

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4483H.01I
Bill No.: HB 2306
Subject: Elections; Education, Elementary and Secondary
Type: Original
Date: January 24, 2022

Bill Summary: This proposal moves school board elections to November.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
General Revenue	(Unknown) to Unknown	\$0	(Unknown) to Unknown
Total estimated net effect on General Revenue Fund	(Unknown) to Unknown	\$0	(Unknown) to Unknown

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
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 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
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 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Local Government	(Unknown) to Unknown	(Unknown) to Unknown	(Unknown) to Unknown

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** assume this proposal would move school board elections from April to November each year. In odd-numbered calendar years, this would have no impact on the Secretary of State's Office. However, in even-numbered calendar years (odd-numbered fiscal years), school board elections will now be held on the same day as the statewide general election. As a result, school districts who previously held elections in April will be required to share proportional costs of the November general election.

Proportional costs are calculated by each local election authority based on the number of political subdivisions and their respective amounts of registered voters. The state's proportional share is expected to decrease in all or nearly all jurisdictions, but this may not directly equate to a cost savings as the overall cost of the election may increase. In particular, local jurisdictions may experience increasing costs for publishing election notices in local newspapers, ballot printing/coding due to an increased number of ballot styles, and, as an indirect result, there may also be a need to split polling places or hire additional election judges to help avoid voter confusion at the polls. Therefore, the exact amount of fiscal impact to the State of Missouri (of either costs or savings) is unknown and depends on local election authority decisions.

Oversight notes, the proportional costs of the November elections could increase in part due to an increase in the number of ballot issues and ballot pages. Due to the proposal shifting the elections from April to November and limiting the elections to even numbered calendar years school districts who previously held elections in April will be required to share proportional costs of the November general election. Therefore, Oversight will show a potential unknown cost and potential unknown savings beginning in November 2024 (FY 2025) and recurring in even numbered calendar years (odd numbered fiscal years).

Officials from the **SOS** also assume 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** assume this legislation guarantees November elections in odd years when there might not otherwise be an election. Total costs to hold these odd year elections could be \$75,000. In addition to known cost increases in odd years, this legislation will introduce more complexity to general elections. There will be more ballot styles, and longer ballots. General elections already have long and complicated ballots. There is a real possibility this would require two page ballots in even years.

Officials from the **St. Louis County Board of Elections** assume if this legislation pushes the ballot to two pages, this will cost \$100,000 per election (that has a two-page ballot).

In response to similar legislation, HB 361 from 2021, officials from the **St. Louis County Board of Elections** assumed, because school board elections currently take place in April municipal elections, the Election Board pays more to cover costs to administer the election. If changed to taking place in November elections, this would save the Election Board about \$350,000.

In response to a similar proposal HCS for HB 1424 (2018), officials from the **Kansas City Election Board** assumed there would be a substantial savings in election costs. By moving the School Board elections to November, entities having elections would share costs and save in excess of \$100,000 or more per year. This election would be more expensive, but costs would be pro-rated among several entities, with everyone paying a smaller share. Another benefit would be a better turnouts, since historically November elections have the highest turnouts. However, not all races can fit on one ballot, therefore more than one ballot may be needed.

In response to a similar proposal HCS for HB 1424 (2018), officials from **Buchanan County** assumed, having the school districts run their elections in November, would help alleviate election costs on the county level, but assumed small entities, like fire, water, ambulance districts, the trustee members of villages, etc. would not be able to afford an April election alone without a larger entity there to help divvy up the costs.

Oversight assumes, beginning in 2023 (FY 2023), this proposal requires school board elections to be held biennially during the November election of even-number years instead of annual April municipal elections.

Oversight assumes this proposal would result in savings to school districts as this would reduce the number of school board elections. Oversight assumes no school board election shall be held in April 2023 (FY 2023); therefore, Oversight will show an unknown savings occurring in FY 2023.

Oversight notes due to the proposal shifting the elections from April to November and limiting the elections to even numbered calendar years, school board elections costs will only be incurred

in odd numbered fiscal years; therefore, the savings from generated from biennial elections will occur in even numbered fiscal years. For example, no longer holding the April 2024 school board election will result in savings occurring in FY 2024 as there is no offsetting cost occurring in even numbered fiscal years. Instead the elections will occur in November 2024 (FY 2025) and will be offset by the savings generated from the school board election that would otherwise have been held in April 2024 (FY 2024). Oversight will show an unknown savings beginning in April 2024 (FY 2024) and recurring in even numbered fiscal years.

Oversight notes, as indicated by some of the election authorities, the cost of the November elections could increase in part due to an increase in the number of ballot issues and ballot pages. Oversight will show a potential unknown cost beginning in November 2024 (FY 2025) and recurring in even numbered calendar years (odd numbered fiscal years).

Oversight assumes some local political subdivisions may face increased costs beginning in the April 2023 election (FY 2023) as school districts would no longer share in the proportional cost. Oversight will show a potential unknown cost to some local political subdivisions beginning in FY 2023 and recurring annually for each municipal election held.

Beginning in November of 2024 (FY 2025), Oversight assumes some local political subdivisions may see proportional cost savings as school districts would now share in the cost of the November elections occurring on even numbered calendar years (odd numbered fiscal years). Oversight will show a potential unknown savings to some local political subdivisions beginning in FY 2025 and recurring in odd numbered fiscal years.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2023 (10 Mo.)	FY 2024	FY 2025
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Cost</u> – increase in proportional cost for ballot issues for November Elections	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0	\$0 to (Unknown)
<u>Savings</u> – school districts required to share in proportional cost for November election	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	(Unknown) to <u>Unknown</u>	<u>\$0</u>	(Unknown) to <u>Unknown</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2023 (10 Mo.)	FY 2024	FY 2025
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Cost</u> - increase in proportional cost for April election to locals other than schools	(Unknown)	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
<u>Cost</u> - increase in ballot issues for November Elections	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0	\$0 to (Unknown)
<u>Savings</u> - decrease in proportional cost for November election to locals including school districts	\$0 to Unknown	\$0	\$0 to Unknown
<u>Savings</u> - reduced election costs for school districts (annual to biennial)	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	(Unknown) to <u>Unknown</u>	(Unknown) to <u>Unknown</u>	(Unknown) to <u>Unknown</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

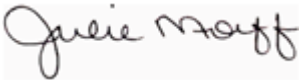
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, school board elections are held at specified election dates as determined by the designation and location of school districts. This bill requires school board elections for seven director school districts, urban school districts, and school districts with subdistricts to be held during the November general election. Beginning January 1, 2023 any school board member serving shall have their term modified in accordance with Section 162.082, RSMo.

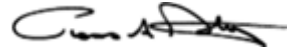
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Secretary of State
Platte County Board of Elections
St. Louis County Board of Elections
Kansas City Board of Elections
Buchanan County



Julie Morff
Director
January 24, 2022



Ross Strobe
Assistant Director
January 24, 2022