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**SF 487** – County Supervisor and City Official Vacancies, Special Elections (LSB2173SV)  
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Fiscal Note Version – New

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### **Description**

**Senate File 487** relates to special elections to fill vacancies in county boards of supervisors and elective city offices. The Bill changes the number of signatures required on a petition to fill a vacancy in an office of county supervisor or elective city office to at least 2.0% of the votes cast in the previous election.

### **Background**

For county supervisors, petitions are valid if total voter signatures in the county equal to 10.0% of the votes cast in the county for the office of President of the United States or Governor at the preceding general election. Iowa Code section [372.13](#) indicates the percentage of voters required to sign a petition for the petition to be deemed valid for a special election of city officials. Under Iowa Code section 372.13, petitions in cities with a population of 50,000 or less must have the signatures of at least 15.0% of the voters who voted at the preceding regular election. Petitions in cities with a population of more than 50,000 must have the signatures of at least 10.0% of the voters who voted at the preceding regular election.

### **Assumptions**

- Counties holding special elections for boards of supervisors as a result of a valid petition may experience an estimated cost per county between \$1,000 and \$185,000, depending on the number of registered voters in the county. However, the frequency and location of these vacancies and petitions cannot be estimated.
- Cities holding special elections for elective city offices as a result of a valid petition may experience an estimated cost per city between \$750 and \$260,000, depending on the number of registered voters in the city. However, the frequency and location of these vacancies and petitions cannot be estimated.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Counties that hold special elections for the board of supervisors may make expenditures between \$1,000 and \$185,000 for each special election held.

Cities that hold special elections for elective city offices may make expenditures between \$750 and \$260,000 for each special election held.

### **Source**

Iowa State Association of Counties

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/s/ Jennifer Acton

March 27, 2023

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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