

MISSOURI STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

FISCAL NOTE (26-HCS HJR 73)

Subject

House Committee Substitute for House Joint Resolution No. 73 (Received May 30, 2025)

Date

June 18, 2025

Description

This proposal would amend Article I of the Missouri Constitution.

The amendment is to be voted on in November 2026.

Public comments and other input

The State Auditor's office requested input from the **Attorney General's Office**, the **Department of Agriculture**, the **Department of Commerce and Insurance**, the **Department of Conservation**, the **Department of Corrections**, the **Department of Economic Development**, the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**, the **Department of Health and Senior Services**, the **Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development**, the **Department of Labor and Industrial Relations**, the **Department of Mental Health**, the **Department of National Guard**, the **Department of Natural Resources**, the **Department of Public Safety**, the **Department of Revenue**, the **Department of Social Services**, the **Department of Transportation**, the **Governor's Office**, the **Missouri House of Representatives**, the **Missouri Senate**, the **Office of Administration**, the **Office of State Courts Administrator**, the **Office of the State Public Defender**, the **Secretary of State's Office**, the **State Treasurer's Office**, **Adair County**, **Andrew County**, **Atchison County**, **Audrain County**, **Barry County**, **Barton County**, **Bates County**, **Benton County**, **Bollinger County**, **Boone County**, **Buchanan County**, **Butler County**, **Caldwell County**, **Callaway County**, **Camden County**, **Cape Girardeau County**, **Carroll County**, **Carter County**, **Cass County**, **Cedar County**, **Chariton County**, **Christian County**, **Clark County**, **Clay County**, **Clinton County**, **Cole County**, **Cooper County**, **Crawford County**, **Dade County**, **Dallas County**, **Daviess County**, **DeKalb County**, **Dent County**, **Douglas County**, **Dunklin County**, **Franklin County**, **Gasconade County**, **Gentry County**, **Greene County**, **Grundy County**, **Harrison County**, **Henry County**, **Hickory County**, **Holt County**, **Howard County**, **Howell County**, **Iron County**, **Jackson County**, **Jasper County**, **Jefferson County**, **Johnson County**, **Knox County**, **Laclede County**, **Lafayette County**, **Lawrence County**, **Lewis County**, **Lincoln County**, **Linn County**, **Livingston County**, **Macon County**, **Madison County**, **Maries County**, **Marion County**, **McDonald County**, **Mercer County**, **Miller County**, **Mississippi County**, **Moniteau County**, **Monroe County**, **Montgomery County**, **Morgan County**, **New Madrid County**, **Newton County**, **Nodaway County**, **Oregon County**, **Osage County**, **Ozark County**, **Pemiscot County**, **Perry County**, **Pettis County**, **Phelps County**, **Pike County**, **Platte County**, **Polk County**, **Pulaski County**, **Putnam County**, **Ralls County**, **Randolph County**, **Ray County**, **Reynolds County**, **Ripley County**, **Saline County**, **Schuyler County**, **Scotland County**, **Scott County**, **Shannon County**, **Shelby County**, **St. Charles County**, **St. Clair County**, **St. Francois County**, **St. Louis County**, **Ste. Genevieve County**, **Stoddard County**, **Stone County**, **Sullivan County**, **Taney County**, **Texas County**, **Vernon County**, **Warren County**, **Washington County**, **Wayne County**, **Webster County**, **Worth County**, **Wright County**, the **City of Cape Girardeau**, the **City of Columbia**, the **City of Jefferson City**, the **City of Joplin**, the **City of Kansas City**, the **City of Kirksville**, the **City of Mexico**, the **City of Raymore**, the **City of Springfield**, the **City of St. Joseph**, the **City of St. Louis**, the **City of Union**, the **City of Wentzville**, the **City of West Plains**, **Cape Girardeau 63 School District**, **Hannibal School District #60**, **Jennings School District**, **Malta Bend R-V School District**, **Mehlville School District**, **Wellsville-Middletown R-1 School District**, **Metropolitan Community College**, **St. Louis Community College**, **State Technical College of Missouri**, and **University of Missouri**.

Assumptions

Officials from the **Attorney General's Office** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Agriculture** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Commerce and Insurance** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Conservation** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Corrections** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Economic Development** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Labor and Industrial Relations** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Mental Health** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of National Guard** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Natural Resources** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Public Safety** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Revenue** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Social Services** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Department of Transportation** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Governor's Office** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Missouri House of Representatives** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Missouri Senate** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Office of Administration** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Office of State Courts Administrator** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Office of the State Public Defender** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **Secretary of State's Office** indicated:

Each year, a number of joint resolutions that would refer to a vote of the people a constitutional amendment and bills that would refer to a vote of the people the statutory issue in the legislation may be considered by the General Assembly.

Unless a special election is called for the purpose, Referendums are submitted to the people at the next general election. Article III section 52(b) of the Missouri Constitution authorizes the general assembly to order a special election for measures referred to the people. If a special election is called to submit a Referendum to a vote of the people, Section 115.063.2 RSMo. requires the state to pay the costs. The cost of the special election has been estimated to be \$8 million based on the cost of the 2024 primary and general election reimbursements.

The Secretary of State's office is required to pay for publishing in local newspapers the full text of each statewide ballot measure as directed by Article XII, Section 2(b) of the Missouri Constitution and Section 116.230-116.290, RSMo. Funding for this item is adjusted each year depending upon the election cycle. A new decision item is requested in odd numbered fiscal years and the amount requested is dependent upon the estimated number of ballot measures that will be approved by the General Assembly and the initiative petitions certified for the ballot. In FY 2014, the General Assembly changed the appropriation so that it was no longer an estimated appropriation.

For the FY24 petitions cycle, the SOS estimates publication costs at \$60,000 per page. This amount is subject to change based on number of petitions received, length of those petitions and rates charged by newspaper publishers.

The Secretary of State's office will continue to assume, for the purposes of this fiscal note, that it should have the full appropriation authority it needs to meet the publishing requirements. Because these requirements are mandatory, we reserve the right to request funding to meet the cost of our publishing requirements if the Governor and the General Assembly again change the amount or continue to not designate it as an estimated appropriation.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Pauley 573-526-0703.

Officials from the **State Treasurer's Office** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from **Bates County** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from **Carter County** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from **Clay County** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from **Greene County** indicated:

To Whom It May Concern:

The County of Greene may experience increased revenue if voters approve the House Committee Substitute for House Joint Resolution No. 73. Here are some details regarding this legislation.

According to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Greene County recorded 98 “resident abortions” in 2022, which is the most recent data available. Prior to 2022, there were 118 abortions in 2021 and 135 abortions in 2020. The estimated population of Greene County, based on the 2024 United States Census, is 307,942.

- **U.S. Census Link:** www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/greene-county-missouri/PST045221

In terms of economic impact, Greene County received a total of \$117,332,115.81 in sales and property taxes for the calendar year 2024, which equates to \$381.02 per capita based on 2024 census data. Calculations from these figures indicate an annual population loss of 98 residents, which results in a cost to the county of \$37,339.98. Additionally, a decrease in abortion statistics could reasonably be projected to lead to increased tax collections and revenues over the potential working lifetimes of those individuals.

Greene County Tax Collections 2024	
2024 Census Estimated Population	307,942
Total Sales Tax Collected	131,363,983.15
Less: IGA distributions	
Parks I	-8,557,559.96
Parks II	-9,107,596.63
Dan Kinney Bond from Parks I	-549,322.41
LEST	-11,799,983.01
Statutory Paving	-2,712,560.89
Strafford TIF	-21,073.68
Springfield Plaza TIF	-255,845.21
Sales Tax Subtotal	98,360,041.36
Real Estate Tax	15,286,822.77
Personal Property Tax	3,685,251.68
Property Tax Subtotal	18,972,074.45
Total Taxes	117,332,115.81
PerCapita	381.02
Annual lost population	98
Annual Cost	37,339.98

Further research on the broader fiscal impacts of declining fertility rates on local and state communities and government budgets can be found here:

- www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2022/12/the-long-term-decline-in-fertility-and-what-it-means-for-state-budgets

The information presented in the study suggests that higher birth rates positively impact sales and property tax collection.

However, estimating this impact poses challenges due to the difficulty of quantifying what increases in tax collection might be reasonable, given the limited information currently available. To fully understand the fiscal implications, a detailed study is necessary to explore the impact on local sales and property tax collections. Additionally, a reliable method for predicting annual births and abortions would be required to more accurately forecast the effects on local tax receipts. Unfortunately, neither of these approaches is feasible due to the short response timeline.

Officials from **Macon County** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from **Madison County** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from **Pike County** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from **Schuyler County** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from **Scotland County** indicated:

There will be a cost to have an election in November that the State and County will have to pay for. *

Officials from **St. Clair County** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from **St. Louis County** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **City of Kansas City** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **City of St. Louis** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from the **City of Wentzville** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from **Metropolitan Community College** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from **St. Louis Community College** indicated no fiscal impact.

Officials from **University of Missouri** indicated no fiscal impact.

The State Auditor's office did not receive a response from **Adair County, Andrew County, Atchison County, Audrain County, Barry County, Barton County, Benton County, Bollinger County, Boone County, Buchanan County, Butler County, Caldwell County, Callaway County, Camden County, Cape Girardeau County, Carroll County, Cass County, Cedar County, Chariton County, Christian County, Clark County, Clinton County, Cole County, Cooper County, Crawford County, Dade County, Dallas County, Daviess County, DeKalb County, Dent County, Douglas County, Dunklin County, Franklin County, Gasconade County, Gentry County, Grundy County, Harrison County, Henry County, Hickory County, Holt County, Howard County, Howell County, Iron County, Jackson County, Jasper County, Jefferson County, Johnson County, Knox County, Laclede County, Lafayette County, Lawrence County, Lewis County, Lincoln County, Linn County, Livingston County, Maries County, Marion County, McDonald County, Mercer County, Miller County, Mississippi County, Moniteau County, Monroe County, Montgomery County, Morgan County, New Madrid County, Newton County, Nodaway County, Oregon County, Osage County, Ozark County, Pemiscot County, Perry County, Pettis County, Phelps County, Platte County, Polk County, Pulaski County, Putnam County, Ralls County, Randolph County, Ray County, Reynolds County, Ripley County, Saline County, Scott County, Shannon County, Shelby County, St. Charles County, St. Francois County, Ste. Genevieve County, Stoddard County, Stone County, Sullivan County, Taney County, Texas County, Vernon County, Warren County, Washington County, Wayne County, Webster County, Worth County, Wright County, the City of Cape Girardeau, the City of Columbia, the City of Jefferson City, the City of Joplin, the City of Kirksville, the City of Mexico, the City of Raymore, the City of Springfield, the City of St. Joseph, the City of Union, the City of West Plains, Cape Girardeau 63 School District, Hannibal School District #60, Jennings School District, Malta Bend R-V School District, Mehlville School District, Wellsville-Middletown R-1 School District, and State Technical College of Missouri.**

*** Explanation of Exclusion of Fiscal Note Information From the Fiscal Note Summary**

The State Auditor's Office is excluding the response from Scotland County. This resolution does not result in any change in existing election costs.

Fiscal Note Summary

State governmental entities estimate no costs or savings. Greene County estimates it may experience an unknown increase in tax revenue. Other local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.