

SB 124 would have a minimal to moderate negative fiscal impact on county clerk's offices. There would be increased costs associated with rank choice voting:

- purchasing new voting machines that have electronic capability to allow voters to rank choices, if current voting machines do not already have that capability;
- programming existing voting machines to allow voters to rank choices;
- training staff on the new procedures;
- designing and printing a new ballot format; and
- counting ballots over several rounds.

Many, but not all, existing voting machines might be capable of being programmed to accommodate ranked choice voting. Programming existing machines would increase the cost of voting in all county precincts by as much as ten percent.

New voting machines that could accommodate ranked choice voting would need to be purchased in some counties, which could be a significant cost. Voting machines typically cost \$3,500 to \$5,000 each. An optical scanner for paper ballots can cost as much as \$5,000 per location.

Designing and printing a new ballot format would increase costs, but these costs may be minimized for future elections if the same design is used. Training staff on new procedures and counting ballots over several rounds would also increase costs.

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

Part II, above, relates to the bill as introduced.

Data Source(s): LRC staff; <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2016/03/02/aging-voting-machines-cost-local-state-governments>; WLEX; Fayette County Clerk; Kentucky State Board of Elections; Kentucky County Clerks' Association

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