

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ELB 10/10/2005

LRB Number	05-2045/1	Introduction Number	AB-689	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Optional preferential voting in local elections					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This legislation permits certain local units of government to adopt a system of preferential voting to select its representatives. This is often referred to as "instant runoff voting." It eliminates the need to conduct a primary election, but it requires the use of electronic voting equipment to properly tabulate the election results.

This may reduce the cost of conducting a primary election in February for affected local governments. These reduced costs would be in the form of less notice publications and ballot printing. It may not reduce the cost of staffing and equipping a polling place because there may be state primary elections conducted for judicial office and there may be primary elections for other local levels of government such as school districts or county board offices which do not adopt preferential voting.

This will likely increase the cost of conducting the actual preferential election because municipalities will have to use electronic voting equipment. There may be equipment acquisition costs, because at the present time the State Elections Board staff does not know if current or available electronic voting systems can be programmed to tabulate a preferential vote election. In any event, once the equipment is available the local unit of government will incur costs to program the equipment to tabulate the instant runoff vote.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications