

million New Mexicans are registered to vote and 32 percent, or 833,365, voted in the 2008 general election. The agency ordered 2,592,280 ballots, 41 percent more than the total number of registered voters, and approximately 68 percent were destroyed. The total ballot order was \$2.6 million. Other significant expenses included printing and postage to send voter information cards to all voters, advertising proclamations, E-canvass, ballot tracking, equipment programming, guidebooks, and additional election supplies.

According to the County Clerks Association, 20 counties, at their own expense, conduct elections by leasing ballot on demand systems therefore the Secretary of State is relieved of purchasing early ballots for these counties. Of the remaining counties, about half order their ballots without distinguishing that the ballots are absentee, giving them the flexibility to use their inventory for either absentee, early or Election Day voters. This leaves the remaining counties, approximately seven, for the Secretary of State to work with the county clerks and thoroughly review any possible savings this bill could provide, which is likely only for absentee and early voting. Such an analysis may help with SB136, which would permit a certified voting system to print ballots at a polling location if it saves money.

The Secretary of State adds that many of our larger counties currently do not use the ballot on demand system that allows for the printing of the electors ballot at early or absentee locations, thus creating this excess waste in printing of ballots.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The amendment addresses the distinction between ballot types made in the original bill.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to Senate Bill 136, which permits a certified voting system to print ballots at a polling location, if it saves money and SJM 42, which requests a study of cost saving with all mail ballots or voting centers. The GAA and HB2 both include appropriations for election costs.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

More ballots than are needed will be ordered and then destroyed.

EO/mew:svb