

**MISSOURI STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE
FISCAL NOTE (05-09)**

Subject

Initiative petition from Jerald A. Hochsztein regarding a constitutional amendment allowing candidates to file with multiple political parties. (Received October 11, 2005)

Date

October 31, 2005

Description

The initiative petition would amend the Constitution of Missouri by creating one new section to be known as Section 8 of Article VIII. This proposed amendment would allow candidates to file with multiple political parties.

Public comments and other input

The State Auditor's Office solicited input from the Secretary of State's Office, the Boone County Clerk, the Cole County Clerk, the Greene County Clerk, the Jackson County Board of Election Commissioners, and the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners.

Assumptions

Officials from the Secretary of State's office indicated that the proposed petition language would have no fiscal impact on the Secretary of State's office. However, it would have a fiscal impact on Missouri's local election authorities. The extent of the fiscal impact at the local level is unknown.

The Cole County Clerk was unable to estimate the fiscal impact of the proposed legislation.

The St. Louis County Directors of Elections indicated the proposed legislation would not involve any additional expenditure of public funds to enforce.

The Boone County Clerk indicated the ballot format mandated would not be compatible with the formats on almost all the ballot counting equipment that will be purchased over the next few months. It does not appear the equipment currently certified for use in Missouri can potentially format multiple political parties as mandated. It will cost millions to either replace or retrofit equipment to do this and because of voter usability testing guidelines at the federal level may not be allowed.

Officials from the Jackson County Board of Election Commissioners indicated there would be minimal to no fiscal impact to implement the proposed amendment.

We did not receive a response from the Greene County Clerk.

Fiscal Note Summary

The proposed constitutional amendment would have an estimated zero fiscal impact on state government. Fiscal impact on local government is unknown.