

Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 5837 SB	Title: State election database
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Estimated Cash Receipts

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25				2025-27				2027-29			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Office of the Secretary of State	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.											
University of Washington	.8	249,789	249,789	249,789	1.7	499,578	499,578	499,578	1.7	499,578	499,578	499,578
Total \$	0.8	249,789	249,789	249,789	1.7	499,578	499,578	499,578	1.7	499,578	499,578	499,578

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Office of the Secretary of State	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
University of Washington	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Total \$	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

NONE

Prepared by: Cheri Keller, OFM	Phone: (360) 584-2207	Date Published: Revised 2/14/2024
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Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5837 SB	Title: State election database	Agency: 085-Office of the Secretary of State
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Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Greg Vogel	Phone: 360-786-7413	Date: 01/02/2024
Agency Preparation: Mike Woods	Phone: (360) 704-5215	Date: 02/14/2024
Agency Approval: Mike Woods	Phone: (360) 704-5215	Date: 02/14/2024
OFM Review: Cheri Keller	Phone: (360) 584-2207	Date: 02/14/2024

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

Section 1(4) requires the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) to provide election data to the director of the Washington Election Database, following the certification of elections results and the completion of the voter history file after each general election.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Section 1(4)

OSOS would provide election data to the Washington Election Database. For purposes of this note OSOS assumes, it would not need to modify or otherwise format the certification of election results and the completion of the voter history file after each general election, to be compatible with any electronic systems at the Washington Election Database. With these assumptions, OSOS could provide the data with minimal impact. However, if the data needs to be modified, we estimate it could take a 0.5 FTE (Data Consultant 3, Range 56 Step L, \$40,000 in salary) to manage and collaborate with the director of the database and database staff in this process. The annual cost of this position would be approximately \$67,000 for compensation, standard goods and services, travel, and agency administrative costs.

Section 1(8) – Potential, But Indeterminate Costs

Section 1(8) specifies that political subdivisions are provided with languages to provide assistance to members of language-minority groups pursuant to Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. OSOS assumes this means one of the three languages currently required in Washington under Section 203 (Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese), rather than the 73 languages possible under Section 203.

The database created in Section 1(1) collects census and population information (Section 1(3)). The federal Voting Rights Act requirements are updated every 5 years by the U.S. Census. OSOS believes this bill could create additional language requirements that would be published January 1, 2025.

The impact of those language determinations could mean that some jurisdictions would be newly required to translate their voting materials into the identified languages. The Office of the Secretary of State matches any federally required language determinations to avoid the potentially significant confusion caused for the voter when receiving their voter pamphlet, for example, in English from the state but in the preferred language from the county. This fiscal impact is indeterminate because OSOS does not have information on how many pamphlets would need to be produced, but we currently produce our language versions at an average cost of \$1.50 per copy, which includes printing, distribution, postage, translation, and composition.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5837 SB	Title: State election database	Agency: 360-University of Washington
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Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	0.0	1.7	0.8	1.7	1.7
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	0	249,789	249,789	499,578	499,578
Total \$	0	249,789	249,789	499,578	499,578

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Greg Vogel	Phone: 360-786-7413	Date: 01/02/2024
Agency Preparation: Michael Lantz	Phone: 2065437466	Date: 01/05/2024
Agency Approval: Jed Bradley	Phone: 2066164684	Date: 01/05/2024
OFM Review: Ramona Nabors	Phone: (360) 742-8948	Date: 01/08/2024

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

Senate Bill 5837 would establish the Washington Election Database at the University of Washington (UW). The purpose of the database is to help the state and political subdivisions evaluate existing election laws and practices, implement best practices, and investigate potential infringements on the right to vote. The database director is required to be employed by the UW and may hire staff necessary to implement and maintain it. The measure contains requirements for the election and demographic records that must be maintained by the database as well as analysis and data staff are required to publish.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

The following staff and other resources will be needed for ongoing administration of the Washington Election Database:

Staff:

A principal investigator (salary: \$197,685; benefits rate 22.6%) to coordinate project activities and staff, complete ballot data analyses, engage county election administrators, and produce research reports.

One Ph.D. student research assistant (0.5 FTE; salary: \$57,582; benefits rate: 18.2%) to complete data gathering and analytics work related to the study of rejected and cured ballots, support convenings and engagement with county elections offices and community-based organizations to examine best practices in elections administration and contribute to production of research reports.

One Ph.D. student research assistant (0.5 FTE; salary: \$76,667; benefits rate: 18.2%) to serve as the data master and website manager, managing and processing voter data, ballots data, and census tract data (running the data and software pipeline for integrated data production), securely store and manage data in the data repository, document and manage data cleaning, website maintenance, completion of race imputations, create voter language files, manage and audit the secure data access, as well as provide tailored, user-requested de-identified data files for analytic work, including codebooks, documentation, and coding consultations.

One staff member from the Evans Policy Innovation Collaboration (salary: \$80,544; benefits rate: 30.0%) to analyze rejected ballots data, engage county election office administrators, work with community-based organizations around projects to reduce ballot rejections, and contribute to production of research reports.

A Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology (CSDE) research scientist (salary: \$100,512; benefits rate: 30.0%) to redesign and upgrade the SQL database; designing implementing census tract data integration with vote count and ballot rejection data; updating the PostGIS framework for area-weighted estimates of race and ethnic characteristics applied to voting precinct polygon data, maintain and update code, update and maintain R Markdown based interface for mapping visualizations and downloadable data. Dr. Godwin will also oversee and mentor the CSDE RA for the project, providing guidance on streamlining of data processing and conducting regular audit checks and addressing user access queries. Dr. Godwin will be available for technical and statistical consultations to the team members and data users.

A research administrator (salary: \$91,800; benefits rate: 30.0%) to support project activities and internal grants administration.

A research administrator from CDSE (salary: \$85,800; benefits rate: 30.0%) to support project activities and internal grants administration.

Professional Service Contract:

An outside researcher is expected to receive \$17,573 in consulting fees for coordinating project activities and staff, completing ballot data analyses, engaging county election administrators, and producing research reports.

Goods and Services:

Funding of \$15,000 will support the hardware and software costs associated with storing data in a secure computing environment within CSDE.

Grants, Benefits & Client Services:

As part of their compensation package, tuition expenses are paid for graduate Research Associates at the University of Washington. Funds are therefore requested to pay 6 academic quarters of tuition for the two Ph.D. student research assistants, at a cost of \$35,337.

Overall, the UW expects the costs of administering the Washington Election Database to be approximately \$250,000 per year.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
001-1	General Fund	State	0	249,789	249,789	499,578	499,578
Total \$			0	249,789	249,789	499,578	499,578

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years		1.7	0.8	1.7	1.7
A-Salaries and Wages		148,255	148,255	296,510	296,510
B-Employee Benefits		33,624	33,624	67,248	67,248
C-Professional Service Contracts		17,573	17,573	35,146	35,146
E-Goods and Other Services		15,000	15,000	30,000	30,000
G-Travel					
J-Capital Outlays					
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services		35,337	35,337	70,674	70,674
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-					
Total \$	0	249,789	249,789	499,578	499,578

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
CDSE Research Scientist	100,512		0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology (CDSE)	85,800		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Evans Policy Innovation Collaboration (EPIC) Staff	80,544		0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
PHD Research Assistant 1	57,582		0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5
PHD Research Assistant 2	76,776		0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5
Principal Investigator	197,685		0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Research Administration Staff	91,800		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total FTEs			1.7	0.8	1.7	1.7

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number: 5837 SB

Title: State election database

Part I: Jurisdiction-Location, type or status of political subdivision defines range of fiscal impacts.

Legislation Impacts:

- Cities:
- Counties: Auditors would experience indeterminate but likely minimal impacts to disseminate lists to their local jurisdictions
- Special Districts:
- Specific jurisdictions only:
- Variance occurs due to:

Part II: Estimates

- No fiscal impacts.
- Expenditures represent one-time costs:
- Legislation provides local option: County auditors would have the option to work with database staff to examine new practices and solutions for reducing ballot rejections and increasing ballot cure rates
- Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time: The amount of time auditors will require to disseminate lists and the time it may take for auditors to respond to questions about the disseminated lists

Estimated revenue impacts to:

None

Estimated expenditure impacts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Kate Fernald	Phone: 564-200-3519	Date: 01/09/2024
Leg. Committee Contact: Greg Vogel	Phone: 360-786-7413	Date: 01/02/2024
Agency Approval: Allan Johnson	Phone: 360-725-5033	Date: 01/09/2024
OFM Review: Ramona Nabors	Phone: (360) 742-8948	Date: 01/09/2024

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

Description of the bill with an emphasis on how it impacts local government.

The proposed legislation would codify the Washington Election Database established in 2022 at the University of Washington as an election database repository.

Sec. 1 would add a new section to chapter 29A.04 RCW.

Sec. 1 (1) would establish the Washington Election Database to assist the state and all political subdivisions with evaluating whether and to what extent laws and practices with respect to voting and elections are consistent with public policy, implementing best practices in voting and elections, and investigating potential infringements upon the right to vote.

Sec. 1 (8) would establish that on or before January 1, 2025, the database must publish on its website and transmit for dissemination to county auditors and the Secretary of State a list of political subdivisions required by the federal Voting Rights Act to provide assistance to members of language minority groups and each language in which those political subdivisions are required to provide assistance. Each county auditor would be required to transmit the list to all political subdivisions within their jurisdiction.

Sec. (9) Database staff would be allowed to work with county auditors to examine new practices and solutions for reducing ballot rejections and increasing ballot cure rates.

Sec. (10) Database staff would be allowed to provide nonpartisan technical assistance to political subdivisions, scholars and the general public seeking to use the resources of the database.

B. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IMPACTS

Expenditure impacts of the legislation on local governments with the expenditure provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of expenditures. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

The proposed legislation's expenditure impact on local governments is indeterminate until additional information is available to determine workload impacts; however, de minimis is anticipated because the legislation would not require county auditors or local governments to make substantive changes.

BACKGROUND:

In 2022, the Legislature provided funding to the University of Washington to establish Washington's election data repository to assist the state and all political subdivisions with evaluating whether and to what extent existing laws and practices with respect to voting and elections are consistent with public policy, implementing best practices in voting and elections, and to investigate potential infringements upon the right to vote.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION IMPACTS:

The proposed legislation would codify the Washington Election Database. Each county auditor would be required to transmit a list provided by the database to all political subdivisions within their jurisdiction. The amount of time auditors will require to disseminate these lists, the follow-up questions auditors may receive, and the amount of time auditors require to answer the questions is not known at this time. Therefore, the proposed legislation's impact is indeterminate until additional information is available but likely de minimis.

C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE IMPACTS

Revenue impacts of the legislation on local governments, with the revenue provisions identified by section number, and when appropriate, the detail of revenue sources. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

The proposed legislation would not impact local governments' revenue.

SOURCES:

