



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number: H. 4669 Introduced on January 13, 2026
Subject: Municipal Elections
Requestor: House Judiciary
RFA Analyst(s): Welsh
Impact Date: January 22, 2026

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires municipal general elections be held on certain dates. This bill also specifies municipalities that elect to hold partisan elections for municipal offices must pay all costs associated with the municipal primary. This bill further allows municipalities to determine when newly elected officials may begin their term, extends the deadline for contesting the results of an election, and allows a winning candidate to begin their term despite a pending appeal of election results. This bill also allows county boards of voter registration and elections to conduct municipal elections for municipalities that elect to transfer their authority and limits fees charged to municipalities to the actual expenses accrued by the counties.

The State Election Commission anticipates being able to manage any additional responsibilities due to this bill with existing staff and within existing appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no state expenditure impact.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) contacted all counties and the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) to determine the potential local expenditure impact of this bill. Based on MASC's response, this bill will result in an undetermined and varied impact on municipalities. MASC anticipates standardizing the dates for municipal elections may result in a cost increases or savings dependent upon the specific arrangement, if any, between municipalities and counties regarding the process of conducting and certifying elections. MASC also reports it is aware of six municipalities who conduct partisan primary elections for municipal office (Aiken, Georgetown, Greenville, Florence, New Ellenton, and North Augusta). Of these, Greenville may experience a significant cost increase as it is the only municipality whose primary election is currently funded by the county. Further, MASC anticipates limiting charges from counties who conduct elections on behalf of municipalities to actual costs and requiring itemized lists of expenses may result in cost savings for municipalities. Additionally, responses received from the counties of Horry and Kershaw indicate the local expenditure impact on these counties is expected to be minimal and managed within current resources.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 13, 2026

State Expenditure

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State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

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Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director