
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)