



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 550

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5544

House of Representatives, April 9, 2026

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ALLOWING MUNICIPALITIES TO HOLD MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH STATE ELECTIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 9-164 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January*
3 *1, 2027*):

4 (a) (1) (A) On and after January 1, [2022] 2027, and notwithstanding
5 any contrary provision of law, there shall be held in each municipality,
6 biennially, a municipal election either (i) on the Tuesday after the first
7 Monday of November of the odd-numbered years, except that such
8 municipal election may be held on the first Monday of May of the odd-
9 numbered years if the legislative body of such municipality so
10 determines by a three-fourths vote, or (ii) in conjunction with the state
11 election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of the
12 even-numbered years if the legislative body of such municipality so
13 determines by a majority vote.

14 (B) In any municipality where the legislative body determines to hold
15 its municipal election on the first Monday of May of the odd-numbered
16 years in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (A)(i) of this
17 subdivision, such legislative body may subsequently determine by a
18 majority vote to hold such municipal election on the Tuesday after the
19 first Monday of November of the odd-numbered years or in conjunction
20 with the state election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in
21 November of the even-numbered years.

22 (2) In any municipality where the term of any incumbent municipal
23 elected official would expire prior to the next regular election held
24 under the provisions of this section, the term of such official shall be
25 extended to conform to the beginning of the succeeding term under
26 section 9-187a, as amended by this act.

27 Sec. 2. Section 9-164c of the general statutes is repealed and the
28 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

29 On and after January 1, [2022] 2027, (1) any municipality may change
30 the date of its municipal election in accordance with the provisions of
31 section 9-164, as amended by this act, (2) in any municipality that
32 changes from the November municipal election date in the odd-
33 numbered years specified in said section to the May municipal election
34 date in the odd-numbered years specified in said section, the terms of
35 incumbent municipal elected officials shall be diminished to conform to
36 such change, [but for a period of not more than nine months, and] (3) in
37 any municipality that changes from the May municipal election date in
38 the odd-numbered years specified in said section to the November
39 municipal election date in the odd-numbered years specified in said
40 section, the terms of incumbent municipal elected officials shall be
41 extended to conform to such change, [but for a period of not more than
42 nine months] (4) in any municipality that changes from the November
43 municipal election date in the odd-numbered years specified in said
44 section to the November municipal election date in the even-numbered
45 years specified in said section, the terms of incumbent municipal elected
46 officials shall be diminished to conform to such change, and (5) in any

47 municipality that changes from the May municipal election date in the
48 odd-numbered years specified in said section to the November
49 municipal election date in the even-numbered years specified in said
50 section, the terms of incumbent municipal elected officials shall be
51 diminished to conform to such change.

52 Sec. 3. Section 9-187a of the general statutes is repealed and the
53 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

54 Except as provided in sections 9-164b to 9-164f, inclusive, as amended
55 by this act, the term of each elected municipal official shall begin within
56 seventy days after the municipal election at which such official is
57 elected, on the day within such period prescribed by special act or
58 charter provision, or, in the absence of such special act or charter
59 provision, on the day within such period as is prescribed by action of
60 the legislative body of such municipality, provided (1) in each
61 municipality which holds its municipal election on the [first Monday of]
62 May date in the odd-numbered years specified in section 9-164, as
63 amended by this act, in the absence of such special act or charter
64 provision, or action of the legislative body, such terms shall begin on the
65 first day of July following the municipal election at which such official
66 is elected, [and] (2) in each municipality which holds its municipal
67 election on the [Tuesday after the first Monday of] November date in
68 the odd-numbered years, or on the November date in the even-
69 numbered years, specified in section 9-164, as amended by this act, with
70 the exception of the term of the town clerk, in the absence of such special
71 act, or charter provision, or action of the legislative body, such term shall
72 begin on the second Tuesday next following the day of the municipal
73 election at which such official is elected, and (3) in each municipality
74 which holds its municipal election on the [Tuesday after the first
75 Monday in] November date in the odd-numbered years, or on the
76 November date in the even-numbered years, specified in section 9-164,
77 as amended by this act, the term of the town clerk shall be two years
78 from the first Monday of January next succeeding [his] such clerk's
79 election, unless otherwise provided by charter or special act. Whenever
80 the beginning date of the terms of elected municipal officials is so

81 determined or changed, within the limits [hereinabove] specified in this
82 section, the authority providing [therefor] for such determination or
83 change may provide for the conforming diminution or extension of
84 terms of incumbents.

85 Sec. 4. Section 9-164b of the general statutes is repealed and the
86 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

87 As to any board or commission of a municipality with a rotating
88 membership, some of the members of which, prior to any change in a
89 municipal election date for such municipality under section 9-164, as
90 amended by this act, were elected for terms beginning approximately
91 one year after the date of [their] such members' election, the legislative
92 body of such municipality may provide for such conforming changes in
93 the beginning date of the terms of office as are designed to continue the
94 rotation with regard to such office as [it] such rotation existed prior to
95 such change, and in the absence of such action by such legislative body,
96 the beginning date of the terms of such office shall be so changed by the
97 clerk of the municipality in preparing the list provided for under section
98 9-254. With respect to any board or commission of a municipality with
99 a rotating membership established under sections 8-1, 8-4a, 8-5 and 8-
100 19, the authority empowered to prescribe the term of office of the
101 members of such board or commission, if it is authorized under [said]
102 sections 8-1, 8-4a, 8-5 and 8-19 to provide for an odd-numbered year
103 term, may further provide for deferred terms by prescribing which
104 terms are to begin approximately one year from the date on which the
105 terms of municipal officers generally begin in such municipality.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-164(a)
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-164c
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-187a
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	9-164b

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a)(1)(A)(ii), "by a majority vote" was added for clarity; and in Section 1(a)(1)(B), "subparagraph (A)" was changed to "subparagraph (A)(i)" for accuracy, and "or in conjunction with the state election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of the even-numbered years" was added for internal consistency.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Savings	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill allows municipalities to shift elections to coincide with existing state and federal elections beginning in FY 27, resulting in savings to municipalities that shift their elections. The exact savings will depend on the number of municipalities that choose to shift their municipal election dates and the amount those municipalities would have otherwise spent on municipal elections. The timing of the savings depends on when (if at all) a municipality adopts the shift.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of municipalities that choose to shift the existing municipal election date.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5544*****AN ACT ALLOWING MUNICIPALITIES TO HOLD MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH STATE ELECTIONS.*****SUMMARY**

Starting January 1, 2027, this bill allows a municipality, by a majority vote of its legislative body, to hold its biennial municipal election in conjunction with state elections (on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years).

Under current law, municipal elections must be held on (1) this same date in odd-numbered years or (2) the first Monday in May of odd-numbered years, if the legislative body votes by a three-fourths majority to do so. By law and under the bill, a municipality with a May election date may switch its election date to an authorized day in November by a majority vote of its legislative body. (The bill does not specify procedures for a municipality to move its municipal election from the day of the state election back to one of the two days currently authorized by law.)

Under the bill, if a municipality aligns its municipal elections with state elections, the bill requires incumbents' terms to be reduced to conform to the change. For municipalities that change their election date, the bill also generally extends existing law's requirements for transitioning and deferring terms of office (for example, the law sets default starting dates for the terms of newly-elected officials if the municipality does not otherwise specify one).

Current law also establishes procedures for adjusting incumbents' terms due to an election date change. The bill eliminates the explicit nine-month limit on conforming extensions or reductions of incumbent's terms if transitioning between the May and odd-year

November election dates (but still maintains the general requirement that the terms be conformed as required by state law).

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/20/2026)