

election or a district election other than a school district election, the cost shall be paid by the city or that district.

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

The fiscal impact of HB 307 on local governments could be substantial relative to the clerk's budget, depending on the county and publishing cost. Current statute requires that the entire ballot be printed in the paper. In some years, this could prove to be a significant expense to the local clerk offices occupying up to a page or more, especially in larger counties with large circulation papers. In Jefferson County alone, current cost are as much as \$115,000 for each election, primary and general. This cost would drop significantly to less than \$25,000 under the provisions of HB 307.

For comparison, the Franklin County Clerk pays between \$1,100 and \$1,200 each time a full page ballot is published in the local paper. Likewise, these cost will drop significantly to no more than \$496, the cost of a black and white half page ad for the local paper. Savings of more than that may be expected since it is doubtful that the space needed would require a half page; the half-page is simply a verifiable reference point.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, Kentucky County Clerk's Association, Jefferson County Kentucky County Clerk, Franklin County Kentucky County Clerk

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