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[SF 568](#) – Election Omnibus (LSB1717SV)

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Fiscal Note Version – New

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## **Description**

[Senate File 568](#) relates to the conduct of elections, including various changes regarding nominations, proposed amendments to the Iowa Constitution, public measures, holding multiple elective offices, voter registration, ballots, voter identification, reporting election results, election audits, presidential elector per-diem, and county seals. Sections 23 and 36 of the Bill have been identified as having potential fiscal impacts.

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**Section 23:** Requires the county commissioners to mail notifications to all registered voters eligible to vote on a public measure no later than 20 days before the election for public measures regarding the approval of the issuance of a bond.

## **Background**

Iowa Code section [39.2](#) governs special elections on public measures and sets the following dates on which a public measure election may be held throughout the year:

- First Tuesday after the first Monday in March.
- Second Tuesday in September.
- Day of the regular city/school election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of an odd-numbered year.

The Iowa Association of School Boards (ISAB) reported that between FY 2016 and FY 2020, there were 145 bond-approval elections for school districts across the State.

## **Assumptions**

- The cost per county will depend on whether the public measure is at the county-level, city-level, or school-district level, and the number of registered voters eligible to vote.
- The cost per county per fiscal year will depend on the number of bond-approval public measures held each fiscal year.
- The cost per county may depend on the method of mailing (letter or postcard) and whether the mailings are done in-house or outsourced.
- For estimation purposes, it is assumed that counties will outsource the mailings to a local print shop.
- For estimation purposes, the calculations are based on an estimate provided to a medium-sized county from a local print shop for a letter mailing. These estimates include the cost of the letter, envelope, labor, and postage.
- For estimation purposes, the calculations assume that the price per mailing for the first 1,000 letters would be \$0.69; for the next 22,000 letters, \$0.52; and for every additional letter above 23,000, \$.051.

## **Fiscal Impact**

The effect on county expenditures depends on the number of registered voters within a municipality affected by an election for a public measure to approve the issuance of a bond.

**Table 1** includes examples of potential costs per election based on the number of registered voters:

**Table 1: Estimated Cost for Mailings per Election Based on Registered Voters**

<b>Number of Registered Voters</b>	<b>Estimated Cost per Mailing</b>	<b>Estimated Cost per Election</b>
1,000	\$ 0.69	\$ 690
10,000	0.52	5,200
25,000	0.51	12,750
50,000	0.51	25,500
100,000	0.51	51,000
300,000	0.51	153,000

The Bill allows the costs of notifications to be charged to the entity requesting the public measure.

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**Section 36:** Requires the Secretary of State (SOS) Office to order an audit of all elections. Post-election audits are currently required following each general election.

**Assumptions**

- For estimation purposes, counties may hire between six to eight individuals to conduct the audit at approximately \$11 per hour.
- For estimation purposes, post-election audits may take approximately 1.5 hours to complete.

**Fiscal Impact**

Senate File 568 is estimated to cost counties between \$100 and \$200 per post-election audit. Costs will vary based on the number and size of special elections conducted in a given year.

**Sources**

Office of the Secretary of State  
Iowa State Association of Counties  
Iowa Association of School Boards  
LSA Calculations

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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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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