

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ELB 7/14/2005

LRB Number	05-2716/5	Introduction Number	SB-249	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Election administration changes					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This legislation makes several significant changes that affect the administration of elections at the state and local level. The legislation increases costs at the state and local level. This analysis addresses the increased state costs for the State Elections Board (SEB). It does not address costs that may be required of the Department of Corrections or the Department of Transportation.

The SEB will incur costs to adjust to add special reports in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) concerning the treatment of felons. These one time costs are approximately \$50,000. The legislation requires the redesign of the voter registration form. This will cost approximately \$2,500 and may require configuration changes in the SVRS.

The SEB will incur costs to conduct the post election audit of felon voting. It is not clear what level of personnel resources will be needed to conduct the audit.

The SEB will have to design and develop an interactive training program for poll workers that complements the face to face training. Estimates obtained from the UW Division of Local Government indicate the initial development costs of approximately \$100,000.

Local government will incur costs to implement several requirements imposed by the legislation. These include the cost of setting up and staffing absentee voting centers (2 FTE minimum), the cost of setting up and staffing an absentee ballot canvassing board (3 member minimum) and the cost of adding a poll worker who serves as a "greeter/reserve" at polling places in general elections. Each of these functions can be established for as few as one day or as an extended number of days at the option of the municipality.

Local government will incur the cost of printing the felon lists used at polling places, preparing a map of polling place locations to be posted at each polling place, establishing election day plans that must be approved by the governing body and conducting a post election audit of election activities. These costs will vary from municipality to municipality due to the variations in size and complexity of each election.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The majority of the changes will require increased base level funding at the state and local level. The poll worker training is estimated at \$30,000 annually based on estimates from a private provider, HAVA Partners. Municipalities will have to devote increased staffing resources for absentee voting centers, canvassing boards, election plans and the post election audit.