



## **Senate Joint Resolution 16 – Page 2**

In whole, the amendment extends terms beyond what is allowed by current law instead of eliminating term limits for county sheriffs entirely.

### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Resolution 16 proposes a constitutional amendment to the New Mexico Constitution, Article 10, Section 2 of the state constitution that would eliminate term limits for county sheriffs. If SJR 16 is adopted, the proposed amendment would be voted on at the next general election or at a special election prior to that date called for that purpose.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional costs as a result of the amendment.

The Secretary of State estimates the cost of placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot to be \$104 thousand based on 2010 actual expenditures. This includes all necessary printing and advertizing. The next general election is in 2016, FY17.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Last year, in response to SJR 10, the Association of Counties opposed term limits for elected officials. The Association of Counties stated that term limits restrict the time available to plan for and enact policies and programs that require an extended length of time for implementation. Term limits arbitrarily restrict the power of citizens to return to office those county officials who have done a credible job for their constituents. They are particularly burdensome in counties with small populations where it is often difficult to find qualified and interested candidates for office.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

If passed, the amendment proposed by this resolution will 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. The next general election is in November 2016.

### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status quo. County sheriffs, like other county elected officials, are limited to two consecutive terms in office.

TMR/al/jle