

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 1465H.011  
 Bill No.: HJR 23  
 Subject: Counties; Public Officers; Kansas City; Jackson County; Elections; Political Subdivisions; Constitutional Amendments; Saint Louis City  
 Type: Original  
 Date: January 27, 2025

Bill Summary: This proposal proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Missouri to require Jackson County and St. Louis City to have an elected assessor.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
General Revenue*	\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

\*The potential fiscal impact of “(More than \$8,000,000)” would be realized only if a special election were called by the Governor to submit this joint resolution to voters.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

- 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.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0*</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0 or (Unknown)**</b>

\*Possible costs and state reimbursements in FY 2026 net to zero **if** the issue is put before the voters at a special election. If the

\*\* Potential unknown costs if both Jackson County and St. Louis City elect their assessors.

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### §§18(b) & 31, Article VI – Elected County Assessors for Jackson County and St. Louis City

Officials from **Office of the Secretary of State** assume, each year, a number of joint resolutions that would refer to a vote of the people a constitutional amendment and bills that would refer to a vote of the people the statutory issue in the legislation may be considered by the General Assembly.

Unless a special election is called for the purpose, Joint Resolutions proposing a constitutional amendment are submitted to a vote of the people at the next general election. Article XII section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution authorizes the governor to order a special election for constitutional amendments referred to the people. If a special election is called to submit a Joint Resolution to a vote of the people, section 115.063.2 RSMo requires the state to pay the costs. The cost of the special election has been estimated to be \$8 million based on the cost of the 2022 primary and general election reimbursements.

The Secretary of State's office is required to pay for publishing in local newspapers the full text of each statewide ballot measure as directed by Article XII, Section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution and Section 116.230-116.290, RSMo. Funding for this item is adjusted each year depending upon the election cycle. A new decision item is requested in odd numbered fiscal years and the amount requested is dependent upon the estimated number of ballot measures that will be approved by the General Assembly and the initiative petitions certified for the ballot. In FY 2014, the General Assembly changed the appropriation so that it was no longer an estimated appropriation.

For the FY26 petitions cycle, the SOS estimates publication costs at \$60,000 per page. This amount is subject to change based on number of petitions received, length of those petitions and rates charged by newspaper publishers.

The Secretary of State's office will continue to assume, for the purposes of this fiscal note, that it should have the full appropriation authority it needs to meet the publishing requirements. Because these requirements are mandatory, the SOS reserves the right to request funding to meet the cost of the publishing requirements if the Governor and the General Assembly again change the amount or continue to not designate it as an estimated appropriation.

**Oversight** has reflected, in this fiscal note, the state potentially reimbursing local political subdivisions the cost of having this joint resolution voted on during a special election in fiscal year 2026. This reflects the decision made by the Joint Committee on Legislative Research that the cost of the elections should be shown in the fiscal note. The next scheduled statewide general election is in November 2026 (FY 2027). It is assumed the subject within this proposal could be on this ballot; however, it could also be on a special election called for by the Governor (a

different date). Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential election cost reimbursement to local political subdivisions in FY 2026.

In response to similar legislation from 2023, HJR 21, officials from **Jackson County** assumed this proposed legislation would incur at least \$200,000 in additional annual costs to Jackson County taxpayers. Currently, the County Assessor is an appointed position with the skills and required expertise to perform the work of the County Assessor. In the event of an election requirement, Jackson County would have to fund a deputy assessor position with the skills and knowledge to perform the mass appraisal process in the event that the elected Assessor did not have the relevant skills and experience.

Officials from St. Louis City did not respond to **Oversight's** request for fiscal impact for this proposal.

**Oversight** notes the provisions of this proposal are subject to a vote of the people. In the event the proposal does not pass, the provisions would not be implemented and the fiscal impact would be \$0. If the proposal is approved, then the provisions could result in additional costs to Jackson County and St. Louis City. Therefore, for fiscal note purposes, Oversight will range the cost for Jackson County and St. Louis City as \$0 or (Unknown). Oversight notes Jackson County stated a potential cost of \$200,000 if an assessor is elected from this proposal. Oversight will also assume St. Louis City would have similar costs and therefore the potential unknown cost could be greater than the \$250,000 threshold.

Officials from the **Attorney General's Office**, the **Office of the State Courts Administrator**, the **Department of Revenue**, the **St. Louis County Board of Elections**, the **St. Louis City Board of Elections**, the **St. Charles County Election Authority** and the **Jackson County Board of Elections** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

**Oversight** only reflects the responses received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other counties, county assessors and county circuit clerks were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A listing of political subdivisions included in the Missouri Legislative Information System (MOLIS) database is available upon request.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>			
<u>Transfer Out - SOS - reimbursement of local election authority election costs if a special election is called by the Governor</u>	\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)	\$0	\$0
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>			
<u>Costs – Jackson County &amp; St. Louis City – potential additional costs for an elected assessor</u>	\$0	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown)
<u>Transfer In - Local Election Authorities - reimbursement of election costs by the State for a special election</u>	\$0 or More than \$8,000,000	\$0	\$0
<u>Costs - Local Election Authorities - cost of a special election if called for by the Governor</u>	\$0 or (More than \$8,000,000)	\$0	\$0
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0 or (Unknown)</b>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

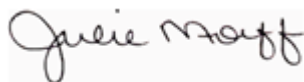
Currently, all charters of charter counties are required to provide for the election of a county assessor, except for the charter of Jackson County. Upon voter approval, this Constitutional

amendment requires the Jackson County assessor to be elected as well. This amendment also requires Saint Louis City to have an elected assessor.

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  
Attorney General's Office  
Office of the State Courts Administrator  
Department of Revenue  
Jackson County  
St. Louis County Board of Elections  
St. Louis City Board of Elections  
St. Charles County Election Authority  
Jackson County Board of Elections



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