

February 24, 2015

The Honorable Mitch Holmes, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections  
Statehouse, Room 237-E  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Holmes:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for SB 171 by Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 171 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 171 would change municipal elections from nonpartisan to partisan and move them from the spring of odd-numbered years to the fall of even-numbered years to coincide with regular elections for national, state, county, and township elections. It would move elections of special districts from the spring of odd-numbered years to the fall of odd-numbered years. Additionally, school districts would be required to provide facilities for polling places if requested by the county election officer. The Office of the Secretary of State would be required to conduct a statewide voter education program to inform the public of the provisions in this bill.

SB 171 would replace the current system of rotation of candidates' names on the ballots to a system where a random alphabetical order is established each year for the arrangement of candidates' names according to the first letters of their surnames. The bill would also raise the candidate filing fee for municipal and special district elections from \$5 to \$20, and grant authority to the governing bodies in such districts to set a higher fee. The number of individuals who are under 18 years of age authorized to serve as poll workers at any given polling place would increase from one to two, but those individuals would be required to first obtain a letter of recommendation from a school teacher, counselor, or administrator. SB 171 would increase the term of an elected political party precinct committee person from two to four years.

The Office of the Secretary of State indicates the increased candidate filing fees provided in SB 171 would increase revenues to county general funds, but cannot provide a precise estimate on the amount of additional revenues that counties would receive. In addition, counties could incur savings in ballot production because this bill would eliminate the rotation of candidate's names on ballots. Counties could also find savings in preparing ballots for the August primary in each even-numbered year because the election of political party precinct committee persons would occur only every four years instead of every two years. However, any

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savings would be offset by an increase in ballot production due to the addition of city and school board elections to the ballot in even-numbered years. The Office also indicates SB 171 would increase its expenditures by \$15,000 from the State General Fund in FY 2016 to implement a voter education program.

The League of Kansas Municipalities indicates SB 171 would increase expenditures for cities related to informing and educating electors on the changes in the bill; explaining changes in filing locations and deadlines to voters; updating literature; staff time to review and revise existing information packets; staff time devoted to reviewing, revising, repealing and adopting city ordinances and codes; and publication costs. The League indicates holding special elections in odd-numbered years would also increase costs. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 171 is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Sullivan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Shawn Sullivan,  
Director of the Budget

cc: Desiree Taliaferro, Secretary of State's Office  
Melissa Wangemann, KAC  
Larry Baer, LKM