

JAN 22 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO VOTER INFORMATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it is beneficial for  
2 voters in the State to have as much information as possible  
3 about a candidate running for office, including a candidate's  
4 position on pertinent issues.

5       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the  
6 office of elections to:

7       (1) Prepare a questionnaire of certain issues to which a  
8 candidate may respond; and

9       (2) Publish a candidate's responses to the questionnaire

10       (A) On the office's website; and

11       (B) In the digital voter information guide.

12       SECTION 2. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
13 by adding a new section to part VIII to be appropriately  
14 designated and to read as follows:

15       "§11-       Candidate questionnaire; requirements;  
16 publication of candidate responses.   (a) Beginning with the



1 2028 primary election, before each election cycle, the office of  
2 elections shall:

3 (1) Prepare a candidate questionnaire comprising not more  
4 than ten questions; and

5 (2) Issue the candidate questionnaire to each candidate  
6 running for a public office within            days from the  
7 date that a candidate files their nomination papers.

8 (b) The questions shall be based on:

9 (1) Major recurring budget items funded by the State  
10 within the past ten years;

11 (2) Significant bills introduced in the two most recent  
12 regular legislative sessions;

13 (3) Tax policy, including a comparison of the State's  
14 overall tax burden, income tax rates, general excise  
15 tax, corporate taxes, and taxes on essentials in  
16 comparison to other states; and

17 (4) A comparison of the State's infrastructure and public  
18 schools rank to those of other states with respect to  
19 the amount that the State taxes individuals per  
20 capita.



(c) A candidate who chooses to respond to any question on the candidate questionnaire shall provide a written response to the office of elections; provided that a written response to a question based on subparagraphs b(3) or (4) shall describe the candidate's position on the reform or maintenance of:

(1) The State's tax code; and

(2) The areas described in paragraph b(4).

(d) The office of elections shall publish a candidate's written responses, if any:

(1) On its website; and

(2) In the digital voter information guide, no later than eighteen days before the day of the primary election."

SECTION 3. Section 11-122, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) The digital voter information guide shall include:

(1) A photograph and short statement of less than one hundred fifty words for each candidate running for public office, to be prepared by the candidate; provided that the office of elections may uniformly



limit the number of words for the candidate statement  
by applicable public office;

(2) The written responses to the candidate questionnaire  
of each candidate, if any, pursuant to section 11- ;

~~[(+2)]~~ (3) The explanation drafted by the department of the  
attorney general of each state constitutional  
amendment that will be proposed to voters in the next  
general election pursuant to section 11-118.5(b);  
provided that the department of the attorney general  
shall transmit the materials required by this  
paragraph to the office of elections no later than  
seventy-five days before the general election;

~~[(+3)]~~ (4) A clear and concise explanation, drafted by the  
appropriate county corporation counsel, for each  
proposed county charter amendment, proposed  
initiative, and proposed referendum issue; provided  
that the respective corporation counsel shall:

(A) Translate the explanation into Olelo Hawaii and  
any other languages required under the federal  
Voting Rights Act, as specified by the office of  
elections; and



# S.B. NO. 2461

1 (B) Transmit the materials required by this paragraph  
2 to the office of elections no later than  
3 seventy-five days before the general election; and  
4 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) Information regarding mailing deadlines, places  
5 of deposit locations, same day voter registration,  
6 accessible voting locations, and opening hours of  
7 voter service centers."

8 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

11 INTRODUCED BY: Karl Rhoads



# S.B. NO. 2461

**Report Title:**

Office of Elections; Digital Voter Information Guide;  
Candidates; Questionnaire

**Description:**

Requires the Office of Elections to prepare a questionnaire on certain issues to which candidates may respond. Requires the Office of Elections to publish any responses provided by a candidate on its website and in the digital voter information guide no later than eighteen days before a primary election. Effective 1/1/2027.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

