

SF1827 - 0 - Major Political Party Definition Modified

Chief Author: **Jim Carlson**
 Committee: **Elections**
 Date Completed: **3/5/2023 3:49:24 PM**
 Lead Agency: **Secretary of State**
 Other Agencies:
 Campaign Finance Board Revenue Dept

| State Fiscal Impact | Yes | No |
|---------------------------|-----|----|
| Expenditures | | X |
| Fee/Departmental Earnings | | X |
| Tax Revenue | | X |
| Information Technology | | X |
| Local Fiscal Impact | | X |

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

| State Cost (Savings) | Biennium | | | Biennium | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
| | Dollars in Thousands | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 |
| State Total | | | | | | |
| | Total | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Biennial Total | | | - | | - |

| Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE) | Biennium | | | Biennium | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - |

Lead LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Jim Carlson **Date:** 3/5/2023 3:49:24 PM
Phone: 651-284-6540 **Email:** jim.carlson@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

| State Cost (Savings) = 1-2 | | Biennium | | | Biennium | |
|--|--|-----------------|--------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| Dollars in Thousands | | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 |
| Total | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | | - | | - |
| 1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out* | | | | | | |
| Total | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | | - | | - |
| 2 - Revenues, Transfers In* | | | | | | |
| Total | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | | - | | - |

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 Date Completed: **3/5/2023 3:49:24 PM**
 Agency: **Secretary of State**

| State Fiscal Impact | Yes | No |
|---------------------------|-----|----|
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| Fee/Departmental Earnings | | X |
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| State Cost (Savings) | Biennium | | | Biennium | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
| | Dollars in Thousands | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | - | | | - |

| Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE) | Biennium | | | Biennium | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
| | | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Susan Nelson **Date:** 3/1/2023 7:20:54 AM
Phone: 651-296-6054 **Email:** susan.nelson@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

| State Cost (Savings) = 1-2 | | Biennium | | | Biennium | |
|--|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|---|
| Dollars in Thousands | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 | |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | - | | | - |
| 1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out* | | | | | | |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | - | | | - |
| 2 - Revenues, Transfers In* | | | | | | |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | - | | | - |

Bill Description

This legislation increases the threshold for obtaining major party status through an election to 10% of the total votes for a race for Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Auditor, Presidential Elector, or United States Senator in a general election within Minnesota. This legislation also increases the threshold for obtaining major party status through petition, requiring signatures in the amount of 10% of the number of individuals who voted in the preceding state general election. This is an increase from the 5% threshold that is currently in statute for both obtaining major party status through an election and through the petition process.

Assumptions

There are no costs associated with changing the state threshold for determining major party by votes obtained in an election.

There are costs associated with reviewing a petition for major party status, as that is a function of the Office of the Secretary of State (OSS). However, the OSS is not aware of any petition being submitted under the 5% threshold for major party status. While the work required to verify additional signatures representing 10% the voters at the last general election could be significant, any anticipated cost is too speculative to quantify because no such petition has been submitted in the past. With an increase in signature requirement, it is even more difficult to speculate whether such a petition will be filed under this new threshold.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

None.

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

None.

Local Fiscal Impact

None.

References/Sources

Julie Strother (julie.strother@state.mn.us 651-201-1342)

Agency Contact:

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Adam Hansen

Phone: 651-201-6870

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SF1827 - 0 - Major Political Party Definition Modified

Chief Author: **Jim Carlson**
 Committee: **Elections**
 Date Completed: **3/5/2023 3:49:24 PM**
 Agency: **Campaign Finance Board**

| State Fiscal Impact | Yes | No |
|---------------------------|-----|----|
| Expenditures | | X |
| Fee/Departmental Earnings | | X |
| Tax Revenue | | X |
| Information Technology | | X |
| Local Fiscal Impact | | X |

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|-----------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
| | Dollars in Thousands | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | - | | | - |

| Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE) | Biennium | | | Biennium | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
| | | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Chloe Burns **Date:** 2/28/2023 3:54:00 PM
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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

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| State Cost (Savings) = 1-2 | | Biennium | | | Biennium | |
|--|--------|-----------------|--------|--------|-----------------|---|
| Dollars in Thousands | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 | |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | - | | | - |
| 1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out* | | | | | | |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | - | | | - |
| 2 - Revenues, Transfers In* | | | | | | |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | - | | | - |

Bill Description

The bill raises the percentage of votes needed to qualify for major party status from 5% of the total number of individuals who voted at the last state general election to 10% of the total number of individuals who voted at the last state general election. The legislation has an effective date of the day after enactment, and the new standard for major party status is specifically for use by the Board in paying public subsidy payments at the 2024 election.

Assumptions

1. The legislation has no fiscal impact on the Board because it does not change any Board function related to paying public subsidy payments. The legislation also does not change the amount of money available for public subsidy payments. Candidates who identify with a major political party when they file for office are eligible for a share of the state election public subsidy general account appropriation (Minnesota Statutes section 10A.31, subdivision 4 (b)). Candidates who identify with a minor political party when they file for office are not eligible for a share of the state election public subsidy general account appropriation. However, the appropriation amount does not change regardless of the number of recognized major political parties. Further, the Board will still use the same formula and process for distributing the general account funds regardless of the number of recognized major political parties.

For example, at the 2022 state general election, there was only one candidate that received a public subsidy payment as a major party candidate that would not have received a general account payment under the provisions of this legislation. Tim Davis, who filed for the office of state auditor as a candidate for the Legal Marijuana Now Party, received a general account public subsidy payment of \$28,035.85. If the Legal Marijuana Now Party is no longer a major political party, then that payment would have gone to the only other qualified candidate for state auditor; Julie Blaha with the Democratic Farmer Labor party. The total amount of money paid out for the office of state auditor would not have changed, and the role of the Board in making the payment would not have changed, if the provisions of this legislation were in effect in 2022.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

No fiscal impact to the Board.

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

N/A

Local Fiscal Impact

N/A

References/Sources

Agency Contact: Jeff Sigurdson (651-539-1189)

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Jeff Sigurdson

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SF1827 - 0 - Major Political Party Definition Modified

Chief Author: **Jim Carlson**
 Committee: **Elections**
 Date Completed: **3/5/2023 3:49:24 PM**
 Agency: **Revenue Dept**

| State Fiscal Impact | Yes | No |
|---------------------------|-----|----|
| Expenditures | | X |
| Fee/Departmental Earnings | | X |
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| Information Technology | | X |
| Local Fiscal Impact | | X |

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|-----------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
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| Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE) | Biennium | | | Biennium | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
| | Dollars in Thousands | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Joel Enders **Date:** 3/2/2023 11:01:37 AM
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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

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| Biennial Total | | | - | | | - |
| 2 - Revenues, Transfers In* | | | | | | |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | - | | | - |

Bill Description

This bill changes the definition of a “major political party” under Minnesota Statutes, section 200.02, subdivision 7.

Section 1, subd. (7)(a)(2) changes the percentage of votes needed for a political party in Minnesota to be classified as a “major political party” from 5% of individuals who voted in an election to 10%.

Section 1, subd. (7)(c) changes the percent of petition signatures needed to be classified as a “major political party” from 5% of the total number of individuals who voted in an election to 10%.

This bill is effective the day following final enactment and applies to a political party’s status at the state primary and general election held in 2024 and thereafter.

Assumptions

The Department of Revenue (DOR) is currently required to include all major political parties, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 200.02, subdivision 7, on individual income tax and property tax returns each year for the state elections campaign fund and on the political contribution refund form. DOR currently makes annual updates for both major and minor political parties listed on the individual income tax, property tax refund, and the political contribution refund forms. DOR assumes no impact for this legislation as any changes to major political parties would be captured during existing annual processes for updating forms.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

N/A

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

N/A

Local Fiscal Impact

N/A

References/Sources

Agency staff provided information for this fiscal note.

Agency Contact: Chelsea Magadance

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