

BALLOT PROPOSITION #205
Your Right to Vote by Mail Act

Publicity Pamphlet Fiscal Impact Summary

State law requires the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) Staff to prepare a summary of the fiscal impact of certain ballot measures. Each household with a registered voter currently receives a sample ballot prior to state, county and local elections. These sample ballots may not be used for voting. Proposition 205 eliminates the requirement to provide sample ballots to households and instead requires mailing a regular ballot to each registered voter. As the sample ballot mailing is a state cost, elimination of that requirement may save the state approximately \$1.7 million in election years. Since counties and local governments would have to mail regular ballots to each individual registered voter, their mailing costs are projected to be higher than the current cost of mailing the sample ballot to households. The counties and local governments, however, may reduce some of their other expenses. The counties and local governments are currently responsible for the cost of polling places. Since Proposition 205 would require an absolute minimum number of polling places, county and local government may experience savings depending on the revised number of polling places. The net fiscal impact on county and local governments is difficult to determine in advance and will depend, at least in part, on their higher costs to mail ballots to registered voters compared to the savings from a reduced number of polling places.