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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/6/09

SPONSOR M. Sanchez LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Hold School Elections Apart From Others, CA SJR 11

ANALYST Haug

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
		Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non- Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		(Indeterminate)	(Indeterminate)			

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Resolution 11 proposes to amend Article 7 Section 1 of the Constitution of New Mexico by deleting the requirement that school elections be held at different times than other elections.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

It is likely that costs associated with conducting separate elections for schools can be avoided by combining those elections with general elections.

## **Senate Joint Resolution 11 – Page 2**

The HED notes that while cost avoidance cannot be quantified for the proposed change, the costs involved for post secondary institutions to conduct elections on matters affecting higher education will be reduced if elections do not have to be scheduled separately from other elections.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to the PED, the change might be seen as the state availing itself of voter turnout in general elections to the benefit of school elections. According to U.S. Census Bureau statistics for 2006, New Mexico has a population of approximately 1,954,599. Of that number, 84% are over 18. In 2007, there were 1,077,318 registered voters in the state. Holding school board elections at the same time as general elections enhances voter participation in school elections. Just one example of low voter turnout for school board elections might be helpful. As of September 20, 2007, according to the Secretary of State's Voter Registration Statistics Report, there were 96,929 registered voters in Doña Ana County. The 2007 school board election for the school districts in Doña Ana County was decided by only 1,317 voters.

GH/mt