

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
GAB 1/29/2010

LRB Number 09-3864/3	Introduction Number AB-0669	Estimate Type Original
Description The governance, and election of members of the board of school directors, of a first class city school district, and tenure for school principals		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Fiscal Estimate Narrative
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Background

Currently, the date of the election of members of the board of school directors, of a first class city school district, is the first Tuesday in April (spring election) in odd-numbered years. The term of member of the board of school directors is four years. Five members were elected in April 2007, and their terms expire in April 2011. Four members were elected in April 2009, and their terms expire in April 2013.

Proposed changes

This legislation proposes changing the date of the election of members of the board of school directors of a first class city school district to the Tuesday after the first Monday in November (general election) in even-numbered years. In order to transition to the new election date, the terms of the four members elected in 2009 will be allowed to expire in November 2012, rather than April 2013. Four new members would be elected in November 2012. The terms of the five members elected to replace the five members, whose terms expire in April 2011, would expire in November 2014. Five new members would be elected in November 2014. The term of such members would continue to be four years.

Impact on Various Governmental Levels

State

Adding a nonpartisan office to the previously strictly partisan November ballot will require the Government Accountability Board Elections Division (G.A.B.) to create a ballot design that clearly directs the voter that voting "straight party" only casts votes for that party's candidates in the partisan election races. The voter must vote for the nonpartisan office of Board of School Directors separately. This will require repeated communication with voting equipment vendors to ensure accurate programming of voting equipment to accommodate both partisan and nonpartisan offices and to ensure an alert should the nonpartisan office be skipped. The G.A.B. will be required to incorporate this change into training materials and documents so that municipal clerks and pollworkers

County

The Milwaukee County Board of Election Commissioners will incur additional costs for ballot preparation and for coding and programming voting equipment to accommodate partisan and nonpartisan offices. Programming will have to be such that the voter is alerted if the vote for Board of School Directors remains unvoted. The cost of programming for the school district portion of the ballot may be charged back to the School District.

Municipal

The Milwaukee City Board of Election Commissioners will bear the cost of counting votes for an additional office in the fall. This cost would be manifested in additional polling place staff and increased staff time. Districts currently exist for this office but would require updating in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) to reflect the new boundaries. This may require additional municipal clerk staff.

School District

The school district will absorb additional costs for ballots and election equipment programming.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The election support costs will continue after the implementation of the election date change for the office of Board of School Directors.