

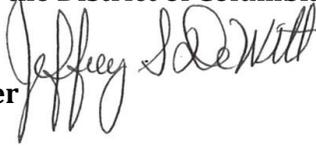
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



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: December 1, 2014

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “District of Columbia Primary Date Alteration Amendment Act of 2014”

REFERENCE: Bill 20-265, Draft Committee Print shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 24, 2014

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2015 through FY 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill will increase District costs by \$2.4 million in FY 2016, and every four years henceforth.

Background

The bill would require federal primaries to occur in June and local primaries to occur in September. Under current law, both occur simultaneously. This means there would be an additional election in a presidential election year. The bill also requires the federal primary to use vote-by-mail ballots only. Mailed ballots must be received by Board of Elections (BOE) no later than Election Day.

The bill also requires the use of electronic voting machines as a primary voting method, and limits paper ballots to a secondary option.

Additionally, the bill permits the BOE to begin tabulating election results 15 days prior to an election, but it may not publish tabulations until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the FY 2015 through FY 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. An additional presidential election is estimated to cost \$2.4 million, and reducing early voting

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

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locations could reduce expenditures by \$100,000.¹ Thus, the bill has a negative fiscal impact of \$2.3 million in FY 2016 and every four years henceforth.

¹ Phone conversation with Cliff Tatum, Executive Director of Board of Elections, November 25, 2014.