

**Local Government Mandate Statement
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission
2018 Regular Session**

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 110

Bill #: SB 4 GA

Document ID #: 152

Bill Subject/Title: An ACT proposing to amend Section 95 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to the election of state officers.

Sponsor: Sen. Christian E. McDaniel

Unit of Government: City County Urban-County Unified Local Government
 Charter County Consolidated Local Government

Office(s) Impacted: County clerks

Requirement: Mandatory Optional

Effect on Powers & Duties: Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing

Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Relating to Local Government

SB 4 proposes submitting an amendment to Section 95 of the Kentucky Constitution to voters for ratification, using the following language on the ballot: "**Are you in favor of holding the election of all statewide Constitutional officers in even-numbered years beginning in 2024 to save substantial state and local funds?**"

If voters ratify the constitutional amendment, elections for Constitutional Officers would be moved from 2023 to 2024, and every four years thereafter, resulting in primary and general elections in Kentucky being held only in even-numbered years. Constitutional Officers elected in 2019 would have their terms increased by one year to accommodate the new election schedule.

The savings of SB 4 to local governments due to eliminating a primary and general election would be significant, *provided that voters ratify the constitutional amendment.*

Assuming a recent (2015) estimate of 3,735 precincts; \$4,000 per precinct in total costs (\$2,000 each for primary and general elections); and state reimbursement of \$398 per precinct (\$199 each for primary and general elections), the savings to local governments would be about \$13.5 million during the calendar year of the eliminated primary and general election. Applying an inflationary factor to determine the savings starting in calendar year 2023 (first year in which primary and general elections would be eliminated under this legislation) may be inappropriate given population shifts, potential advances in voting technology (on-line voting), and changes in the state reimbursement rate and compensation to poll workers (currently set by counties with a minimum of \$10 for one mandatory training session and a minimum of \$60 for election day).

The costs of SB 4 to local governments due to adding a constitutional amendment to a ballot would be minimal.

Section 256 of the Kentucky Constitution specifies that constitutional amendments are only added to the ballot for the general election in even-numbered years (“next general election for members of the House of Representatives”). Therefore the constitutional amendment would be submitted to the voters in November, 2018.

According to Harp Enterprises, a vendor that provides electronic voting machines to 97 Kentucky counties, there are additional programming costs associated with adding a new category to the ballot on an already scheduled statewide election. For example, the cost to add a new category to the ballot for Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, with 291 precincts, is estimated to be between \$3,000 and \$4,000, and for Franklin County, with 44 precincts, the cost is estimated to be between \$1,250 and \$2,000.

Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions

The GA version to this bill does not have any changes from the bill as introduced. There were no committee substitutes or floor amendments adopted.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff; Kentucky County Clerks' Association; Harp Enterprises

Preparer: H. Marks **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 1/8/18