

FINANCIAL IMPACT ESTIMATING CONFERENCE
INITIATIVE FINANCIAL INFORMATION STATEMENT SUMMARY

VOTER APPROVAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS (19-08)

Based on the historical record in Florida, it is probable that the proposed amendment will result in additional state and local government costs to conduct elections. Overall, these costs will vary from election cycle to election cycle depending on the unique circumstances of each ballot and cannot be estimated at this time.

As identified by the Florida Department of State, state government will incur increased costs to meet advertising requirements and provide a sufficient number of English and Spanish booklets containing the full text of the amendments for each polling room or early voting area. The added costs only relate to proposed amendments appearing for the second time. Had the proposed amendment been in place for the 2018 election when eleven of twelve amendments passed, the additional cost to the 2020 election would have been approximately \$1 million dollars.

As discussed by a representative of the Florida Supervisors of Elections, local governments would also experience increased costs to conduct elections. These increases are mainly due to the potential lengthening of the ballot in any given election cycle. These costs include added expenses for printing and mailing that are anticipated to be greater in counties which print in multiple languages. Further, there may be one-time costs for new programming, voter education, and the potential purchase of additional equipment. The additional equipment would be required to accommodate the longer ballots, as well as statutory timeframes for recording results. In some cases, the purchase of additional equipment would be coupled with additional staff to operate it. Other costs could include the addition or expansion of voting locations and conceivably the time or resources needed for recounts. The total increase in local costs cannot be determined at this time.

Since the maximum state cost is likely less than \$1 million per cycle but the impact cannot be discretely quantified, the change to the state's budget is unknown. Similarly, the economic impact cannot be modelled, although the spending increase is expected to be below the threshold that would produce a statewide economic impact. Because there are no revenues linked to voting in Florida, there will be no impact on government taxes or fees.