

2007 Regular Legislative Session
FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION
Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office

MEASURE NUMBER: HB 2084 **STATUS:** A-Engrossed
SUBJECT: Establish second Tuesday in February as date of presidential primary election in 2008
GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Secretary of State, County Elections Officers
PREPARED BY: Adrienne Sexton
REVIEWED BY: Daron Hill
DATE: March 31, 2007

	<u>2007-2009</u>	<u>2009-2011</u>
EXPENDITURES – General Fund: See Comments.		

REVENUES:
See Comments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: On passage.

GOVERNOR’S BUDGET: This bill is not anticipated by the Governor’s recommended budget.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE: This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

COMMENTS: The measure would shift the second Tuesday in March election date for 2008 to the second Tuesday in February, and require the presidential primary election to be conducted that day. The presidential primary would be in addition to any other matter ordinarily put to the March election, such as local measures or candidates.

With the amendment the bill creates a statewide special election. The principal expenses for the state would consist of a state voters’ pamphlet at approximately \$220,000, and reimbursement to the counties for their direct election costs. These consist primarily of ballot development and printing (three ballots in counties where non-partisan issues have been set for the election, and two ballots in all other counties), postage, personnel, and amortization of voting equipment. Certified county costs of primary elections for the past four election cycles range from \$2.87 million in 2006 to \$2.35 million in 2004, a presidential primary year. At \$1,000 per page/per statement, candidate statements in the voters’ pamphlet would result in minimal revenue.

Eliminating the presidential primary from the May 2008 primary election would not result in a notable reduction in May 2008 primary costs. And although some local jurisdictions might have items to place on the ballot in February that would offset the total election expenses, county elections officials report that few jurisdictions typically use the March election date and this effect would be nominal.

The Legislative Fiscal Office concludes that the costs of an additional statewide primary election in 2008 could range from \$2.3 million to \$2.8 million.