
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 to which a candidate may
8 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; publication
16 of candidate responses. (a) Beginning with the 2028 primary
17 election, before each election cycle, the office of elections



1 shall prepare a candidate questionnaire with the following
2 questions:

3 (1) "What are your three legislative priorities?";

4 (2) "What committees would you like to be a member of if
5 elected?"; and

6 (3) "What is your vision for the State ten years from
7 now?".

8 (b) The office of elections shall issue the candidate
9 questionnaire to each candidate running for a public office
10 within _____ days from the date that a candidate files their
11 nomination papers.

12 (c) It shall be optional for a candidate to respond to any
13 question on the questionnaire described in subsection (a).

14 Should a candidate choose to respond to a question, the
15 candidate shall provide a written response of not more than one
16 hundred words to the office of elections.

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

19 (1) On its website; and

20 (2) In the digital voter information guide,



1 no later than eighteen days before the day of the primary
2 election."

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

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

6 (1) A photograph and short statement of less than one
7 hundred fifty words for each candidate running for
8 public office, to be prepared by the candidate;
9 provided that the office of elections may uniformly
10 limit the number of words for the candidate statement
11 by applicable public office;

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

14 [~~+2~~] (3) The explanation drafted by the department of the
15 attorney general of each state constitutional
16 amendment that will be proposed to voters in the next
17 general election pursuant to section 11-118.5(b);
18 provided that the department of the attorney general
19 shall transmit the materials required by this
20 paragraph to the office of elections no later than
21 seventy-five days before the general election;



1 [~~3~~] (4) A clear and concise explanation, drafted by the
 2 appropriate county corporation counsel, for each
 3 proposed county charter amendment, proposed
 4 initiative, and proposed referendum issue; provided
 5 that the respective corporation counsel shall:

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

10 (B) Transmit the materials required by this paragraph
 11 to the office of elections no later than
 12 seventy-five days before the general election; and

13 [~~4~~] (5) Information regarding mailing deadlines, places
 14 of deposit locations, same day voter registration,
 15 accessible voting locations, and opening hours of
 16 voter service centers."

17 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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



S.B. NO. 2461
S.D. 1

Report Title:

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

Description:

Requires the Office of Elections to prepare a questionnaire 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.
(SD1)

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