

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

GAB 9/18/2009

LRB Number	09-1014/1	Introduction Number	SB-249	Estimate Type	Original
Description Popular election of technical college district boards, providing an exemption from and extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures, and granting rule-making authority					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

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This legislation requires the election of 144 public officials who have previously been appointed. The election of Wisconsin Technical College (WTC) Board members will increase the workload for the Government Accountability Board which serves as the filing officer for these new elective offices. The cost to the Government Accountability Board would manifest itself in staff time to review nomination papers, determine ballot order, certify candidates for ballot placement, canvass and certify election results, process campaign registration statements and other ballot access documents, conduct recounts and recall elections and audit campaign finance reports. The agency will also have to modify the Statewide Voter Registration System to reflect the new offices and ballot combinations for voters and election officials.

When the Government Accountability Board became the filing officer for the office of District Attorney (which added 71 offices), one additional staff person was required to accommodate the increased workload. The addition of 144 Technical College District Board offices will require two additional staff positions. Two FTE Election Specialists would require an increase of \$159,300 to cover, salary, fringe, support and initial set up costs for the first full year.

Due to the additional election district, county clerks will incur additional costs for ballot preparation, coding voting equipment and notice publication. They will also have additional costs for canvassing the municipal election returns and certifying the results to the G.A.B.

Municipal election officials will bear the cost of counting votes for additional offices. This cost would be manifested in additional polling place staff and increased staff time. Municipal election officials will also be required to enter and track WTC district assignments for voters in the Statewide Voter Registration System which may require additional municipal clerk office staff.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

These election support costs will continue after the implementation of the election of the initial WTC Boards. This will require continued funding of the additional GAB staff in the amount of \$148,700 annually.