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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1-29-09
 LAST UPDATED 3-10-09 HB _____

SPONSOR Campos

SHORT TITLE County Official Term Limits, CA SJR 2/aSRC

ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Non-Rec | Fund Affected |
|---------------|------|-------------------------|------------------|
| FY09 | FY10 | | |
| NFI | NFI | | |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

County Clerks Affiliate (CCA)

Attorney General's Office (AGO)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SRC Bill

The Senate Rule Committee amendment to Senate Joint Resolution 2 revises the title of the resolution from limiting term to extending the terms of county officials to three consecutive terms.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Joint Resolution 2 proposes to amend Article 10, Section 2 of the New Mexico Constitution to extend the number of terms county officers can serve from two to three consecutive four year terms.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The AGO states, "The primary issue raised by SJR2 is the fact that prior attempts to extend the term limits have been defeated when submitted to the people in the general election. An amendment to this section, proposed by SJR9 (Laws 1999), which would have amended Subsection D to allow county officials to serve an unlimited number of terms, was submitted to the people at a general election and defeated. "

Senate Joint Resolution 2/aSRC – Page 2

This amendment provides for better informed and trained officials, more stability, greater efficiency, more institutional memory, greater knowledge and experience of county officials. Others argue that term limits force out career politicians who are may be more concerned with their own gain than the interests of the American people.

The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at the next general election or at any special election prior to that date that may be called for that purpose.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

It is unclear from the resolution how the change would impact current officeholders or whether it would be only a prospective application.

According to the County Clerks Affiliate, this resolution would enhance performance of county elected officials by increasing the amount of experience and expertise of county officials that is developed in county government service. It would increase stability and efficiency will result by decreasing the changes in leadership in county offices. It gives elected officials the needed time to enact policies and programs that require an extended length of time to implement.

EO/mt