

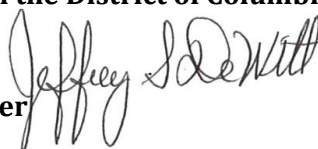
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: July 11, 2019

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Primary Date Alteration Amendment Act of 2019

REFERENCE: Bill 23-212, Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on July 4, 2019

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 budget and the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

Primary elections in the District take place on the third Tuesday in June.¹ The Board of Elections (BOE) provides District voters with ten days of early voting across at least eight locations for these elections, as well as general elections.² The bill moves the date of the primary elections that occur in a presidential election year to the first Tuesday in June³ and increases the number of early voting days to twelve for all elections.

The bill also extends the amount of time that the Board of Elections (BOE) can process an absentee ballot to include ballots received up to seven days after the election if they were postmarked or sent

¹ District of Columbia Elections Code of 1955, approved August 12, 1955 (69 Stat. 699; D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.10(a)).

² D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.09(b-1).

³ The primary date will remain the third Tuesday in June for non-presidential year primary elections.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 22-212, "Primary Date Alternation Amendment Act of 2019," Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on July 4, 2019

on or before election day. Current law requires a District voter to transmit an absentee ballot by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election in order to be processed.⁴

The bill's changes are currently in effect under emergency legislation.⁵

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 budget and the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill requires BOE to hold the primary election in a presidential year on the first Tuesday in June, expands early voting from ten to twelve days for all elections, and requires BOE to process timely sent absentee ballots received within seven days after an election. BOE can absorb any costs associated with these changes within its existing budgeted resources.

⁴ D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.05(10A).

⁵ Primary Date Alteration Emergency Amendment Act of 2019, enacted May 29, 2019 (D.C. Act 23-56; 66 DCR 6786).