

# State presidential primary approval is voted by house

By Adele Ferguson  
The Sun (Bremerton, Wash.)  
February 14, 1989

OLYMPIA — The House stole a march on the Senate yesterday by whipping through the presidential preference primary initiative 89-6. The Senate is expected to follow eventually. "I don't think there are more than a handful of senators against it," said majority caucus chairman George Sellar of Wenatchee. "I plan to vote for it myself though I'm a little bit reluctant."

What's going to upset voters accustomed to Washington's blanket primary, he said, "is when they have to declare a party affiliation to vote on their presidential choice."

"Then they'll be getting letters from the parties addressed 'Dear Republican' or 'Dear Democrat.'"

The preferential primary doesn't replace the precinct caucus system, but it shifts selection of convention delegates from there to the ballot.

That virtually wipes out the ability of a few people willing to attend a March night meeting to influence the selection of a nominee by controlling the convention delegations.

Pat Robertson forces did that in Washington state last year and that is why regular Republicans worked to pass the primary initiative.

A jubilant Rep. Fred May, R-Mercer Island, said it was worth being thrown out of the Mercer Island Safeway store for gathering signatures for Initiative 99 without pre-approval from the management.

"I gathered hundreds of signatures," said May, "and nobody refused to sign. Everybody said, 'You bet!'"  
"We don't want the parties and the media choosing the next president," said Rep. Shirley Hankings, R-Richland. "Let the people do it."

"I've been a delegate to three national conventions," said Rep. Max Vekich, D-Cosmopolis. "There's no better way to get more people involved than to have an election where they can vote."

Let the people vote on the initiative, pleaded Rep. Steven Fuhrman, R-Kettle Falls. "They brought it to us."  
"We are a decade away from the 21st century," said majority caucus chairman Lorraine Hine of Des Moines. "This is indeed a country and a state where the people select their nominees. Besides, I can't handle the fractions necessary to handle the choices when we do it in the precinct caucuses."

The six no votes were all Republicans. All West Puget Sound legislators voted yes.  
The initiative has gone to Secretary of State Ralph Munro's desk to await from the Senate the twin necessary to enact bill into law.

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### Khomeini orders death for author

From the news service  
TEHRAN — Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Khomeini has ordered the execution of the author of a book that he said "insulted the Islamic revolution." The author, a British citizen, was arrested in London and is being held in a prison in Tehran.

### Reagan made Contra deals, North charges

N.Y. Times News Service  
WASHINGTON — Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and other senior U.S. officials are accused of making deals with the Contra rebels in Nicaragua to secure the release of American prisoners held by the rebels.

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### Appeals court orders wheelchair lifts on new public transit buses

The Appeals Court  
A U.S. appeals court has ordered wheelchair lifts on new public transit buses. The court's decision is a landmark ruling for disabled passengers.



Wheelchair worker Devin Hogue helps disabled passenger Gloria Crawford off a bus.

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### Lovers getting the message: It's the fax of life

When the beep, beep of a machine is a St. Valentine's mating call  
A new St. Valentine's Day tradition has been born. It's the fax machine. People are using fax machines to send love letters and Valentine's cards.

### Third of state's students 'at risk'

At least one-third of the students in Washington state are considered "at risk" of dropping out of school. This is a significant concern for educators and parents.