

HB 1161 -- Elections

Sponsor: Deeken

This bill changes the laws regarding elections and establishes the Election Consolidation Act of 2009. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires election costs to be paid by the political subdivision, municipality, county, or special district incurring the cost in elections where no other entity has an issue on the ballot;

(2) Requires entities to share election costs proportionally using the State Election Subsidy Fund in elections where more than one entity has an issue on the ballot. The fund's proceeds will not revert to the General Revenue Fund;

(3) Changes, beginning January 1, 2011, the primary election day from the first Monday in August of even-numbered years to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June of even-numbered years;

(4) Changes, beginning April 2010, the general municipal and special district election day from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in April to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in April of odd-numbered years. Primary elections must be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in February of the year of the general municipal election. A primary election may be held in March if allowed by a city or county with a charter form of government prior to August 28, 1999. A statewide presidential preference primary must be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June instead of February of each presidential election year;

(5) Removes other primary election days for the purpose of approving bond issues; and

(6) Establishes the Election Consolidation Act of 2009 which, beginning after the April 2009 municipal election, repeals the provisions allowing candidates in nonpartisan elections to take office without an election when the number of candidates is the same as the number of offices. The procedures for electing successors to these positions using the new standardized general municipal election day are specified in the bill.