



### **Part III: Fiscal Explanation, Bill Provisions, and Estimated Cost**

**The cost to counties would range from minimal to moderate, depending upon the number of “registered independents”, the composition of the primaries (i.e. both Democratic and Republican), and the type of voting system (paper ballot versus Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines) used.**

The majority of counties in Kentucky, including Jefferson, utilize paper ballots. Usually paper ballots are printed (\$.29 per ballot) based upon the turnout from the last presidential election. However with no prior election data available for “registered independents” voting in partisan primaries, to ensure sufficient ballots for the May 2016 primary, counties may elect to print ballots based upon the number of “registered independents” for both Democratic and Republican primaries (anticipated for all counties as it is a presidential election year), while retaining a nonpartisan ballot for those wishing to vote in only the nonpartisan races.

*There are 213,106 “registered independents” in counties using paper ballots; therefore, the impact in 2016 is estimated to be \$123,601 (\$.29 each for Democratic and Republican ballots), ranging from less than \$40 for Robertson County to over \$30,000 for Jefferson County. Costs would be expected to decline in subsequent election years with prior election data available for projecting the number of ballots needed, especially if there are primaries for only one party.*

There are less than thirty counties in Kentucky, including Fayette, utilizing DREs. With no tracking requirements for recording the party for which a “registered independent” votes; there would be minimal, if any, programming costs associated with this legislation for those counties. Turnout would not be expected to increase above capacity for general elections; therefore, there should not be the need for the purchase of additional DREs.

**Data Source(s):** LRC Staff, Kentucky County Clerk's Association, Harp Enterprises, State Board of Elections.

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