

Assuming the following recent (2019) average election cost estimates: approximately 3,735 precincts at \$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 statewide savings to local governments could be about \$13.5 million during the calendar year of the eliminated primary and general election.

Applying an inflationary factor to determine savings starting in calendar year 2027 (first year in which odd-number year primary and general elections would be eliminated under this legislation) may be inappropriate, and likely inaccurate, given population shifts, potential advances in voting technology (on-line voting), potential requirements for paper ballots, and changes in the state reimbursement rate and compensation to poll workers (recently set by counties, with a minimum of \$10 for one mandatory training session and a minimum of \$60 for election day).

The immediate costs of SB 3 GA 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, 2020. There are additional programming costs associated with adding a new category to the ballot on a scheduled statewide election. According to Harp Enterprises, a vendor that provides electronic voting machines to most of Kentucky’s counties, the costs would range from \$15 per precinct for larger counties such as Fayette with 286 precincts (\$4,004) to \$45 per precinct for counties such as Franklin with 44 precincts (\$1,980).

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

The bill passed original chamber without any amendments or committee substitutes. Therefore the LM statement to the GA version is the same as the LM statement to the bill as introduced.

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

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