

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 3869S.01I  
 Bill No.: SJR 46  
 Subject: County Officers; Counties; County Government  
 Type: Original  
 Date: January 25, 2022

Bill Summary: This proposal requires all county assessors to be elected.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
General Revenue*	\$0 or (More than \$7,000,000)	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0 or (More than \$7,000,000)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

\*The potential fiscal impact of “(More than \$7,000,000)” would be realized only if a special election were called by the Governor to submit this joint resolution to voters.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
<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.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</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 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</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 \$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.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0*</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0 or (Unknown)</b>

Costs net to \$0 **if** the Governor calls a special election.

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

Officials from **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, section 115.063.2 RSMo requires the state to pay the costs. The cost of the special election has been estimated to be \$7 million based on the cost of the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary.

The Secretary of State's office 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.

For the FY22 petitions cycle, the SOS estimates publication costs at \$70,000 per page. This amount is subject to change based on number of petitions received, length of those petitions and rates charged by newspaper publishers.

The Secretary of State's office 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, the SOS reserves the right to request funding to meet the cost of the 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 2023. 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 2022 and the next scheduled general election is in November 2022 (both in FY 2023). 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 (a different date).

Therefore, Oversight will reflect a potential election cost reimbursement to local political subdivisions in FY 2023.

Officials from the **Department of Revenue** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for that agency.

Officials from the **Jackson County Board of Elections** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for that agency.

In response to a similar proposal, SJR 10 (2021), officials at **Jackson County** assumed an unknown negative impact from this proposal. An elected assessor would add several hundred thousand in costs. These costs include HR, Financial, and Communication staff that are provided to elected officials and not to appointed staff.

**Oversight** notes the provisions of this proposal are subject to a vote of the people. In the event the proposal does not pass, the provisions would not be implemented and the fiscal impact would be \$0. If the proposal is approved, then the provisions could result in additional costs to Jackson County. Therefore, for fiscal note purposes, Oversight will range the cost for Jackson County as \$0 or (Unknown).

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2023 (10 Mo.)	FY 2024	FY 2025
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</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>\$7,000,000</u> )	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$0 or (More than <u>\$7,000,000</u>)</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

\*The potential fiscal impact of “(More than \$7,000,000)” would be realized only if a special election were called by the Governor to submit this joint resolution to voters.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2023 (10 Mo.)	FY 2024	FY 2025
<b>LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>			
<u>Costs</u> – Jackson County - potential staffing costs for an elected assessor	\$0	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown)
<u>Transfer In</u> - Local Election Authorities - reimbursement of election costs by the State for a special election	\$0 or More than \$7,000,000	\$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 \$7,000,000)	\$0	\$0
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u></b>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

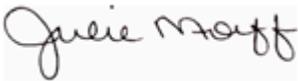
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, assessors of all charter counties except for Jackson County are required to be elected officers. This proposed Constitutional amendment, if approved by the voters, removes this exception for Jackson County.

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 Revenue  
Jackson County Board of Elections  
Jackson County



Julie Morff  
Director  
January 25, 2022



Ross Strope  
Assistant Director  
January 25, 2022