

**Local Government Mandate Statement
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission
2024 Regular Session**

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 1069

Bill #: SB 83

Document ID #: 1792

Bill Title: AN ACT relating to elections.

Sponsor: Senator Adrienne Southworth

Unit of Government: City County Urban-County
Unified Local
 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 83 prevents straight ticket voting. A voter may not vote for more than one candidate or slate of candidates of the same political party by a single mark or act in a regular election.

The number of states offering straight ticket voting has been declining over the years. Currently, straight ticket voting exists in only six states: Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Oklahoma, and South Carolina.

SB 83 would have a minimal to moderate negative fiscal impact on county clerk's offices.

There would be minimal costs associated with removing straight-ticket voting:

- Straight-party ticket is a programming setting that can be removed in any race. For instance, there is no straight voting in primary elections.

- Although current voting machines allow for straight-ticket voting by simply voting for each individual candidate, there might be concerns regarding ballot presentation and adhering to the provisions of SB 83. In the unlikely event that new machines are necessitated, voting machines typically cost \$3,500 to \$5,000 each.
- Training staff on the new procedures and informing the public by way of signs or other forms of media would increase cost; and
- Designing and printing a new ballot format removing straight-ticket voting would increase costs, but these costs may be minimized for future elections if the same design is used.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff

Preparer: Jacob Blevins (LG) **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 2/7/24