


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



Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: July 10, 2025

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Time Stability Act of 2025

REFERENCE: Ballot Initiative Measure Number 84 as provided to the Office of
Revenue Analysis on June 17, 2025

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the proposed revised fiscal year 2025 budget and proposed fiscal year 2026 through fiscal year 2029 budget and financial plan to implement the ballot initiative. The ballot initiative would cost \$16.5 million in fiscal year 2026.

Background

The ballot initiative measure would exempt the District from observing Daylight Saving Time (DST) and establishes permanent standard time year-round. The District must opt out of observing DST as permitted by the Uniform Time Act of 1966¹ and must establish permanent standard time, equivalent to Eastern Standard Time, year-round. The District government must implement permanent standard time on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at 2:00 a.m.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the proposed revised fiscal year 2025 budget and proposed fiscal year 2026 through fiscal year 2029 budget and financial plan to implement the ballot initiative. The ballot initiative would cost \$16.5 million in fiscal year 2026.

¹ Approved April 13, 1966 (80 Stat. 107; 15 U.S.C. § 260a(a)).

Eliminating DST in the District would require additional resources to modify and test Information Technology (IT) systems, complete a public awareness campaign, and resolve operational issues and cross-jurisdictional synchronization issues with regional partners.

The District of Columbia uses at least ninety IT systems across multiple agencies to support the government's day-to-day operations. Many of these IT systems will need to be modified to update time zone logic, hardcoded DST rules, and timestamping functions to maintain standard time year-round. Once modified, these systems will need to be tested on an ongoing basis to ensure full functionality and minimize service degradation.

The amount of resources needed to update IT systems varies significantly depending on the type of system. Small systems, such as the Public Library Catalog System or Parks Facility Reservation system, will require fewer resources than large systems which will need to be hard coded, such as the Computer Aided Dispatch System, PeopleSoft, the District Integrated Financial System, Traffic Signal Management System, and District of Columbia Access System. Some agencies may be able to complete modifications with existing resources or contracts, while others will require full-time staff to manage and implement system modifications. In some instances, contract modifications may be necessary to reprogram certain systems. The cost of reprogramming IT systems can range from \$50,000 for smaller systems to \$1 million for larger systems. The total one-time cost of modifying and testing IT systems across the District is estimated to be \$16 million in fiscal year 2026.

The District must also complete a public awareness campaign to notify the public and stakeholders of the elimination of DST. The public awareness campaign will include paid media advertisements, translation services, community events, and digital resources. The total one-time cost of this awareness campaign is \$500,000 in fiscal year 2026.

The District will also need to overcome operational issues and cross-jurisdictional synchronization issues with regional and federal partners since its time will be misaligned with the entire eastern time zone for half of the year. Several District agencies, such as the Child and Family Services Agency, Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, and Office of State Superintendent of Education, provide services that extend across jurisdictional boundaries. Regional partnerships such as the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority operate across multiple jurisdictions that will be affected by eliminating DST. The District's court system is operated by the federal government, which would still observe DST. Sorting out scheduling conflicts and coordinating cross-jurisdictional program logistics will require resources that are not quantifiable at this time.