

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 6117H.01I
 Bill No.: HB 2480
 Subject: Elections; Federal - State Relations
 Type: Original
 Date: February 1, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal reinstates the Presidential Preference Primary.

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
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0 or More than (\$9,000,000)	\$0

*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
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	\$0	(Unknown)	\$0

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 and for any county with more than five hundred polling places, the state shall assist in assuring adequate poll workers and equipment. 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, an \$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.

Additionally, this bill would require SOS to assist in assuring adequate poll workers and equipment for counties containing more than 500 polling places. For the most recent general election held in November 2024, no county claimed to operate more than 500 polling places. However, at least two counties did claim more than 500 precincts at that election, so there may be a potential cost if these counties were forced to open additional polling places. The scope of such potential cost is unknown.

Oversight cannot determine if particular counties will be operating more than 500 polling places in FY 2028. Therefore, Oversight will also reflect a \$0 to unknown cost to the state for the potential cost of poll workers and equipment for counties containing more than 500 polling places.

In response to similar legislation, HB 126 (2025), officials from the **SOS** also assumed 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 the 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** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organization.

Oversight notes section 115.785 states all costs of a presidential preference primary shall be paid by the state and for any county with more than five hundred polling places, the state shall assist in assuring adequate poll workers and equipment. Therefore the fiscal note will reflect the cost and reimbursement to local election authorities netting to zero.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other local election authorities and county clerks 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
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Cost – SOS (§115.785) Reimbursement of local election authority costs for PPP p.3</u>	\$0	\$0 or More than (\$9,000,000)	\$0
<u>Cost – SOS (§115.785) Additional poll workers and equipment p.3</u>	\$0	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	\$0	\$0 or More than (\$9,000,000)	\$0

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Reimbursement - Local Election Authorities (§115.785) Reimbursement of election costs p.3</u>	\$0	\$0 or More than \$9,000,000	\$0
<u>Cost - Local Election Authorities (§115.785) Holding PPP election p.3</u>	\$0	\$0 or More than (\$9,000,000)	\$0
<u>Cost – Local Election Authorities Election expenses not covered by State p.3</u>	\$0	(Unknown)	\$0
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	\$0	(Unknown)	\$0

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.

This bill extends the in-person, no-excuse absentee voting period from two to three weeks.

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. For any county with more than 500 polling places, the State must assist in assuring adequate poll workers and equipment.

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



Julie Morff
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February 1, 2026



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February 1, 2026