

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0329H.011
Bill No.: HB 920
Subject: Elections; Cities, Towns, and Villages
Type: Original
Date: February 2, 2021

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies the date of municipal elections.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
General Revenue*	\$0	(Unknown) to Unknown	\$0
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	(Unknown) to <u>Unknown</u>	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

*Oversight notes that moving municipal elections from April to November will result in an unknown savings due to a decrease in proportional cost and an unknown cost to the state and local jurisdictions for increase of November election costs which could possibly exceed \$250,000.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

FORMCHECKBOX Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Local Government*	Unknown	(Unknown) to Unknown	(Unknown) to Unknown

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** assume this proposal would move the general municipal Election Day 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), municipal elections will now be held on the same day as the statewide general election. As a result, political subdivisions 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 that in even-numbered calendar years (odd-numbered fiscal years), municipal elections will now be held on the same day as the statewide general election. As a result, the state's proportional share is expected to decrease in all or nearly all jurisdictions yet the overall cost of the election may increase. Therefore, Oversight will reflect an unknown savings to an unknown cost in FY23 on the fiscal note.

Officials from **Platte County Board of Elections** assume the proposal will make ballots longer and more complicated. There will be more ballot styles per poll site. Voters will take longer to vote their ballots and lines will be longer.

In even years, the likelihood of two page ballots is high and combining General Municipal and General Elections will create fiscal costs of up to \$30,000 for ballots as well as less tangible costs.

In odd years, they expect an increase of \$75,000 per year to hold an election in November.

They estimate a savings of \$75,000 per year by not holding an election in April.

Oversight notes due to the proposal shifting the elections from April to November, there is a potential for savings in elections costs but is unable to quantify how much. Oversight will show an unknown savings to local election authorities on the fiscal note.

Oversight notes 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 FY 2022 on the fiscal note.

Oversight assumes some local political subdivisions may face increased costs beginning in the April 2022 election (FY 2022) as less entities would no longer share in the proportional cost. Oversight will show a potential unknown cost to local political subdivisions beginning in FY 2022 and recurring annually for each municipal election held.

Beginning in November of 2022 (FY 2023), Oversight assumes some local political subdivisions may see proportional cost savings as more entities would now share in the cost of the November elections. Oversight will show a potential unknown savings to local political subdivisions beginning in FY 2022.

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

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. A general listing of political subdivisions included in our database is available upon request.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2022 (6 Mo.)	FY 2023	FY 2024
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Savings</u> - decrease in proportional cost for November election	\$0	Unknown	\$0
<u>Cost</u> - increased cost for November elections	\$0	(Unknown)	\$0
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>\$0</u>	(Unknown) to Unknown	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2022 (6 Mo.)	FY 2023	FY 2024
LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITIES			
<u>Savings</u> - shifting elections from April to November	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
<u>Cost</u> - increased ballot length in November elections	\$0	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITIES	<u>Unknown</u>	(Unknown) to <u>Unknown</u>	(Unknown) to <u>Unknown</u>
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Savings</u> - decrease in proportional cost for November election to locals	\$0	Unknown	Unknown
<u>Cost</u> - increase in proportional cost for April election to locals	\$0	(Unknown)	(Unknown)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	\$0	(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

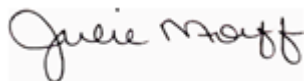
The proposed legislation modifies the date of municipal elections.

The proposal has an effective date of January 1, 2022.

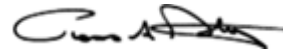
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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



Julie Morff
Director
February 2, 2021



Ross Strobe
Assistant Director
February 2, 2021