

**House File 566 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 566  
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE  
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 166)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to political subdivision elections by changing  
2 the date of the election of directors of local school  
3 districts, merged areas, and area education agency boards,  
4 by providing for the combined administration of regular  
5 and special school and city elections, making changes to  
6 the administration of elections for political subdivisions  
7 located in more than one county, establishing requirements  
8 for ballot arrangement and placement for political  
9 subdivision offices, and including effective date and  
10 applicability and transition provisions.  
11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

DIVISION I

ELECTION DAY FOR REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTIONS

1  
2  
3 Section 1. Section 39.2, subsection 4, paragraph c, Code  
4 2017, is amended to read as follows:

5 c. For a school district or merged area, in the odd-numbered  
6 year, the first Tuesday in ~~February~~ March, the first Tuesday in  
7 ~~April~~ May, the ~~last~~ first Tuesday in ~~June~~ August, or the ~~second~~  
8 first Tuesday after the first Monday in ~~September~~ November.

9 For a school district or merged area, in the even-numbered  
10 year, the first Tuesday in ~~February~~ March, the first Tuesday  
11 in ~~April~~ May, the ~~second~~ first Tuesday in ~~September~~ August, or  
12 the first Tuesday in December.

13 Sec. 2. Section 260C.12, subsection 1, Code 2017, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 1. The board of directors of the merged area shall organize  
16 at the first regular meeting in ~~October~~ January of each  
17 even-numbered year following the regular school election.

18 Organization of the board shall be effected by the election  
19 of a president and other officers from the board membership  
20 as board members determine. The board of directors shall  
21 appoint a secretary and a treasurer who shall each give bond  
22 as prescribed in [section 291.2](#) and who shall each receive the  
23 salary determined by the board. The secretary and treasurer  
24 shall perform duties under [chapter 291](#) and additional duties  
25 the board of directors deems necessary. However, the board may  
26 appoint one person to serve as the secretary and treasurer.  
27 If one person serves as the secretary and treasurer, only one  
28 bond is necessary for that person. The frequency of meetings  
29 other than organizational meetings shall be as determined by  
30 the board of directors but the president or a majority of the  
31 members may call a special meeting at any time.

32 Sec. 3. Section 260C.13, subsection 1, Code 2017, is amended  
33 to read as follows:

34 1. The board of a merged area may change the number of  
35 directors on the board and shall make corresponding changes

1 in the boundaries of director districts. Changes shall be  
2 completed not later than ~~June~~ August 1 of the year of the  
3 regular school election. As soon as possible after adoption  
4 of the boundary changes, notice of changes in the director  
5 district boundaries shall be submitted by the merged area to  
6 the county commissioner of elections in all counties included  
7 in whole or in part in the merged area.

8 Sec. 4. Section 260C.15, subsection 5, Code 2017, is amended  
9 to read as follows:

10 5. The votes cast in the election shall be canvassed and  
11 abstracts of the votes cast shall be certified as required by  
12 section 277.20. In each county whose commissioner of elections  
13 is responsible under [section 47.2](#) for conducting elections  
14 held for a merged area, the county board of supervisors shall  
15 convene on the last Monday in ~~September~~ November or at the  
16 last regular board meeting in ~~September~~ November, canvass the  
17 abstracts of votes cast and declare the results of the voting.  
18 The commissioner shall at once issue certificates of election  
19 to each person declared elected, and shall certify to the  
20 merged area board in substantially the manner prescribed by  
21 section 50.27 the result of the voting on any public question  
22 submitted to the voters of the merged area. Members elected to  
23 the board of directors of a merged area shall qualify by taking  
24 the oath of office prescribed in [section 277.28](#).

25 Sec. 5. Section 273.8, subsection 2, paragraphs a and b,  
26 Code 2017, are amended to read as follows:

27 a. Notice of the election shall be published by the area  
28 education agency administrator not later than ~~July~~ September 15  
29 of the odd-numbered year in at least one newspaper of general  
30 circulation in the director district. The cost of publication  
31 shall be paid by the area education agency.

32 b. A candidate for election to the area education agency  
33 board shall file a statement of candidacy with the area  
34 education agency secretary not later than ~~August~~ October 15 of  
35 the odd-numbered year, on forms prescribed by the department

1 of education. The statement of candidacy shall include the  
2 candidate's name, address, and school district. The list of  
3 candidates shall be sent by the secretary of the area education  
4 agency in ballot form by certified mail to the presidents of  
5 the boards of directors of all school districts within the  
6 director district not later than ~~September~~ November 1. In  
7 order for the ballot to be counted, the ballot must be received  
8 in the secretary's office by the end of the normal business  
9 day on ~~September~~ November 30 or be clearly postmarked by an  
10 officially authorized postal service not later than ~~September~~  
11 November 29 and received by the secretary not later than noon  
12 on the first Monday following ~~September~~ November 30.

13 Sec. 6. Section 273.8, subsection 4, paragraph a, Code 2017,  
14 is amended to read as follows:

15 a. The board of directors of each area education agency  
16 shall meet and organize at the first regular meeting in ~~October~~  
17 December following the regular school election at a suitable  
18 place designated by the president. Directors whose terms  
19 commence at the organizational meeting shall qualify by taking  
20 the oath of office required by [section 277.28](#) at or before the  
21 organizational meeting.

22 Sec. 7. Section 273.8, subsection 6, Code 2017, is amended  
23 to read as follows:

24 6. *Change in directors.* The board of an area education  
25 agency may change the number of directors on the board and  
26 shall make corresponding changes in the boundaries of director  
27 districts. Changes shall be completed not later than ~~July~~  
28 September 1 of a ~~fiscal~~ the odd-numbered year for the director  
29 district conventions to be held the following ~~September~~  
30 November.

31 Sec. 8. Section 277.1, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
32 follows:

33 **277.1 Regular election.**

34 The regular election shall be held biennially on the ~~second~~  
35 first Tuesday after the first Monday in ~~September~~ November of

1 each odd-numbered year in each school district for the election  
2 of officers of the district and merged area and for the purpose  
3 of submitting to the voters any matter authorized by law.

4 Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act takes  
5 effect July 1, 2019.

6 Sec. 10. APPLICABILITY.

7 1. This division of this Act applies to regular school  
8 elections held on or after November 5, 2019, and to the terms  
9 of office of directors of local school districts, merged areas,  
10 and area education agencies commencing on or after that date.

11 2. Under this division of this Act, the regular school  
12 elections previously scheduled to be held in September 2019  
13 shall be held in November 2019.

14 DIVISION II

15 COMBINED ADMINISTRATION OF CITY AND SCHOOL ELECTIONS

16 Sec. 11. Section 39.2, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code 2017,  
17 is amended to read as follows:

18 b. A special election shall not be held in conjunction with  
19 the primary election. ~~A special election shall not be held in~~  
20 ~~conjunction with a school election unless the special election~~  
21 ~~is for a school district or community college.~~ A special  
22 election shall not be held in conjunction with a regularly  
23 scheduled or special city primary or city runoff election.

24 Sec. 12. Section 39.2, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended  
25 to read as follows:

26 2. Except as otherwise provided in [subsection 1](#), a special  
27 election may be held on the same day as a regularly scheduled  
28 election if the two elections are not in conflict within the  
29 meaning of [section 47.6, subsection 2](#). A special election  
30 may be held on the same day as a regularly scheduled election  
31 with which it does so conflict if the commissioner who is  
32 responsible for conducting the elections concludes that to do  
33 so will cause no undue difficulties, except that a special  
34 election for a city, school district, or merged area shall not  
35 be scheduled to coincide with the general election.

1     Sec. 13. Section 39.2, subsection 4, paragraph b, Code 2017,  
2 is amended to read as follows:

3     b. For a city, ~~on the day of the general election, on the~~  
4 ~~day of the regular city election, on the date of a special~~  
5 ~~election held to fill a vacancy in the same city, or on in~~  
6 the odd-numbered year, the first Tuesday in March, the first  
7 Tuesday in May, ~~or the first Tuesday in August of each year, or~~  
8 the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. For a  
9 city, in the even-numbered year, the first Tuesday in March,  
10 the first Tuesday in May, the first Tuesday in August, or the  
11 first Tuesday in December.

12     Sec. 14. Section 44.11, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
13 follows:

14     **44.11 Vacancies filled.**

15     If a candidate named under [this chapter](#) withdraws before the  
16 deadline established in [section 44.9](#), declines a nomination,  
17 or dies before election day, or if a certificate of nomination  
18 is held insufficient or inoperative by the officer with whom  
19 it is required to be filed, or in case any objection made  
20 to a certificate of nomination, or to the eligibility of any  
21 candidate named in the certificate, is sustained by the board  
22 appointed to determine such questions, the vacancy or vacancies  
23 may be filled by the convention, or caucus, or in such manner  
24 as such convention or caucus has previously provided. The  
25 vacancy or vacancies shall be filled not less than seventy-four  
26 days before the election in the case of nominations required  
27 to be filed with the state commissioner, not less than  
28 sixty-four days before the election in the case of nominations  
29 required to be filed with the commissioner, not less than  
30 ~~thirty-five~~ forty-two days before the election in the case of  
31 nominations required to be filed in the office of the school  
32 board secretary, and not less than forty-two days before the  
33 election in the case of nominations required to be filed with  
34 the commissioner for city elections.

35     Sec. 15. Section 47.2, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 2. When an election is to be held as required by law or  
3 is called by a political subdivision of the state and the  
4 political subdivision is located in more than one county, the  
5 county commissioner of elections of each of those counties  
6 shall conduct that election within the commissioner's county.  
7 However, the commissioner for the county having the greatest  
8 taxable base within the political subdivision shall ~~conduct~~  
9 that election serve as the controlling commissioner for  
10 the election. The controlling commissioner shall receive  
11 all nomination papers and public measures for the political  
12 subdivision. By the forty-first day prior to the election, the  
13 controlling commissioner shall certify the names of candidates  
14 and the text and summary of any public measure being submitted  
15 to the electorate to all county commissioners of elections  
16 required to conduct elections for the political subdivision.  
17 The county commissioners of elections of the other counties  
18 in which the political subdivision is located shall cooperate  
19 with the county controlling commissioner of ~~elections who is~~  
20 ~~conducting the election.~~

21 Sec. 16. Section 47.6, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended  
22 to read as follows:

23 2. For the purpose of **this section**, a conflict between  
24 two elections exists only when ~~one of the elections would~~  
25 ~~require use of precinct boundaries which differ from those~~  
26 ~~to be used for the other election, or when~~ some but not all  
27 of the registered voters of any precinct would be entitled  
28 to vote in one of the elections and all of the registered  
29 voters of the same precinct would be entitled to vote in  
30 the other election. Nothing in **this subsection** shall deny  
31 a commissioner discretionary authority to approve holding a  
32 special election on the same date as another election, even  
33 though the two elections may be defined as being in conflict,  
34 if the commissioner concludes that to do so will cause no undue  
35 difficulties.

1     Sec. 17. Section 49.9, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3     **49.9 Proper place of voting.**

4     Except as provided in [section 49.11, subsection 3](#), paragraph  
5 "b", and as required by the designation of a commissioner  
6 pursuant to section 49.21, subsection 1, a person shall not  
7 vote in any precinct but that of the person's residence.

8     Sec. 18. Section 49.21, subsection 1, Code 2017, is amended  
9 to read as follows:

10    1. a. It is the responsibility of the commissioner to  
11 designate a polling place for each precinct in the county.  
12 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for  
13 city and school elections the commissioner shall, whenever  
14 practicable, designate polling places so that an eligible  
15 elector will be assigned to vote at the same polling place  
16 at which the eligible elector would be assigned to vote at  
17 the general election. However, if a city does not have a  
18 polling place designated for the general election precinct, the  
19 commissioner may designate an additional polling place for the  
20 precinct in that city.

21    b. Each polling place designated shall be accessible to  
22 persons with disabilities. However, if the commissioner is  
23 unable to provide an accessible polling place for a precinct,  
24 the commissioner shall apply for a temporary waiver of the  
25 accessibility requirement. The state commissioner shall adopt  
26 rules in accordance with [chapter 17A](#) prescribing standards  
27 for determining whether a polling place is accessible and the  
28 process for applying for a temporary waiver of accessibility.

29     Sec. 19. Section 49.30, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
30 follows:

31     **49.30 All candidates and issues on one ballot — exceptions.**

32     1. All constitutional amendments, all public measures, and  
33 the names of all candidates, other than presidential electors,  
34 to be voted for in each election precinct, shall be printed on  
35 one ballot, except that separate ballots are authorized when it



1 is not possible to include all offices and public measures on a  
2 single ballot. In the event that it is not possible to include  
3 all offices and public measures on a single ballot, separate  
4 ballots may be provided for nonpartisan offices, judges, or  
5 public measures.

6 2. If printed on the same ballot, the offices of political  
7 subdivisions shall, if applicable, be printed in the following  
8 order:

- 9 a. Those of a county.  
10 b. Those of a city.  
11 c. Those of a school district.  
12 d. Those of a merged area.  
13 e. Those of any other political subdivision.

14 3. If printed on the same ballot, the public measures of  
15 political subdivisions shall be printed in the same order as  
16 provided for offices of the political subdivisions.

17 Sec. 20. Section 49.31, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code  
18 2017, is amended to read as follows:

19 *b.* The commissioner shall then arrange the surnames of each  
20 political party's candidates for each office to which two or  
21 more persons are to be elected at large alphabetically for  
22 the respective offices for the first precinct on the list;  
23 thereafter, for each political party and for each succeeding  
24 precinct, the names appearing first for the respective offices  
25 in the last preceding precinct shall be placed last, so that  
26 the names that were second before the change shall be first  
27 after the change. The commissioner may also rotate the names  
28 of candidates of a political party in the reverse order of that  
29 provided in [this subsection](#) or alternate the rotation so that  
30 the candidates of different parties shall not be paired as they  
31 proceed through the rotation. ~~The procedure for arrangement~~  
32 ~~of names on ballots provided in [this section](#) shall likewise be~~  
33 ~~substantially followed in elections in political subdivisions~~  
34 ~~of less than a county.~~

35 Sec. 21. Section 49.31, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended

1 by adding the following new paragraph:

2 NEW PARAGRAPH. *d.* On the regular and special city election  
3 and school election ballots the names of candidates for city,  
4 school district, and merged area offices shall be arranged  
5 by drawing lots for position. The commissioner shall hold  
6 the drawing on the second business day following the deadline  
7 for filing of nomination papers or petitions under sections  
8 260C.15, 277.4, and 376.4. If a candidate withdraws, dies, or  
9 is removed from the ballot after the ballot position of names  
10 has been determined, such candidate's name shall be removed  
11 from the ballot, and the order of the remaining names shall not  
12 be changed.

13 Sec. 22. Section 49.31, subsection 3, Code 2017, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 3. The Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2,  
16 paragraph "d", the ballots for any ~~city elections, school~~  
17 ~~elections,~~ special election, or any other election at which  
18 any office is to be filled on a nonpartisan basis and the  
19 statutes governing the office to be filled are silent as to  
20 the arrangement of names on the ballot, shall contain the  
21 names of all nominees or candidates arranged in alphabetical  
22 order by surname under the heading of the office to be filled.  
23 ~~When~~ Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, paragraph  
24 "d", when a ~~city election, school election,~~ special election,  
25 or any other election at which an office is to be filled on  
26 a nonpartisan basis, is held in more than one precinct, the  
27 candidates' names shall be rotated on the ballot from precinct  
28 to precinct in the manner prescribed by [subsection 2](#) unless  
29 there are no more candidates for an office than the number of  
30 persons to be elected to that office.

31 Sec. 23. Section 49.41, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
32 2017, is amended to read as follows:

33 *a.* A person shall not be a candidate for more than one  
34 office to be filled at the same election, except that a person  
35 may be a candidate for a city office and school board office at

1 the same election. A person who has been nominated for more  
2 than one office and is prohibited from being a candidate for  
3 more than one office shall file a written notice declaring the  
4 office for which the person wishes to appear on the ballot.

5 Sec. 24. Section 49.51, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
6 follows:

7 **49.51 Commissioner to control printing.**

8 The commissioner shall have charge of the printing of the  
9 ballots to be used for any election held in the county, ~~unless~~  
10 ~~the commissioner delegates that authority as permitted by this~~  
11 ~~section. The commissioner may delegate this authority only~~  
12 ~~to another commissioner who is responsible under section 47.2~~  
13 ~~for conducting the elections held for a political subdivision~~  
14 ~~which lies in more than one county, and only with respect to~~  
15 ~~printing of ballots containing only public questions or the~~  
16 ~~names of candidates to be voted upon by the registered voters~~  
17 ~~of that political subdivision. Only one facsimile signature,~~  
18 ~~that of the commissioner under whose direction the ballot is~~  
19 ~~printed, shall appear on the ballot. It is the duty of the~~  
20 ~~commissioner to insure that the arrangement of any ballots~~  
21 ~~printed under the commissioner's direction conforms to all~~  
22 ~~applicable requirements of [this chapter](#).~~

23 Sec. 25. Section 49.73, subsection 1, paragraphs a and b,  
24 Code 2017, are amended by striking the paragraphs.

25 Sec. 26. Section 49.73, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended  
26 to read as follows:

27 2. ~~The commissioner shall not shorten voting hours for any~~  
28 ~~election if there is filed in the commissioner's office, at~~  
29 ~~least twenty-five days before the election, a petition signed~~  
30 ~~by at least fifty eligible electors of the school district~~  
31 ~~or city, as the case may be, requesting that the polls be~~  
32 ~~opened not later than 7:00 a.m. All polling places where the~~  
33 ~~candidates of or any public question submitted by any one~~  
34 ~~political subdivision are being voted upon shall be opened at~~  
35 ~~the same hour, except that this requirement shall not apply~~

1 ~~to merged areas established under chapter 260C~~. The hours at  
2 which the respective precinct polling places are to open shall  
3 not be changed after publication of the notice required by  
4 section 49.53. The polling places shall be closed at 9:00 p.m.  
5 for state primary and general elections and other partisan  
6 elections, and for any other election held concurrently  
7 therewith, and at 8:00 p.m. for all other elections.

8 Sec. 27. Section 50.11, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
9 follows:

10 **50.11 Proclamation of result.**

11 1. When the canvass is completed one of the precinct  
12 election officials shall publicly announce the total number of  
13 votes received by each of the persons voted for, the office for  
14 which the person is designated, as announced by the designated  
15 tally keepers, and the number of votes for, and the number of  
16 votes against, any proposition which shall have been submitted  
17 to a vote of the people. A precinct election official shall  
18 communicate the election results by telephone or in person to  
19 the commissioner who is conducting the election immediately  
20 upon completion of the canvass.

21 2. Election results may be transmitted electronically from  
22 voting equipment to the commissioner's office only after the  
23 precinct election officials have produced a written report of  
24 the election results. The devices used for the electronic  
25 transmission of election results shall be approved for use  
26 by the board of examiners pursuant to [section 52.41](#). The  
27 state commissioner of elections shall adopt rules establishing  
28 procedures for the electronic transmission of election results.

29 3. The commissioner shall remain on duty until such  
30 information is communicated to the commissioner from each  
31 polling place in the commissioner's county. For an election  
32 for a political subdivision that is located in more than one  
33 county, the commissioner shall, if applicable, communicate  
34 that county's election results for the political subdivision  
35 to the controlling commissioner for that political subdivision

1 under section 47.2, and the controlling commissioner shall  
2 remain on duty until such information is communicated to  
3 the controlling commissioner from each commissioner for the  
4 political subdivision.

5 Sec. 28. Section 50.24, Code 2017, is amended by adding the  
6 following new subsections:

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 3A. For a regular or special city election  
8 or a city runoff election, if the city is located in more than  
9 one county, the controlling commissioner for that city under  
10 section 47.2 shall conduct a second canvass on the second  
11 Monday or Tuesday after the day of the election. However, if a  
12 recount is requested pursuant to section 50.48, the controlling  
13 commissioner shall conduct the second canvass within two  
14 business days after the conclusion of the recount proceedings.  
15 Each commissioner conducting a canvass for the city pursuant  
16 to subsection 1 shall transmit abstracts for the offices and  
17 public measures of that city to the controlling commissioner  
18 for that city, along with individual tallies for each write-in  
19 candidate. At the second canvass, the county board of  
20 supervisors of the county of the controlling commissioner shall  
21 canvass the abstracts received pursuant to this subsection and  
22 shall prepare a combined city abstract stating the number of  
23 votes cast in the city for each office and on each question on  
24 the ballot for the city election. The combined city abstract  
25 shall further indicate the name of each person who received  
26 votes for each office on the ballot, the number of votes each  
27 person named received for that office, and the number of votes  
28 for and against each question submitted to the voters at the  
29 election. The votes of all write-in candidates who each  
30 received less than five percent of the total votes cast in the  
31 city for an office shall be reported collectively under the  
32 heading "scattering".

33 NEW SUBSECTION. 3B. a. For a regular or special school  
34 election, if the school district is located in more than one  
35 county, the controlling commissioner for that school district

1 under section 47.2 shall conduct a second canvass on the second  
2 Monday or Tuesday after the day of election. However, if a  
3 recount is requested pursuant to section 50.48, the controlling  
4 commissioner shall conduct the second canvass within two  
5 business days after the conclusion of the recount proceedings.  
6 Each commissioner conducting a canvass for the school district  
7 pursuant to subsection 1 shall transmit abstracts for the  
8 offices and public measures of that school district to the  
9 controlling commissioner for that school district, along with  
10 individual tallies for each write-in candidate. At the second  
11 canvass the county board of supervisors of the controlling  
12 county shall canvass the abstracts received pursuant to  
13 this subsection and shall prepare a combined school district  
14 abstract stating the number of votes cast in the school  
15 district for each office and on each question on the ballot for  
16 the school election. The combined school district abstract  
17 shall further indicate the name of each person who received  
18 votes for each office on the ballot, the number of votes each  
19 person named received for that office, and the number of votes  
20 for and against each question submitted to the voters at the  
21 election. The votes of all write-in candidates who each  
22 received less than five percent of the total votes cast in the  
23 school district for an office shall be reported collectively  
24 under the heading "scattering".

25 *b.* The second canvass of votes for a merged area shall be  
26 conducted pursuant to section 260C.15, subsection 5, and each  
27 commissioner conducting a canvass for the merged area pursuant  
28 to subsection 1 shall transmit abstracts for the offices and  
29 public measures of that school district to the controlling  
30 commissioner for that merged area, along with individual  
31 tallies for each write-in candidate.

32 Sec. 29. Section 50.48, subsection 1, paragraph a,  
33 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
34 follows:

35 The county board of canvassers shall order a recount of the

1 votes cast for a particular office or nomination in one or  
2 more specified election precincts in that county if a written  
3 request ~~therefor~~ for a recount is made not later than 5:00 p.m.  
4 on the third day following the county board's canvass of the  
5 election in question. For a city runoff election held pursuant  
6 to section 376.9, the written request must be made not later  
7 than 5:00 p.m. on the day following the county board's canvass  
8 of the city runoff election. The request shall be filed with  
9 the commissioner of that county, ~~or with the commissioner~~  
10 ~~responsible for conducting the election if section 47.2,~~  
11 ~~subsection 2, is applicable,~~ and shall be signed by either of  
12 the following:

13     Sec. 30. Section 52.25, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code  
14 2017, is amended to read as follows:

15     **b.** In the case of a public question to be voted on in  
16 a political subdivision lying in more than one county, the  
17 summary shall be worded by the controlling commissioner  
18 ~~responsible~~ under [section 47.2](#) for ~~conducting~~ that election.

19     Sec. 31. Section 53.40, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
20 2017, is amended to read as follows:

21     **a.** A request in writing for a ballot may be made by any  
22 member of the armed forces of the United States who is or  
23 will be a qualified voter on the day of the election at which  
24 the ballot is to be cast, at any time before the election.  
25 Any member of the armed forces of the United States may  
26 request ballots for all elections to be held during a calendar  
27 year. The request may be made by using the federal postcard  
28 application form and indicating that the applicant wishes to  
29 receive ballots for all elections as permitted by state law.  
30 If the applicant does not specify which elections the request  
31 is for, the county commissioner shall send the applicant a  
32 ballot for each federal election held after the application  
33 is received until the end of the calendar year in which the  
34 request is received. ~~If the applicant requests ballots for all~~  
35 ~~elections to be held in a calendar year, the commissioner, if~~

1 ~~necessary, shall forward a copy of the absentee ballot request~~  
2 ~~to other commissioners who are responsible under section 47.2,~~  
3 ~~subsection 2, for conducting elections in which the applicant~~  
4 ~~is eligible to vote.~~

5 Sec. 32. Section 260C.15, subsection 3, Code 2017, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 3. Nomination papers on behalf of candidates for member of  
8 the board of directors of a merged area shall be filed with the  
9 secretary of the board not earlier than ~~sixty-four~~ seventy-one  
10 days nor later than 5:00 p.m. on the ~~fortieth~~ forty-seventh day  
11 prior to the election at which members of the board are to be  
12 elected. On the day following the last day on which nomination  
13 petitions can be filed, and no later than 5:00 p.m. on that  
14 day, the secretary shall deliver all nomination petitions so  
15 filed, together with the text of any public measure being  
16 submitted by the board of directors to the electorate, to the  
17 merged area's controlling county commissioner of elections ~~who~~  
18 ~~is responsible under section 47.2 for conducting elections~~  
19 ~~held for the merged area.~~ That controlling commissioner shall  
20 certify the names of candidates, and the text and summary of  
21 any public measure being submitted to the electorate, to all  
22 county commissioners of elections in the merged area by the  
23 ~~thirty-fifth~~ forty-second day prior to the election.

24 Sec. 33. Section 260C.15, subsection 4, paragraph b, Code  
25 2017, is amended to read as follows:

26 b. The objection must be filed with the secretary of the  
27 board at least ~~thirty-five~~ forty-two days before the day of  
28 the election at which members of the board are elected. When  
29 objections are filed, notice shall immediately be given to  
30 the candidate affected, addressed to the candidate's place  
31 of residence as given on the candidate's affidavit, stating  
32 that objections have been made to the legal sufficiency of  
33 the petition or to the eligibility of the candidate, and also  
34 stating the time and place the objections will be considered.  
35 The board secretary shall also attempt to notify the candidate



1 by telephone if the candidate provided a telephone number on  
2 the candidate's affidavit.

3 Sec. 34. Section 260C.15, subsection 5, Code 2017, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 5. The votes cast in the election shall be canvassed and  
6 abstracts of the votes cast shall be certified as required by  
7 section 277.20. In each county whose commissioner of elections  
8 is ~~responsible~~ the controlling commissioner for a merged area  
9 under section 47.2 ~~for conducting elections held for a merged~~  
10 ~~area~~, the county board of supervisors shall convene on the last  
11 Monday in September or at the last regular board meeting in  
12 September, canvass the abstracts of votes cast from each county  
13 in the merged area, and declare the results of the voting. The  
14 commissioner shall at once issue certificates of election to  
15 each person declared elected, and shall certify to the merged  
16 area board in substantially the manner prescribed by section  
17 50.27 the result of the voting on any public question submitted  
18 to the voters of the merged area. Members elected to the board  
19 of directors of a merged area shall qualify by taking the oath  
20 of office prescribed in section 277.28.

21 Sec. 35. Section 260C.22, subsection 3, Code 2017, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 3. A voted tax imposed under this section may be  
24 discontinued, or its maximum rate increased, by petition and  
25 election. Upon receipt of a petition containing the required  
26 number of signatures, the board of directors of a merged  
27 area shall direct ~~the~~ each county commissioner of elections  
28 responsible under section 47.2 for conducting elections in the  
29 merged area to submit to the voters of the merged area the  
30 question of whether to discontinue the authority of the board  
31 of directors to impose the voted tax under this section or  
32 to increase the maximum rate of the voted tax, whichever is  
33 applicable. The petition must be signed by eligible electors  
34 equal in number to not less than twenty-five percent of the  
35 votes cast at the last preceding election in the merged area

1 where the question of the imposition of the tax appeared on the  
 2 ballot and received by the board of directors by June 1 of the  
 3 year in which the election is to be held. The question shall  
 4 be submitted at an election held on a date authorized for an  
 5 election under [subsection 1](#), paragraph "a". If a majority of  
 6 those voting on the question of discontinuance of the board of  
 7 directors' authority to impose the tax favors discontinuance,  
 8 the board shall not impose the tax for any fiscal year  
 9 beginning after expiration of the period of time for imposing  
 10 the tax approved at the last election under [subsection 1](#) or the  
 11 period of time for imposing the tax established by resolution  
 12 of the board under [subsection 2](#) that is in effect on the  
 13 date the petition for the election is filed with the board,  
 14 whichever is applicable, unless following discontinuance the  
 15 voted tax is again authorized at election under [subsection 1](#).  
 16 If the question of whether to discontinue the authority of the  
 17 board of directors to impose the tax fails to gain approval at  
 18 election, the question shall not be submitted to the voters of  
 19 the merged area for a period of ten years following the date of  
 20 the election. If a majority of those voting on the question to  
 21 increase the maximum rate of the voted tax favors the proposed  
 22 increase, the new maximum rate shall apply to fiscal years  
 23 beginning after the date of the election.

24 Sec. 36. Section 260C.28, subsection 3, paragraph c, Code  
 25 2017, is amended to read as follows:

26 c. The additional tax authorized under [subsection 2](#) may  
 27 be discontinued by petition and election. Upon receipt of a  
 28 petition containing the required number of signatures, the  
 29 board of directors of a merged area shall direct ~~the~~ each  
 30 county commissioner of elections responsible under section  
 31 47.2 for conducting elections in the merged area to submit  
 32 to the voters of the merged area the question of whether  
 33 to discontinue the authority of the board of directors to  
 34 impose the additional tax under [subsection 2](#). The petition  
 35 must be signed by eligible electors equal in number to not

1 less than twenty-five percent of the votes cast at the last  
 2 preceding election in the merged area where the question of  
 3 the imposition of the additional tax appeared on the ballot.  
 4 The question shall be submitted at an election held on a date  
 5 specified in [section 39.2, subsection 4](#), paragraph "c". If  
 6 a majority of those voting on the question of discontinuance  
 7 of the board of directors' authority to impose the additional  
 8 tax favors discontinuance, the board shall not impose the  
 9 additional tax for any fiscal year beginning after the  
 10 expiration of the period of time for imposing the tax approved  
 11 at the last election under paragraph "a" or the period of time  
 12 for imposing the additional tax established by resolution of  
 13 the board under paragraph "b" that is in effect on the date the  
 14 petition for the election is filed with the board, whichever  
 15 is applicable, unless following discontinuance the additional  
 16 tax is again authorized at election under paragraph "a". If  
 17 the question of whether to discontinue the authority of the  
 18 board of directors to impose the additional tax fails to gain  
 19 approval at election, the question shall not be submitted  
 20 to the voters of the merged area for a period of ten years  
 21 following the date of the election.

22 Sec. 37. Section 275.22, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
 23 follows:

24 **275.22 Canvass and return.**

25 ~~The precinct election officials shall count the ballots,~~  
 26 ~~and make return to and deposit the ballots with the county~~  
 27 ~~commissioner of elections, who shall enter the return of record~~  
 28 ~~in the commissioner's office. The election tally lists,~~  
 29 ~~including absentee ballots, shall be listed by individual~~  
 30 ~~school district. The canvass shall be conducted pursuant~~  
 31 ~~to section 50.24. The county commissioner of elections or~~  
 32 ~~controlling commissioner shall certify the results of the~~  
 33 election to the area education agency administrator. If the  
 34 majority of the votes cast by the registered voters is in favor  
 35 of the proposition, as provided in [section 275.20](#), a new school

1 corporation shall be organized. If the majority of votes cast  
2 is opposed to the proposition, a new petition describing the  
3 identical or similar boundaries shall not be filed for at least  
4 six months from the date of the election. If territory is  
5 excluded from the reorganized district, action pursuant to  
6 section 274.37 shall be taken prior to the effective date of  
7 reorganization. The secretary of the new school corporation  
8 shall file a written description of the boundaries as provided  
9 in [section 274.4](#).

10 Sec. 38. Section 277.4, subsection 1, Code 2017, is amended  
11 to read as follows:

12 1. Nomination papers for all candidates for election  
13 to office in each school district shall be filed with the  
14 secretary of the school board not more than ~~sixty-four~~  
15 seventy-one days, nor less than ~~forty~~ forty-seven days before  
16 the election. Nomination petitions shall be filed not later  
17 than 5:00 p.m. on the last day for filing. If the school  
18 board secretary is not readily available during normal office  
19 hours, the secretary may designate a full-time employee of  
20 the school district who is ordinarily available to accept  
21 nomination papers under [this section](#). On the final date for  
22 filing nomination papers the office of the school secretary  
23 shall remain open until 5:00 p.m.

24 Sec. 39. Section 277.5, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
25 follows:

26 **277.5 Objections to nominations.**

27 1. Objections to the legal sufficiency of a nomination  
28 petition or to the eligibility of a candidate may be filed by  
29 any person who would have the right to vote for a candidate for  
30 the office in question. The objection must be filed with the  
31 secretary of the school board at least ~~thirty-five~~ forty-two  
32 days before the day of the school election. When objections  
33 are filed notice shall forthwith be given to the candidate  
34 affected, addressed to the candidate's place of residence as  
35 given on the candidate's affidavit, stating that objections

1 have been made to the legal sufficiency of the petition or to  
2 the eligibility of the candidate, and also stating the time and  
3 place the objections will be considered.

4 2. Objections shall be considered not later than two working  
5 days following the receipt of the objections by the president  
6 of the school board, the secretary of the school board, and  
7 one additional member of the school board chosen by ballot.  
8 If objections have been filed to the nominations of either of  
9 those school officials, that official shall not pass on the  
10 objection. The official's place shall be filled by a member  
11 of the school board against whom no objection exists. The  
12 replacement shall be chosen by ballot.

13 Sec. 40. Section 277.20, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
14 follows:

15 **277.20 Canvassing returns.**

16 1. ~~On the next Friday after the regular school election, the~~  
17 ~~county board of supervisors shall~~ The canvass the of returns  
18 ~~made to the county commissioner of elections from the several~~  
19 ~~precinct polling places and the absentee ballot counting board,~~  
20 ~~ascertain the result of the voting with regard to every matter~~  
21 ~~voted upon and cause a record to be made thereof as required~~  
22 ~~by~~ shall be conducted pursuant to [section 50.24](#). Special  
23 elections held in school districts shall be canvassed at the  
24 time and in the manner required by ~~that~~ [section 50.24](#). The  
25 appropriate board of supervisors shall declare the results  
26 of the voting for members of boards of directors of school  
27 corporations nominated pursuant to [section 277.4](#), and the  
28 commissioner of elections or controlling commissioner for the  
29 district shall at once issue a certificate of election to  
30 each person declared elected. The appropriate board shall  
31 also declare the results of the voting on any public question  
32 submitted to the voters of a single school district, and the  
33 commissioner or controlling commissioner shall certify the  
34 result as required by [section 50.27](#).

35 2. The abstracts of the votes cast for members of the board

1 of directors of any merged area, and of the votes cast on any  
2 public question submitted to the voters of any merged area,  
3 shall be promptly certified by the county commissioner of  
4 elections to the merged area's controlling county commissioner  
5 ~~of elections who is responsible under section 47.2 for~~  
6 ~~conducting the elections held for that merged area.~~

7 Sec. 41. Section 376.6, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended  
8 to read as follows:

9 2. Each city clerk shall certify to the city's controlling  
10 commissioner of elections responsible under section 47.2 for  
11 ~~conducting elections for that city~~ the type of nomination  
12 process to be used for the city no later than ninety days  
13 before the date of the regular city election. If the city has  
14 by ordinance chosen a runoff election or has chosen to have  
15 nominations made in the manner provided by chapter 44 or 45,  
16 or has repealed nomination provisions under those sections  
17 in preference for the primary election method, a copy of the  
18 city ordinance shall be attached. No changes in the method of  
19 nomination to be used in a city shall be made after the clerk  
20 has filed the certification with the commissioner, unless the  
21 change will not take effect until after the next regular city  
22 election.

23 Sec. 42. Section 376.9, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended  
24 to read as follows:

25 2. a. Runoff elections shall be held four weeks after the  
26 date of the regular city election and shall be conducted in the  
27 same manner as regular city elections, except that the county  
28 board of supervisors required to canvass the vote of the runoff  
29 election pursuant to section 50.24 shall meet to canvass the  
30 vote on the Thursday following the runoff election.

31 b. For a city that is located in more than one county,  
32 the county board of supervisors conducting the canvass under  
33 paragraph "a" shall transmit abstracts for the offices and  
34 public measures of that city, along with individual tallies for  
35 each write-in candidate, to the city's controlling commissioner

1 under section 47.2 within twenty-four hours of completing the  
2 canvass. The county board of supervisors of the county of the  
3 controlling commissioner shall canvass the abstracts received  
4 pursuant to this subsection on the first Monday or the first  
5 Tuesday after the day of the runoff election and shall proceed  
6 as provided in section 50.24, subsection 3A.

7 Sec. 43. REPEAL. Section 277.6, Code 2017, is repealed.

8 Sec. 44. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act takes  
9 effect July 1, 2019.

10 DIVISION III

11 TRANSITION PROVISIONS

12 Sec. 45. TERM OF OFFICE — TRANSITION PROVISIONS.

13 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 260C.11  
14 designating a term of four years for members of a board of  
15 directors of a merged area, the term of office for a seat on a  
16 board of directors filled at the regular school election held  
17 on:

18 a. September 8, 2015, shall expire November 5, 2019.

19 b. September 12, 2017, shall expire November 2, 2021.

20 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 273.8,  
21 subsection 1, designating a term of four years for members of  
22 a board of directors of an area education agency, the term of  
23 office for a seat on a board of directors filled by election  
24 in:

25 a. September 2015 shall expire November 30, 2019.

26 b. September 2017 shall expire November 30, 2021.

27 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 274.7  
28 designating a term of four years for members of a board of  
29 directors of a school district, the term of office for a seat  
30 on a board of directors filled at the regular school election  
31 held on:

32 a. September 8, 2015, shall expire November 5, 2019.

33 b. September 12, 2017, shall expire November 2, 2021.

34 EXPLANATION

35 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2       This bill changes the date of regular school elections  
3 for local school districts, merged areas, and area education  
4 agencies and provides for combined administration of city and  
5 school elections.

6       Division I of the bill moves the date of the regular school  
7 election from the second Tuesday in September in odd-numbered  
8 years to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November  
9 of odd-numbered years, which is also the date of the regular  
10 city election. Because area education agency boards of  
11 directors are elected at the director district conventions by  
12 members of school boards, the division also changes the date  
13 of their election from September to November. The division  
14 also makes the dates of school district and merged area special  
15 elections the same as the dates for special elections for  
16 cities in division II of the bill.

17       Division I takes effect July 1, 2019, and applies to school  
18 elections held on or after November 5, 2019.

19       Division II of the bill provides for the combined  
20 administration of city and school elections by changing  
21 certain school filing, withdrawal, and objection deadlines  
22 to mirror those of city elections. Under the division, a  
23 county commissioner of elections (county auditor) is required,  
24 whenever practicable, to designate polling places so that  
25 eligible voters will be assigned to the same polling place for  
26 general elections, city elections, and school elections. Under  
27 the division, polling hours for city and school elections will  
28 be from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Under the division, special  
29 elections for cities, school districts, and merged areas can  
30 not be scheduled to coincide with the general election.

31       For the regular school election, the division changes the  
32 time period for filing nomination papers with the secretary  
33 of the school board to not more than 71 days nor less than 47  
34 days before the election. Under current law, the filing time  
35 period is not more than 64 days nor less than 40 days before



1 the election. In addition, for school elections, the deadline  
2 for filing a withdrawal of candidacy is changed from 35 days  
3 to 42 days, and the deadline for filling a nomination vacancy  
4 at convention or caucus is changed from 35 to 42 days before  
5 the election.

6 Under current law, when a political subdivision is located  
7 in more than one county, the county commissioner of elections  
8 of the county having the greatest taxable base within the  
9 political subdivision is required to conduct elections for  
10 the political subdivision. Under the division, the county  
11 commissioners of each of the counties where the political  
12 subdivision is located are required to conduct the election  
13 in the commissioner's county, but the division provides that  
14 a controlling county commissioner be responsible for certain  
15 election functions for those political subdivisions located  
16 in more than one county. The designation of a controlling  
17 county commissioner is based on the taxable base within the  
18 political subdivision. Under the division, the controlling  
19 commissioner is required to conduct a second canvass of city  
20 and school elections for political subdivisions located in more  
21 than one county. The division makes additional changes related  
22 to the administration and conduct of canvasses and recounts for  
23 regular and special city and school elections and city runoff  
24 elections.

25 The division also establishes an order for the appearance on  
26 the ballot of political subdivision offices and ballot measures  
27 and requires the drawing of lots for placement of names on  
28 ballots for city and school elections. Under current law, the  
29 names of such candidates are subject to rotation on ballots by  
30 precinct. The division also specifies that a candidate's name  
31 may appear on the ballot for both school and city office in the  
32 same election. Division II takes effect July 1, 2019.

33 Division III of the bill includes transition provisions  
34 related to the terms of office for seats on boards of directors  
35 for school districts, merged areas, and area education

1 agencies.