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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.J.R. 2
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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

Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sens. McColley and Gavarone

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Jared Cape, Budget Analyst

Highlights

- If the General Assembly adopts this joint resolution, the Secretary of State will incur ballot advertising costs related to placing the proposed changes to the Ohio Constitution on the August 8, 2023 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 the general 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. The resolution also proposes changes to initiative petition procedures that apply to initiative petitions for changes to the Ohio Constitution. These particular changes are described in more detail in the LSC bill analysis.

If the General Assembly adopts the resolution and the issue is placed on the August 8, 2023 statewide ballot, the state would pay for the ballot advertising costs. The costs for ballot advertising, including explanations and arguments for and against a statewide ballot issue, are paid for under the Secretary of State's budget, specifically Statewide Ballot Advertising Fund (Fund 5FH0) line item 050621, Statewide Ballot Advertising. Fund 5FH0 receives cash transfers from the Controlling Board Emergency Purposes/Contingencies Fund (Fund 5KM0). The actual advertising cost for placing the 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 and State Issue 2, which appeared on the November 8, 2022 ballot.