

LFC Requester:

Eckberg

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2024 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO:

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov

{Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date 1/29/2024

Bill No: SJR 16

Sponsor: Neville, Cervantes, Jaramillo,
Nibert & Art De La Cruz

Agency Name
and Code
Number:

Secretary of State, 370

COUNTY OFFICIAL
SALARIES, CA

Person Writing Analysis: Lindsey Bachman

Short Title:

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY24	FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$116.5- 126.5	N/A	\$116.5- 126.5	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Joint Resolution 16 proposes a constitutional amendment question be included in the next general election or any special election prior to that date that will be called for that purpose. The question asks voters to approve or reject an amendment to Article 10, Section 1 of the Constitution of New Mexico to provide that the salaries of county officers shall be established by the board of county commissioners, remove references to the first legislative session and clarify that any fees collected by a county official shall be paid into the treasury of the county.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

If the bill passes, the constitutional amendment might be decided by the voters in the next general election which is in FY25. It might also be decided by a special election prior to that time. In either case, for the purposes of determining the costs involved, the Secretary of State (SOS) wishes to inform legislators that, pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 1-16-4, and Article 19 Section 1 of the New Mexico Constitution, the SOS is required to publish the ballot question for each proposed constitutional amendment, in both Spanish and English.

The SOS is constitutionally required to publish the ballot question of each proposed constitutional amendment once a week for four consecutive weeks preceding the election in one newspaper in every county in the state. The cost will vary based on the length of the ballot question. Historically, the estimated publication cost per amendment was approximately \$142,000; however, due to recent legislative changes, the publication costs have significantly decreased to approximately \$75,000 - \$85,000 per amendment.

The SOS also produces a general election voter guide that includes information about proposed constitutional amendments as well general information about voting. The office provides it to voters at polling locations throughout the state. The cost of producing the voter guide will change depending upon the number and length of the constitutional amendments passed and the number of registered voters. However, as a reference, the 2022 Voter Guide cost approximately \$41,500 from GSD State Printing.

The number of constitutional amendments that pass may also impact the page size of the ballot, or

if the ballot size is caused to become greater than one page, front and back, which will increase the cost of producing the ballots for the general election. In addition to the cost of the ballot, there may be time added to the voting process, which would require additional ballot printing systems to ensure a smooth and efficient voting process within the bounds of national best practices.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The SOS generally supports the concept of increasing county elected official salaries. Nationwide, there continue to be challenges to recruiting and retaining election officials at all levels. Ensuring a process that provides for adequate compensation for election officials like our County Clerks is critical.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS