

FISCAL NOTE

This bill contains an appropriation of \$2,000,000 from the GENERAL FUND to the proposed Runoff Elections Account (Account). This appropriation is effective immediately. Funds in the Account shall not revert and are continuously appropriated to the Secretary of State (SOS) for costs related to administering runoff elections.

This bill would require runoff elections after primary elections for specified offices when no candidate receives a majority of the vote. The bill would change the date of primary elections from the first Tuesday after the third Monday in August to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May in general election years. If required by W.S. 22-5-601 created in the bill, runoff elections would be held at the regular polling places for each necessary precinct on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in August in general election years.

DETAIL OF APPROPRIATION

Agency #: 002 Agency Name: Secretary of State

Unit: (new) Runoff Elections

EXPENDITURE BY SERIES AND YEAR	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
0200 Supportive Services Costs	\$0	\$0	\$29,400
0900 Contractual Services Costs	\$0	\$0	\$254,976
Total Expenditure Per Year:	\$0	\$0	\$284,376
Grand Total Expenditure:	\$284,376		
Total Appropriated to Agency:	\$2,000,000		
Total Appropriated by Fund:			
RUNOFF ELECTIONS ACCOUNT	\$2,000,000		

Description of appropriation:

This bill would require the following the modifications to the SOS's election applications as follows:

- Significant modifications to the state's voter registration and election management system (WyoReg) would be necessary to meet the requirements.
 - A new election type of "Runoff" would need be added for both state and county users.
 - A new report to capture the eligible voters in the runoff as outlined in the bill.
 - The functionality of a runoff introduction to the system would need to be carried out to all components and aspects of the system.
- The State Electronic Pollbook(EPB) would need to be modified to prevent party changes.
- Total estimated cost for WyoReg and EPB = \$223,296
- Modifications to the Wyoming Campaign Finance Information System (WYCFIS) would be required to introduce a new election type and reporting requirements.
 - A new type of "Runoff" would need to be added.

- o A new campaign finance reporting type of runoff would need to be added with yet to be determined reporting timeframes.
- o The functionality of a runoff would need to be extended to the public website and administrative reports accordingly.
- o Total estimated cost for WYCFIS = \$31,680.

Additionally, the SOS is statutorily required to print and ship all absentee ballot envelopes to counties. Counties are then responsible for mailing the ballot along with an 'inner' envelope (for ballot return) to the voter using an 'outer' envelope. The cost for both the 'inner' and 'outer' envelopes equals roughly \$0.30 per voter. Based on the 2018 absentee ballot numbers, the SOS utilized around 98,000 absentee ballots over the 2018 election year cycle. 98,000 absentee ballot envelopes at \$0.30 is \$29,400. Since the likelihood of a statewide runoff election occurring is likely, this will be a recurring cost each election cycle. Total estimated cost for absentee envelopes is \$29,400.

Note: The SOS indicates there will be an additional \$1.1 million in additional recurring expenses for counties to conduct a statewide primary runoff election that may result from this bill. All costs incurred in carrying out a runoff election would be borne by the SOS who would reimburse county treasurers for the costs paid by counties for a runoff election.

Sections 1 and 2 of the bill would be effective only upon certification by the Secretary of State that the electors have adopted an amendment to the Wyoming Constitution at the 2024 general election revising the date of the reapportionment of the legislature, as provided in 2023 House Joint Resolution X.