

JAN 22 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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.



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

6 (1) The State's tax code; and

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

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

10 (1) On its website; and

11 (2) In the digital voter information guide,

12 no later than eighteen days before the day of the primary
13 election."

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

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

17 (1) A photograph and short statement of less than one
18 hundred fifty words for each candidate running for
19 public office, to be prepared by the candidate;
20 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);

9 provided that the department of the attorney general
10 shall transmit the materials required by this
11 paragraph to the office of elections no later than
12 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:

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



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 Rhodes



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.

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