

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 1643H.01I
Bill No.: HB 680
Subject: Elections
Type: Original
Date: April 1, 2021

Bill Summary: This proposal removes the requirement to hold a Presidential Primary.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
General Revenue	\$0	\$0	More than \$7,000,000
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0	More than \$7,000,000

*Savings of approximately \$7 million in March 2024 (FY 2024) for not holding a Presidential Preference Primary Election (§115.123.2 & §115.755)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

- ☐ Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- ☒ Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** assume this bill removes the requirement to hold a Presidential Preference Primary Election (PPP) every four years. As a result, the State of Missouri would no longer be obligated to pay the costs of such an election.

The payment of election costs is subject to appropriation by the General Assembly. However, if we assume that the presidential preference primary were to be fully appropriated as it has been in years past, we anticipate a cost savings to the state of approximately \$7 million, based on actual expenditures from the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary. Such savings would next occur in FY 2024 as a result of not holding the presidential preference primary in March 2024.

Oversight has reflected, in this fiscal note, the state saving due to removing the requirement to hold a PPP. The next scheduled Presidential Preference Primary election is March 2024 (FY24). Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential election cost savings for reimbursement to local political subdivisions in FY 2024.

Officials from the **Kansas City Election Board** anticipate a cost savings of roughly \$625,000 every four years, if this legislation is passed.

Officials from the **Platte County Board of Elections** assume the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) cost about \$85,000. That would be the savings for each PPP not held.

Officials from the **Johnson County Clerk's Office** assume the removal of the Presidential Preference Primary would create a savings of \$43,200 for Johnson County alone. This cost will increase in 2024 due to increased costs for polling place rent, election judge pay and increased costs for ballot printing and programming. Since reinstating the PPP in 2000, the voter turnout in Johnson County has fluctuated from a low turnout of 6% in 2012 to our highest turnout of 43% in 2016. The cost to taxpayers far outweighs the justification for holding the presidential preference primary, due to a lack of participation by voters and an overall feeling that it is an unnecessary endeavor.

Officials from the **St. Louis County Board of Elections** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other local election authorities were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A general listing of political subdivisions included in our database is available upon request.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2022 (10 Mo.)	FY 2023	FY 2024
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Savings</u> - SOS - reimbursement of local election authority election costs for PPP	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	More than <u>\$7,000,000</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	More than <u>\$7,000,000</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2022 (10 Mo.)	FY 2023	FY 2024
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Savings</u> - Local Election Authorities - cost of a PPP election	\$0	\$0	\$0 or More than \$7,000,000
<u>Loss of Revenue</u> - Local Election Authorities - reimbursement of election costs for PPP	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	\$0 or (More than \$7,000,000)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

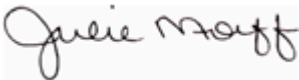
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill repeals the requirement that the state hold a presidential primary election.

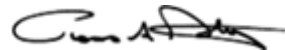
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Secretary of State
Kansas City Election Board
Platte County Board of Elections
St. Louis County Board of Elections
Johnson County Clerk's Office



Julie Morff
Director
April 1, 2021



Ross Strobe
Assistant Director
April 1, 2021