

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 4243H.03I  
 Bill No.: HB 2387  
 Subject: Elections; Federal - State Relations  
 Type: Original  
 Date: February 1, 2026

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Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions for elections.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue*	\$0	\$0 or More than (\$9,000,000)	\$0
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0 or More than (\$9,000,000)</b>	<b>\$0</b>

\*Costs of approximately \$9 million in March 2028 (FY2008) for holding a Presidential Preference Primary Election.

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<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.

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<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.

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS**

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(Unknown)</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

§§115.123, 115.277, 115.351, 115.755, 115.758, 115.761, 115.765, 115.767, 115.770, 115.773, 115.776, 115.785 and 115.904 – Reinstates the Presidential Preference Primary

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** state this bill would reinstate the presidential preference primary election which was previously held in March of any presidential election year. The projected impact is estimated at up to \$9 million in FY 2028, based on the cost of past primary and general election reimbursements.

As this election is scheduled for the Tuesday following the first Monday of March, it will coincide with the municipal primary elections held by charter counties, so proportional cost sharing may reduce the state's obligations for this election.

**Oversight** notes section 115.785 states all costs of a presidential preference primary shall be paid by the state. The payment of election costs is subject to appropriation by the General Assembly. However, if they assume that the presidential preference primary were to be fully appropriated as it has been in years past, SOS anticipates a cost of \$9 million. Oversight has reflected, in this fiscal note, a \$9 million cost due to reinstating the requirement to hold a PPP. The next scheduled Presidential Preference Primary election would be in March 2028 (FY28). As this election is scheduled for the first Tuesday in March, it may coincide with the municipal primary elections held by charter counties (scheduled for the Tuesday following the first Monday of March); in this case, proportional cost sharing may reduce the state's obligations for this election. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential election cost for reimbursement to local political subdivisions in FY 2028.

In response to similar legislation, HB 1871 (2026), officials from the **SOS** noted many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what the office can sustain with its core budget. Therefore, the SOS reserves the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor.

**Oversight** assumes the SOS could absorb the costs of printing and distributing regulations related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require the printing and distribution of regulations at substantial costs, the SOS could require additional resources.

Officials from the **Platte County Board of Elections** state adding the Presidential Preference Primary would cost about \$100,000 in years when it occurs.

Officials from the **St. Louis City Board of Elections** state the cost of a city-wide elections is over \$400,000.

Officials from **the St. Louis County Board of Elections** and the **Jackson County Election Board** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

**Oversight** notes section 115.785 states all costs of a presidential preference primary shall be paid by the state, except that, pursuant to section 115.065, costs shall be shared proportionately by the state and any political subdivisions and special districts holding an election on the same day as any such primary. Therefore, the fiscal note will reflect the cost and reimbursement to local election authorities netting to zero.

In addition, Oversight assumes that local election authorities will incur election expenses that are not covered by the state. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a negative unknown impact in the fiscal note.

**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. Upon the receipt of additional responses, Oversight will review to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek the necessary approval to publish a new fiscal note. A general listing of political subdivisions included in our database is available upon request.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>			
<u>Cost – SOS (§115.785)</u>		\$0 or	
Reimbursement of local election authority costs for PPP p.3	\$0	More than (\$9,000,000)	\$0
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE</b>	\$0	\$0 or More than (\$9,000,000)	\$0

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>			
<u>Reimbursement</u> - Local Election Authorities (§115.785) Reimbursement of election costs p.4	\$0	\$0 or More than \$9,000,000	\$0
<u>Cost</u> – Local Election Authorities (§115.785) Holding PPP election p.4	\$0	\$0 or More than (\$9,000,000)	\$0
<u>Cost</u> – Local Election Authorities (§115.785) Election expenses not covered by State p.4	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>(Unknown)</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill reinstates the presidential preference primary election, to be held on the first Tuesday in March of each presidential election year.

Currently, the absentee voting period begins six weeks prior to the date of the election. Absentee voting can occur during this period either in-person, at the office of the election authority, or by mail. Absentee voting is limited to voters who believe they will be prevented from voting in-person on the day of the election because of a list of allowable reasons, except for the two weeks prior to the date of the election, during which in person absentee voters do not need to provide an excuse in order to vote absentee.

This bill modifies the absentee voting process. The in-person absentee voting period is shortened to three weeks, during which no excuse is necessary in order to vote.

A person who files to be included on the presidential primary ballot is not prohibited from filing as a party candidate for nomination to another office.

Specific deadlines for administrative actions by local election authorities and the Secretary of State that are necessary to hold the presidential preference primary are specified in the bill.

The conduct of the presidential preference primary must conform as nearly as possible to that prescribed for the primary election for State officers.

All costs of the presidential preference primary, except for proportional costs for any political subdivision or special district holding an election on the same day, will be paid by the State.

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  
Platte County Board of Elections  
St. Louis City Board of Elections  
St. Louis County Board of Elections  
Jackson County Election Board



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February 1, 2026



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