
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Redistricting changes

The resolution proposes changes to the Ohio Constitution that alter the redistricting process for General Assembly and Congressional districts, beginning in calendar year 2011. The question is to be put to voters at the May 4, 2010 primary. If approved by the voters, the current Apportionment Board would be replaced with the Ohio Redistricting Commission. The Commission would consist of seven members and be responsible for redrawing General Assembly and Congressional districts based upon the results of the decennial census. The Commission would consist of the following seven members: the Governor, the Auditor of State, the Secretary of State, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the legislative leader of the largest political party in the House of which the Speaker is not a member, the President of the Senate, and the legislative leader of the largest minority party in the Senate of which the Senate President is not a member. To be adopted, any redistricting plan would require a supermajority of five votes, including votes from at least two members of the Commission who are members of a political party other than the largest one represented on the Commission.

Ballot advertising costs

The Secretary of State would incur costs for ballot advertising under Article XVI, Section 1 of the Ohio Constitution, which requires that notice of ballot questions be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in each Ohio county. The costs of advertising would also depend on the length of the amendment proposed by this resolution. As a recent example, the combined newspaper advertising costs for Issues 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6, which appeared on the November 4, 2008 general election ballot, were \$631,629. Because it is a single issue, the redistricting language would presumably cost considerably less than that amount to advertise statewide. The Secretary of State submits a Controlling Board request to transfer the amount needed to cover advertising costs from GRF appropriation item 911441, Ballot Advertising Costs, to the Statewide Ballot Advertising Fund (Fund 5FH0). The amount appropriated for this purpose in the FY 2010-FY 2011 biennium is \$300,000 in each fiscal year.

Elections costs

This issue would be placed on the May 4, 2010 primary. Because this is a regularly scheduled primary, the cost of this election would be borne entirely by counties. The cost of adding an additional measure to the ballot in this case would be minimal, if not negligible, for most counties. The state would not incur any new election costs.