

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



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Kwame R. Brown
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: March 10, 2011

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics Primary Date Alteration Amendment Act of 2011”

REFERENCE: Bill Number 19-90, Committee Print shared with the OCFO on March 3, 2011

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2011 through FY 2014 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. Enactment of the proposed legislation would not impact the FY 2011 budget, but result in \$1.1 million in savings in the FY 2011 through FY 2014 financial plan period.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955¹ to move the date of the presidential preference primary and the District of Columbia primary to the 1st Tuesday in April. Currently, the presidential preference primary is held on the 2nd Tuesday in February and the District of Columbia primary is held the 1st Tuesday after the 2nd Monday in September.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2011 through FY 2014 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. Enactment of the proposed legislation would result in \$1.1 million in savings in FY 2012.

Every presidential election year, the District holds two primary elections leading up to the general election in November – the presidential preference primary in February and the regular primary in

¹ Approved August 12, 1955 (69 Stat. 699; D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.01 *et seq.*)

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September. As a result of consolidating the primary schedule and only holding one primary, the District would save approximately \$1.1 million in a presidential election year. The savings would be realized in the local budget of the Board of Elections and Ethics.

| Estimated Savings of Bill 19-90 District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics Primary Date Alteration Amendment Act of 2011 FY 2011 - FY 2014 | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | Four-Year Total |
| Estimated Savings¹ | \$0 | \$1,100,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,100,000 |

¹ Savings as reported by the Board of Elections and Ethics in the Public Hearing for Bill 19-90 by the Committee on Government Operations and the Environment on March 2, 2011.