

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Giannini **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/04/10
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** 240
SHORT TITLE 2010 Primary and General Elections **SB** _____
ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY10	FY11		
	\$5,187.5	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB2
Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Secretary of State (SOS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 240 appropriates \$5,187.5 million from the General Fund to the Secretary of State for the purpose of the 2010 primary and general elections.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$5,187.5 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2011 shall revert to the General Fund.

2010 primary election appropriations totaling \$1,825.5 million were included in Laws 2009, Chapter 124, Sections 4 and 5(21). House Bill 2 includes \$717 thousand, and if passed, \$2,542.5 million will be available for 2010 primary election expenses.

House Bill 2 includes appropriations totaling \$4,050.4 million for 2010 general election.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In 2008 the general election cost \$5.3 million. Approximately 1.1 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 ballots were said to cost \$2.6 million. Based on this information, it appears that there are opportunities for the agency to look for efficiencies to control election costs.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Historically, according to the Secretary of State, it has had to obtain supplemental funding in order to run elections but this legislation would obviate the need for it to obtain the supplemental funding.

EO/mew