

# HB 1916

## PROTECTING REGISTERED VOTERS

Washington state has proudly protected our voters from most anti-voter tactics that plague people across the nation. We can continue that legacy by protecting our voters from mass voter challenges.

### PROBLEM:

Mass voter challenges, attempts to question the legitimacy of large numbers of voter registrations, threaten people's voter status and overwhelm election officials.

Since the 2020 election, we have seen a [rise](#) in election conspiracy groups and other bad actors attempting these mass voter registration challenges. These tactics have unnecessarily removed many citizens from the voter rolls and overwhelmed election officials.

The vast majority of mass challenges are deemed invalid. Mass challengers often use inaccurate AI tools and data sources that lead to [false conclusions](#).

Voter challenge laws have long been used in this country to [target](#) recently naturalized citizens, voters of color, student voters, and voters with disabilities. Even though most challenges fail, notifications of a registration challenge can deter these eligible voters from voting.

### BILL SUMMARY:

HB 1916 would protect voters by requiring that:

- Challenges may only be brought by a voter or official from the same municipality/county.
- Challenges must be made by filing an individual affidavit for each challenged voter.
- Challenger must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the challenged voter is not qualified to vote.
- Individuals who make false statements challenging a voter, either before or during the election, may also be subject to criminal penalties.
- A voter or poll watcher who files a frivolous challenge against another voter is guilty of a separate offense for each frivolous challenge they file.

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