

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 5032-01  
Bill No.: SJR 61  
Subject: Constitutional Amendments; Elections  
Type: Original  
Date: February 20, 2020

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Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions governing the right of suffrage for former felons.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
General Revenue	\$0 or (More than \$7,800,000)	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0 or (More than \$7,800,000)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: ( ) indicate costs or losses.

This fiscal note contains 6 pages.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0*</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

\*Expenses and state reimbursements (if a special election is called) net to zero.

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** assume each year, a number of joint resolutions that would refer to a vote of the people a constitutional amendment and bills that would refer to a vote of the people the statutory issue in the legislation may be considered by the General Assembly.

Unless a special election is called for the purpose, Joint Resolutions proposing a constitutional amendment are submitted to a vote of the people at the next general election. Article XII section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution authorizes the governor to order a special election for constitutional amendments referred to the people. If a special election is called to submit a Joint Resolution to a vote of the people, §115.063.2, RSMo, requires the state to pay the costs. The cost of the special election has been estimated to be \$7.8 million based on the cost of the 2016 Presidential Preference Primary.

The SOS is required to pay for publishing in local newspapers the full text of each statewide ballot measure as directed by Article XII, Section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution and Section 116.230-116.290, RSMo. Funding for this item is adjusted each year depending upon the election cycle. A new decision item is requested in odd numbered fiscal years and the amount requested is dependent upon the estimated number of ballot measures that will be approved by the General Assembly and the initiative petitions certified for the ballot. In FY 2014, the General Assembly changed the appropriation so that it was no longer an estimated appropriation.

In FY19, over \$5.8 million was spent to publish the full text of the measures for the August and November elections. The SOS estimates \$65,000 per page for the costs of publications based on the actual cost incurred for the one referendum that was on the August 2018 ballot.

The SOS will continue to assume, for the purposes of this fiscal note, that it should have the full appropriation authority it needs to meet the publishing requirements. Because these requirements are mandatory, we reserve the right to request funding to meet the cost of our publishing requirements if the Governor and the General Assembly again change the amount or continue to not designate it as an estimated appropriation.

**Oversight** has reflected in this fiscal note, the state potentially reimbursing local political subdivisions the cost of having this joint resolution voted on during a special election in fiscal year 2021. This reflects the decision made by the Joint Committee on Legislative Research, that the cost of the elections should be shown in the fiscal note. The next scheduled statewide primary election is in August 2020 and the next scheduled general election is in November 2020

ASSUMPTION (continued)

(FY 2021 for both). It is assumed the subject within this proposal could be on one of these ballots; however, it could also be on a special election called for by the Governor (on a different date). Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential election cost reimbursement to local political subdivisions in FY 2021.

Officials from the **Department of Corrections (DOC)** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. The department is assuming that this language only allows an exclusion for offenders convicted of a crime connected with the exercise right of suffrage to be excluded by law from voting. It is assumed that incarcerated offenders are still prohibited from voting.

**Oversight** notes that as of December 19, 2019, there were 62,460 offenders under probation and parole supervision according to information provided from DOC. Therefore, there could be an increase in registered voters.

Oversight notes that the Department of Corrections has stated the proposal would not have a direct fiscal impact on their organization. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact on the fiscal note for that agency.

Officials from the **Kansas City Election Board** assume if the proposal were passed into law, postage and printing of absentee ballots would increase an average of \$5,000 per election.

Officials from the **Platte County Board of Elections** and **St. Louis County Board of Elections** both assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

**Oversight** notes that the Platte County Board of Elections and St. Louis County Board of Elections have stated the proposal would not have a direct fiscal impact on their organization. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact on the fiscal note for those agencies.

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. For a general listing of political subdivisions included in our database, you may contact the Oversight Division.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2021 (10 Mo.)	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<u>Transfer Out</u> - SOS - reimbursement of local election authority election costs <b>if</b> a special election is called by the Governor	\$0 or (More than <u>\$7,800,000</u> )	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>	<b>\$0 or (More than <u>\$7,800,000</u>)</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2021 (10 Mo.)	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>			
<u>Transfer In</u> - Local Election Authorities - reimbursement of election costs by the State for a special election	\$0 or More than <u>\$7,800,000</u>	\$0	\$0
<u>Costs</u> - Local Election Authorities - cost of a special election <b>if</b> called for by the Governor	\$0 or (More than <u>\$7,800,000</u> )	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This constitutional amendment, if approved by the voters, would modify the types of laws that the General Assembly may enact relating to the right of suffrage for former felons. Under current law, persons convicted of a felony may be excluded by law from voting. This amendment modifies that provision so that only persons convicted of crimes related to the right of suffrage may be excluded by law from voting. Furthermore, the amendment prohibits any person on probation or parole after conviction of a felony not connected with the right of suffrage from being excluded from voting.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

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  
Department of Corrections  
Kansas City Election Board  
Platte County Board of Elections  
St. Louis County Board of Elections



Julie Morff  
Director  
February 20, 2020



Ross Strobe  
Assistant Director  
February 20, 2020