

**Local Government Mandate Statement  
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission  
2026 Regular Session**

**Part I: Measure Information**

|                        |                               |                 |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Bill Request #:</b> | 1334                          | <b>Bill #:</b>  | HB 534 GA         |
| <b>Document ID #:</b>  | 7859                          | <b>Sponsor:</b> | Rep. D.J. Johnson |
| <b>Bill Title:</b>     | AN ACT relating to elections. |                 |                   |

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

Office(s) Impacted:    County Clerks

Requirement:             Mandatory             Optional

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

Other Fiscal Statement(s) that may exist:     Actuarial Analysis             Corrections Impact  
     Health Benefit Mandate     State Employee Health Plan

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

Section 2 of HB 534 GA would require a special election to be held in the event that the majority of the membership of a legislative body is vacated as a result of a judgement by a Circuit Court because of an election error due to no fault of any candidate or due to fraud.

Section 3 would require that individuals who have been identified as noncitizen be required to verify their citizenship in order to vote. To do so, they would have to provide one of a list of documents to their county clerk to prove their citizenship. The county clerk would be required to make a copy of the document and record it in the voter registration system. The voter may also provide the documentation at a voting location.

If an individual identified as a noncitizen appears at a voting location, the election officer must allow them to cast a provisional ballot only after the voter has attested under penalty of perjury that they are a citizen on a form provided by the State Board of Elections.

Section 5 prohibits the State Board of Elections from approving voting equipment that uses non-human readable codes, such as QR codes or bar codes. It would allow for counties using such voting equipment prior to the passage of this Act to continue to do so until a replacement voting system is required by the county.

Section 9 would require county clerks to send a list of scanners to the Secretary of State's office that includes ballot scanners which recorder more than ten votes cast.

Section 12 allows a contestant of an election to recover court costs from the local board of elections if they are successful in their challenge. The fees and costs would be taxed by the court against the local board of elections or against any party adjudicated to have engaged in fraud, intimidation, bribery, or violence that prevented the contestant or contestee from being fairly elected.

**HB 534 GA is expected to have a negative fiscal impact on county clerks.**

According to the State Board of Elections, the average cost to a county for the general election in 2022 was \$2,730.77 per precinct and the average cost for the primary election in 2023 was \$2,699.59 per precinct. The cost of a special election may differ from these figures. The frequency of special elections triggered by the conditions in Section 2 cannot be anticipated.

There would be costs associated with replacing or altering voting machines to comply with Section 6 of HB 534 GA.

According to the Kentucky County Clerk's Association, costs associated with Section 3 would include:

- The cost of training precinct officers to prepare them for individuals identified as noncitizens casting provisional ballots at voting locations;
- The potential cost of purchasing new office equipment to process documentation; and
- The cost of training office staff to process sensitive documents.

**Section 12 would have a negative fiscal impact on county boards of elections that are found to have prevented a contestant or contestee from being fairly elected.**

**Data Source(s):** LRC Staff; Kentucky State Board of Elections; Kentucky County Clerk's Association

**Preparer:** JB **Reviewer:** BW (MDA) **Date:** 3/16/26