
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The resolution requires an initiative or referendum to be placed on the ballot at the first regular or general election conducted more than 125 days after a petition to do so is filed. Currently, there are different deadlines for the placement of such items on a ballot. Section 1a of the Constitution requires that an initiative be placed on the ballot of the first election 90 days after the petition is filed. Section 1b of the Constitution states that a proposed law be placed on the ballot of the next general election after the petition is filed. Section 1c of the Constitution requires that a referendum be placed on the ballot for the first election 60 days after the petition is filed.

The resolution states that the Secretary of State is to determine the sufficiency of the signatures on a petition no later than 105 days before the election, and then again 65 days before if additional signatures are required. The resolution gives the Ohio Supreme Court jurisdiction over challenges made to petitions. Any such challenges must be filed within 95 days of the election, and a hearing conducted within 85 days of the election. Currently, such challenges would be heard in a court of common pleas in the county where the challenge is made. From there, the case would be heard by the appropriate appellate court. Since the resolution gives the Ohio Supreme Court exclusive authority for such cases, bypassing the common pleas and appellate courts, it would reduce county court costs. However, since many of these challenges are ultimately likely to be determined by the Ohio Supreme Court, giving the Ohio Supreme Court exclusive jurisdiction will not likely result in any cost increases for the state beyond those currently incurred for resolving these legal questions.

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