

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ELB 2/27/2006

LRB Number	05-3947/4	Introduction Number	SB-612	Estimate Type	Original
Description Administration of elections; providing exemptions from and extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures; granting rule-making authority; and providing penalties					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This legislation makes several changes in the administration of elections. This will result in additional costs for local and state government.

Municipal government will incur additional costs for municipal clerks attending state training every two years; training poll workers; posting information on municipal websites concerning the number of military voters who have not returned ballots as of the close of voting on election day, and the number of absentee ballots received by the close of the polls if a central absentee counting location is used; establishing and administering a central absentee ballot counting location if the municipality chooses to adopt this procedure; posting information about nursing home voting; posting maps at each polling place; and adding an additional poll worker to serve as a greeter if the municipality chooses to adopt this procedure.

The State Elections Board will incur significant additional costs that will require revision of existing forms, information and training materials, hiring additional staff on a permanent and a temporary basis to carry out new mandated functions.

State Elections Board forms, information and training materials will have to be reviewed, revised, printed and distributed to reflect changes related to proof of residence requirements for voter registration; requirements for first-time voters; changes in the deadline for registering to vote; appointing special registration deputies; processing voter registration forms; absentee voting requirements including the treatment of absentee voting by military and overseas electors; changes in the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot; recount procedures; processing late ballots from military electors; procedures for nursing home voting; procedures for election observers; regulations related to electioneering; high school poll workers; recall procedures for local elective officeholders; preparing the Inspectors' Statement; ballot retention and the role of county and municipal clerks on the Board of Canvassers. This will cost an estimated \$25,000 in printing and distribution of the revised materials. Two short term staff costing an estimated \$15,000 will also be necessary to prepare the materials under the direction of existing staff.

The State Elections Board may incur costs to conduct the post election audit of mailing confirmation post cards to verify election day registration. For the 2006 November election this may require mailing as many as 400,000 post cards and tracking the response. This will require funding for postage, data entry and post election staff follow-up. However, municipalities will save the mailing costs for this activity, even though they will be involved in the follow-up procedures related to the mailings. The estimated cost for this effort is \$100,000 in postage, \$15,000 for data entry costs and \$50,000 for staff costs.

The State Elections Board will incur costs to receive and update the list of felons provided by the Department of Corrections. The Board will have to modify the existing design of the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) to enable marking poll lists with the names of convicted felons whose registration has been inactivated and preparing a list of convicted felons by polling place. The State Elections Board will have to develop procedures and train local election officials on the procedures for reviewing the new felon lists. The redesign of SVRS will cost an estimated \$100,000. Local election officials will pay the costs for printing the additional lists from SVRS.

The State Elections Board will incur one-time costs to develop a contingency planning report. This will require hiring two short term staff at a cost of \$15,000 to develop model contingency plans, disseminate them to local election officials, track implementation and prepare a report. The State Elections Board will also incur costs to develop a post election audit program for municipal and county election administration.

The State Elections Board will incur costs to develop and deliver a training program for local election officials, voter registration deputies, poll workers and special voting deputies. The State Elections Board is required to prepare administrative rules regulating the conduct of observers and for treeing voter registration

deputes. This will require additional short term staff to assist the Board's legal counsel in the preparation of these rules. The cost for a law student intern to provide this assistance is estimated at \$10,000.

Permanent additional positions will be required for two trainers (\$105,00 in salary, fringe benefit and support costs), two election specialists (\$100,00 in salary, fringe benefit and support costs) and two support staff (\$78,00 in salary, fringe benefit and support costs). The total cost associated for these positions is \$325,000 including \$42,000 in set up costs.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications