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S.J.R. 2
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.J.R. 2's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Sens. McColley and Gavarone

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Jared Cape, Budget Analyst

Highlights

- The joint resolution proposes to include a constitutional amendment on the ballot for a special election to be held on August 8, 2023. Current law requires the state to bear the entire cost of holding a special election solely for the purpose of submitting a statewide ballot issue for voter approval.
- If the General Assembly adopts this joint resolution, the Secretary of State will incur ballot advertising costs for placing the proposed change on the statewide ballot. These costs will be paid from the Statewide Ballot Advertising Fund (Fund 5FH0).

Detailed Analysis

The joint resolution proposes to include a constitutional amendment on the ballot for a special election to be held on August 8, 2023. It amends Sections 1b, 1e, and 1g of Article II and Sections 1 and 3 of Article XVI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to require a vote of at least 60% of the electors to approve a constitutional amendment. Current law requires a simple majority for passage. If the General Assembly adopts the resolution and the issue is placed on the August 8, 2023 statewide ballot, it would be the only measure on the ballot during this special election.¹ In this case, current law requires the state to cover all costs of conducting the election, not just the ballot advertising costs. H.B. 377 of the 134th General Assembly appropriated

¹ The resolution places the proposal on the ballot at a special election on August 8, 2023. Because the Revised Code does not provide for special elections to be held in August for this purpose, the General Assembly might need to enact separate legislation to allow for the special election. Read the bill analysis for a more detailed description.

\$20.0 million in FY 2022 under the Secretary of State's budget to reimburse county boards of elections for the costs they incurred for holding the August 2, 2022 special election.

The costs for ballot advertising, including explanations and arguments for and against a statewide ballot issue, are paid for by the Secretary of State from the Statewide Ballot Advertising Fund (Fund 5FH0) appropriation line item 050621, Statewide Ballot Advertising. Fund 5FH0 receives cash transfers from the Controlling Board's Emergency Purposes/Contingencies Fund (Fund 5KM0). The actual advertising costs for placing a proposed constitutional amendment on the statewide ballot depends on the length of the ballot measure, which is required to be included in printed advertising. In FY 2023, the Secretary of State paid approximately \$500,000 in statewide ballot advertising costs related to both State Issue 1 (bail reform) and State Issue 2 (voting eligibility) which appeared on the November 8, 2022 ballot.