



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

Fiscal Note 2027 Biennium

Bill#/Title: **SB0399.01: Revise times for holding primary elections**

Primary Sponsor: **Kenneth Bogner**

Status: **As Introduced**

☐ Included in the Executive Budget

☐ Needs to be included in HB 2

☒ Significant Local Gov Impact

☐ Significant Long-Term Impacts

☐ Technical Concerns

☐ Dedicated Revenue Form Attached

FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2026 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2027 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2028 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2029 Difference</u>
Expenditures				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Impact	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
General Fund Balance	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Description of fiscal impact

SB 399 revises primary election laws, moves the date of the primary election from June to May, provides for separate primary and school election ballots, and requires that primary election ballots be counted before school election ballots. Although there is no fiscal impact to the state, there will be a fiscal impact to the counties to implement the requirements of this proposed legislation.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Assumptions

Secretary of State's Office

1. SB 399 bill requires the Office of the Secretary of State to notify each federally recognized tribal government in Montana. While there may be a minimal fiscal impact, the office will absorb the costs associated with implementing this bill within the office's existing operating budget.

Effect on County or Other Local Revenues or Expenditures

Montana Association of Counties

1. Approximately half of the counties currently conduct school elections, while the other half do not. This bill will increase costs for both.
2. Counties that currently conduct school elections will need additional FTE and/or need to pay overtime for current staff, because the staff will be running two elections on the same day.
3. Counties that do not conduct school elections will still have double the costs.
4. There will likely be additional equipment costs due to different ballot styles.
5. Per the cost survey conducted by the Office of the Secretary of State, the counties' total cost for the 2022 primary election was \$3,111,546.51.

6. It is estimated that this bill will add an additional \$1,555,773 (50% of the primary's cost) to the cost of the primary election.
7. This bill may require local governments to spend additional sums for which no specific means of financing are provided. Section 1-2-114, MCA, provides that bills that have such an impact may not be introduced.

NO SPONSOR SIGNATURE

Sponsor's Initials

3/3

Date



Budget Director's Initials

3/1/2025

Date