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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos, P. ORIGINAL DATE 02/05/10
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Extend County Official Term Limits, CA SJR 5
ANALYST Haug

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY10	FY11	FY12	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total	\$104.0*	NFI	NFI	\$104.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

* See Fiscal Implications below

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Resolution to amend article 10, section 2 of the Constitution of New Mexico to allow county officials to serve three consecutive terms instead of two.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Secretary of State, as the Chief Elections Officer is mandated to publish all constitutional amendments in both English and Spanish in a newspaper in every county statewide. The cost for the 2008 General Election was \$520,000 for five constitutional amendments. The cost breakdown is estimated at \$104,000 per constitutional amendment.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The NMAC states:

County governments in New Mexico have the oldest and most restrictive term limits in the United States according to the National Association of Counties. In 44 states, county elected officials have unlimited terms of office.

The proposed incremental increase from the existing two to three four-year consecutive

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terms for county elected officials in New Mexico would increase the officials' ability to develop and implement long term projects and policy goals. It would also allow citizens to return to office those county officials who have earned the favorable regard of their constituents

GH/mew