

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 5033S.06T
Bill No.: Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed SS for SCS for HCS for HB 1871
Subject: County Officials; Elections; Secretary of State
Type: Original
Date: June 18, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions relating to elections.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue*	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

*Oversight does not anticipate the cost savings to exceed \$250,000.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS

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

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
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 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Local Government	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§§9.515, 105.465, 108.240, 115.125, 115.127, 115.133, 115.233, 115.277, 115.284, 115.306, 115.427, 115.430, 115.453, 115.637, 115.646, 130.031 and 130.034 – Elections

In response to similar legislation, HB 2605, officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** stated in regard to §115.127 this bill alters the requirements for the publication of election notices. Currently each county election authority must publish notice in two newspapers of opposing political faiths if such newspapers are available. The bill would permit election authorities to satisfy the statutory requirements by publishing in only one newspaper that either publishes in the county or otherwise serves the area. Since the Secretary of State shares proportional costs of primary and general elections, including publication costs, this would result in reduced costs to the state in counties where multiple newspapers are published. Due to the volatility of advertising rates and of the newspaper industry as a whole, the potential savings to the state in odd-numbered fiscal years is unknown.

Oversight notes §115.127 states “In lieu of causing legal notice to be published twice in accordance with any of the provisions of this chapter, the election authority may cause legal notice to be mailed within six weeks prior to the election to each registered voter at the voter's voting address and published once in one or more newspapers in the county. An election authority may exclude from this mailing any voter that is designated as an inactive voter pursuant to section 115.193.” Therefore, Oversight assumes this would result in reduced costs to the states proportional share of publication costs. Therefore, Oversight will reflect an unknown savings to SOS in the fiscal note. Oversight does not expect the fiscal impact to exceed the \$250,000 threshold.

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Johnson County Clerk** assumed this proposal would have no fiscal impact on their organization.

In response to similar legislation, HCS for HB 2605 (2026), officials from the **Polk County Clerk** stated this proposal will allow local election authorities the ability to still provide notice but in a more cost savings way. In Polk County there is 1 (one) newspaper available. Surrounding newspapers are struggling with the one in the county and do not truly provide the appropriate coverage for Polk County. Having a notice printed in a newspaper outside of the county jurisdiction does not ensure proper notice has been given. It only means that more tax dollars have been spent to have a legal notice published that the voters will not see.

While newspapers have historically been the best source of public information that simply isn't the case today. There are many different types of media outlets that are utilized by the public and a single source could now be considered disenfranchising voters. The ability for a local election authority to publish a legal notice one time and within the absentee voting window

allows for earlier and better notification. Polk County would see a cost savings in legal publications of at least \$2,200 for 2027 & 2029 and \$4,300 for 2028.

Oversight notes the bill would permit election authorities to satisfy the statutory requirements by publishing in only one newspaper that either publishes in the county or otherwise serves the area. Therefore, Oversight will reflect an unknown savings to local election authorities in the fiscal note.

Officials from the **Office of Administration, Office of the State Auditor, Missouri Ethics Commission, Platte County Board of Elections, and St. Louis County Board of Elections** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

Officials from the **Department of Corrections** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. In addition, DOC stated in FY25, they averaged 53,000 offenders under supervision. Therefore, **Oversight** assumes there could be an increase in registered voters.

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Jackson County Election Board** and **Kansas City Election Board** each assumed the proposal would have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

Oversight notes that the above-mentioned agencies have stated the proposal would not have a direct fiscal impact on their organization. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact on 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.

Rule Promulgation

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** note 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.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Savings</u> – SOS (§115.127) Reduced proportional costs to LEAs for newspaper election notices p.3	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Savings</u> – Local Election Authorities (§115.127) Reduced publication costs for newspaper election notices p.4	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill designates August 12th of each year as "Election Worker Appreciation Day" in Missouri (Section 9.515, RSMo).

The bill provides that a person who registers as a lobbyist will not be prohibited from maintaining a candidate committee seeking certain local offices, provided that the lobbyist is not registered to lobby the office that the candidate committee is designated to seek (Section 105.465).

The bill provides that, in the case of a bond election, if an election contest is not filed within 30 days after the official announcement of the election result, all conditions of state election law must be deemed to have been complied with in the issuance of the bond (Section 108.240).

This bill allows a notice of election to be sent by email (Section 115.125).

Current law requires notice of election to be published twice. The first notice of election must be published within two weeks prior to the election, and the second must be published within one week prior to the election. This bill requires both notices to be published within six weeks prior to the election.

Currently, jurisdictions with populations under a certain size and in which no newspaper meeting the legal requirements is published are permitted to send legal notice to voters via mail instead of publishing the notice in a newspaper. This bill allows any election authority the option to mail legal notice rather than publishing the notice in a newspaper. The mailing must occur within six weeks prior to the election. The election authority is permitted to exclude from the mailing any voter designated as inactive.

Currently, the filing time for declarations of candidacy for offices in political subdivisions or special districts not otherwise specified in law or charter is from the 17th Tuesday prior to the election through the 14th Tuesday prior to the election. This bill moves the filing time by one week, from the 16th Tuesday prior to the election to the 13th Tuesday prior to the election. The bill also provides that, if the 13th Tuesday prior to the election is a State or Federal holiday, the closing filing date will be the next day that is not a State or Federal holiday (Section 115.127).

Currently, no person on probation or parole after conviction of a felony is entitled to vote until finally discharged from probation or parole. This bill specifies certain offenses for which this will be the case, allowing persons on probation or parole after conviction of felonies not listed in the bill to vote prior to being finally discharged from probation or parole (Section 115.133).

Currently, the election authority must have automatic tabulating equipment tested within 14 days prior to an election. This bill specifies that this test must occur no later than one week prior to an election (Section 115.233).

Currently, covered voters eligible to register to vote can vote in certain elections by submitting a Federal postcard application to apply to vote at their polling place. This bill changes this requirement from the polling place to the office of the election authority on election day.

Currently, interstate former residents and new residents can vote absentee for presidential and vice presidential electors. The bill allows them to vote for those electors at the office of the election authority on election day (Section 115.277).

This bill provides that all lists of absentee ballot applications for people with permanent disabilities will be kept confidential and must not be posted or displayed in an area open to the general public nor shown to any unauthorized person (Section 115.284).

The bill requires any person who files as a candidate for a public office that performs county functions in the City of St. Louis to provide copies of paid receipts or no-tax-due statements for local personal and real property taxes received from the Assessor to the election authority

(Section 115.306). The bill applies existing procedures for voters using provisional ballots to voters voting absentee in person at the office of the election authority or at another authorized location designated by the election authority (Section 114.427).

This bill allows a provisional ballot to be cast in any public election (Section 115.430).

The bill provides that votes for write-in candidates must be counted only for candidates who have filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, even if no candidate has filed for that office (Section 115.453).

The bill adds petitioning to the list of activities prohibited to be within a certain distance from the polling place. The bill also applies election-day electioneering rules to any building in which voting is occurring during the absentee voting period.

This bill allows an election authority to, after public notice, expand the distance from the polling location within which these activities are prohibited from 25 feet to 50 feet for most electioneering activities. However, candidates not seeking to vote can still engage in these activities within 25 feet from the polling location, and campaign signs will also be permitted within that distance (Section 115.637).

Currently, no contribution or expenditure of public funds can be made directly by any officer, employee, or agent of any political subdivision, school district, or charter school to advocate, support, or oppose the passage or defeat of any ballot measure or candidate for public office. This bill adds special districts to the list of public entities in this prohibition (Section 115.646).

This bill requires all solicitations for campaign contributions to state, in a clear and conspicuous manner, the committee that will benefit from the contribution. The solicitation must also indicate what percentage of the contribution will be received by the committee, and any other entity that will receive any part of the contribution.

The bill allows the solicitation of automatically-recurring contributions only if the contributor gives affirmative consent for the recurring contribution. The passive action of a contributor, including but not limited to failing to uncheck a prechecked box, does not constitute affirmative consent.

This bill requires committees soliciting recurring contributions to provide receipts to the contributors, the contents of which are specified in the bill, and to cancel the recurring contributions upon request prior to the next scheduled deduction date.

Any committee that solicits and receives a contribution in violation of this bill must return the contribution to the donor immediately.

The bill allows the Missouri Ethics Commission to impose a civil penalty on a committee violating the provisions of this bill of up to 100 times the amount of the contribution received in violation of these provisions.

The bill requires recurring contributions to expire automatically after the election at which the candidate or measure benefiting from the contribution appears on the ballot. Recurring contributions made to a candidate who wins a primary election can continue until the general election (Section 130.031).

This bill adds childcare expenses that result directly from campaigning for office or in connection with the duties of public office and expenses associated with personal security of the holder of elective office to the list of permissible uses of campaign funds (Section 130.034).

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
Missouri Ethics Commission
Department of Corrections
Office of Administration
Office of the State Auditor
Platte County Board of Elections
St. Louis County Board of Elections
Jackson County Board of Elections
Kansas City Board of Elections
Johnson County Clerk
Polk County Clerk



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