

Assuming the following recent average estimates: 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 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 the savings starting in calendar year 2023 (first year in which 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 (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 5 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.

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

Part II, above, pertains to the bill as drafted. There is no prior version of the bill to complete Part III.

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

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