

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6609
BILL NUMBER: HB 1308

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 22, 2009
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Vote Centers.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Richardson
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Vote Centers*- The bill establishes the use of vote centers as an option for all counties. The bill requires the county election board to adopt an order designating a county a vote center county (VCC), adopt a plan to administer the vote centers, and file the order and the plan with the Election Division. The bill requires the county election board to accept and consider public comment before adopting an order designating the county as a VCC. The bill provides that designation of a county as a VCC remains in effect until the county election board rescinds the order designating the county as a VCC and files a copy of the rescission with the Election Division. The bill redesignates automatically as a VCC a county previously designated a pilot VCC.

Vote Center Expiration Date Repeal- The bill repeals the expiration date of the vote center program and provisions that: (1) require the Secretary of State's approval of the vote center designation; and (2) allow the Secretary of State to revoke the vote center designation.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Vote Centers*- The Secretary of State and the Election Division would have additional administrative duties to designate either pilot or permanent vote centers. Both the Secretary of State and Election Division would be able to carry out the provisions of the bill within their existing level of resources.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Vote Centers*- The establishment of vote centers could reduce the

expenditures needed to conduct an election, including payment of fewer poll workers and printing of poll books. However, start-up expenses such as the establishment of an electronic poll book database could offset some of the potential savings. The impact on local expenditures would depend on the adoption of ordinances by county election boards (under unanimous approval) and resolutions of approval by both the county executive and county fiscal body.

Background- Reduction of local expenditures would depend largely on requiring one vote center per 10,000 active voters (in counties with 25,000 or more active voters). The following table depicts the number of precincts vs. the potential number of vote centers statewide (if all counties established vote centers at a 1-to-10,000 ratio).

Active Voters (4/30/2008)*	Minimum Vote Centers (one per 10,000 voters)	Inactive Voters (4/30/2008)*	Number of Active Precincts (5/6/2008)*	2008* General Election Registered Voters	2008* General Election Actual Voters Voting
3,912,413	391	406,144	5,346	4,514,759	2,805,986
*Most recent data available from Secretary of State.					

The impact would be overstated if it were assumed the number of precincts coincides with the number of polling places. Some precincts are housed together in the same polling place and rely on the same voting equipment.

However, there would be an overall reduction in the number of polling places if every county maintained a vote center for at least 730 or more active voters. Each precinct is required to maintain a separate precinct election board. Assuming a ratio of one center per 10,000 voters was generally followed, hundreds of precinct election boards would be eliminated by vote centers. Any actual savings would vary by county because many paid precinct election board positions go vacant due to shortage of poll workers or already have been eliminated by various county election boards as unnecessary.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Secretary of State, Election Division.

Local Agencies Affected: County election boards.

Information Sources: Secretary of State, Election Division.

Fiscal Analyst: Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.