

March 25, 2013

The Honorable Scott Schwab, Chairperson
House Committee on Elections
Statehouse, Room 151-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Schwab:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2401 by House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2401 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2401 would move municipal elections for extension districts, cities, boards of public utilities, water districts, drainage districts, irrigation districts, unified school districts, and community colleges from the spring to the fall of odd-numbered years. A primary election would be held in August and a general election would be held in November. The bill would establish the dates terms would commence; the amount of time in which elected members would hold office; and the times when applications for advance voting ballots to be mailed to voters must be filed. The bill would make elections of trustees of community colleges partisan rather than nonpartisan.

The bill would also allow cities to adopt the following forms of government by ordinance: commission, mayor-council, commission-manager, mayor-council-manager, council-manager, or any other form of government authorized by law or by ordinance or charter ordinance of the city. In addition, the bill would require the county election officer to prepare the official primary election ballot for municipal elections held in August of odd-numbered years and allow the Secretary of State to provide technical assistance. The bill would allow the Secretary of State to establish the arrangement of offices on the general ballot for municipal officer upon consultation with the county election officers and adopt rules and regulations to ensure orderly primary and general elections in both even-numbered and odd-numbered years. The bill also would remove references to at large school district board members.

The Office of the Secretary of State indicates that the costs associated with training county election offices, which would be necessitated with the passage of HB 2401, could be absorbed within existing resources. However, the Office estimates that moving statewide municipal primary elections from February or March in odd-numbered years to August in odd-numbered years would increase ballot production costs for county election offices by \$1.5

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million in FY 2015, though moving elections to even-numbered years would be even more costly. The Office indicates that the costs borne by county election offices to train poll workers could be absorbed within the counties' existing resources.

According to the League of Kansas Municipalities, passage of HB 2401 would have a fiscal effect on the cities; however, the League is unable to estimate what that effect might be. The Kansas Association of Counties indicates that there would be little, if any, fiscal effect on local governments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven J. Anderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA
Director of the Budget

cc: Larry Baer, LKM
Melissa Wangemann, KAC
Courtney Canfield, Secretary of State's Office