides
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Overview

This bill requires that an official voter guide be published and distributed prior to each statewide general election. The guide would include information on voter registration, and detailed information on candidates and any proposed state constitutional amendments that will appear on the ballot at the election. Primary responsibility for printing and distributing the guide is with the secretary of state. A number of requirements related to the formatting, content, and accessibility of the guide are included.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Definitions. Establishes definitions for the terms “candidate,” “guide,” and “measure” for purposes of this bill.
2	Distribution and posting of voter information guide. Requires the secretary of state to print and distribute a voter information guide for every statewide general election. The guide must be mailed not less than 53 days before the election, to each household where at least one registered voter resides, to public libraries, to public colleges and universities, and to other locations the secretary deems appropriate. No less than 53 days prior to the election, the guide must also be posted on the secretary’s website.
3	Accessibility. Establishes accessibility requirements related to the voter guide, including that the guide be printed in English and available in the three most commonly spoken non-English languages. A recorded copy of the guide must also be made available to any voter upon request, without cost.

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4	<p>Format; contents.</p> <p>Requires the secretary of state to determine the format and layout of the voter information guide, with certain minimum standards. This section also specifies required content related to voter eligibility and the process of registering to vote, and permits the inclusion of other information including district boundaries, a voter registration form, an absentee ballot request form, and a copy of the voter's bill of rights. Requirements related to identifying candidates along with their contact information and party affiliation, and information on proposed state constitutional amendments are also established.</p>
5	<p>Constitutional amendment provisions.</p> <p>Provides formatting and content requirements for the voter guide, related to proposed state constitutional amendments. The full text of the proposed amendment must be included along with its official title, as well as information on the process that led to the proposal being approved by the legislature.</p>
6	<p>Electronic filing system.</p> <p>Requires the secretary of state to adopt, by rule, an electronic filing system to permit voter guide photographs and statements to be filed electronically.</p>
7	<p>Photographs; requirements.</p> <p>Establishes minimum requirements for candidate photographs, including features of a photograph that would prohibit it from being included in the voter guide.</p>
8	<p>Candidate statements.</p> <p>Establishes the maximum number of words for each candidate statement, which is determined based on the office the candidate seeks.</p>
9	<p>Deadline for submission of candidate statements and photographs.</p> <p>Permits the secretary of state to adopt a rule establishing a deadline for candidates to submit a candidate statement and photograph, provided that the deadline may not be earlier than 10 days immediately following the deadline for filing an affidavit of candidacy.</p>
10	<p>Rejection or dispute of candidate statements.</p> <p>Provides certain limitations on the content of a candidate statement, including that it may not identify or reference another candidate running for office at the same election. Obscene or other material that may be prohibited by law from distribution through the mail may be forwarded to the Court of Administrative Hearings for further determination regarding whether it may be published. Procedural requirements related to this review are provided.</p>

Section	Description
	A potential resolution to a dispute over a candidate statement is that the statement be rephrased. The secretary of state must promptly provide a rephrased statement to all parties to the dispute.
11	Rulemaking. Permits the secretary of state to adopt rules necessary to facilitate the administration of this chapter.
12	Effective date. Provides that the act is effective January 1, 2027.



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