



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 49** SLS 26RS 30
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 17, 2026 9:54 AM **Author:** SEABAUGH
Dept./Agy.: Secretary of State **Analyst:** Kimberly Fruge
Subject: Removes BESE from Party Primary Election

ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT EG -\$5,428,000 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Removes the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education from the list of party primary elections. (8/1/26)

Proposed law removes the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education from the list of offices that are included in the party primary election.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	(\$5,428,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$5,428,000)	(\$10,856,000)
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	INCREASE	\$0	\$0	\$0	INCREASE	\$0
Annual Total		\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	INCREASE	\$0	\$0	\$0	INCREASE	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total		\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will result in a decrease of \$5.4 M in SGF expenditures by the Secretary of State and an indeterminable increase in Local Fund expenditures in FY 27 and FY 31 to remove BESE from the list of offices that are included in the party primary system.

Secretary of State

Proposed law will result in a decrease of approximately \$5.4 M in gubernatorial election years (FYs 27 and 31, and every four years thereafter) to remove BESE from the list of offices included in the party primary system and add them to the gubernatorial primary election. Under current law, BESE candidates would run in a spring party primary in gubernatorial election years, with the potential for a spring party primary runoff election. These elections are currently characterized as statewide elections because of the BESE party primary. By removing them, the spring elections in gubernatorial election years, would be recharacterized as municipal (non-statewide) elections. The Secretary of State's office estimates that the cost for a statewide election in FYs 27 and 31 would be \$7,069,000, whereas a non-statewide election would cost \$4,355,000, a difference of \$2,714,000. This would result in a savings of \$5,428,000 across both spring elections if BESE candidates are removed from the party primaries offices and these elections get recharacterized.

Local Governing Authorities


Recharacterizing an election from statewide to municipal would have an impact on local governing authorities who place propositions on the ballot during the spring elections in gubernatorial election years. When a local election is held during a scheduled statewide election, the local governing authority is responsible for a prorated portion of the election's cost, with the Secretary of State covering a majority of the cost of the election. If a local election occurs without any statewide offices or constitutional amendments, the local governing authority is responsible for the full cost of the election. Therefore, if the spring elections in gubernatorial election years are converted from statewide to municipal, those local governing authorities who hold local elections will have an increase in expenditures to cover the cost of the election. The magnitude of the increase is situational and will vary across parishes.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will result in an indeterminable increase in SGR collected by the Secretary of State (SOS) in FYs 27 and 31 for reimbursement of election costs. If a local election occurs without any statewide items, the local governing authority is responsible for the full cost of the election. Removing BESE from the list of party primary offices would remove the statewide items from the spring elections in FYs 27 and 31. The SOS bills local governing authorities, and reimbursements received from the locals are classified as SGR for the department. The magnitude of the increase is situational and will vary across elections.

Senate
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}


Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer