

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6966
BILL NUMBER: HB 1218

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 31, 2025
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Straight Ticket Voting.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Clere
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill removes a voter's option to vote for all candidates of a political party or an independent ticket at one time (straight ticket voting) in a general or municipal election. It repeals superseded statutes relating to straight ticket voting.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Election Division may need to revise instructional materials to reflect the bill's changes. However, it is likely the Election Division would be able to complete the changes within their existing staff and resource levels.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary*— The provision would likely have a minor impact to ballot production costs for Optical-Scan voting systems or to the programming of direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems in future elections.

Additional Information— Ballot cards for optical-scan systems would have the instructions for voting a straight-party ballot, the straight-party indication ovals, and the devices (major party insignia) beside the straight-party ovals removed from the ballot. In conjunction with the ballot changes, programming vendors would need to remove the straight-party vote feature when programming the coding cards for the optical-scan readers in future elections. Any additional cost to remove the straight-party vote feature would depend on the contracted agreement between counties and their ballot production vendor.

Removal of the straight-party feature would minimally impact counties with recent DRE touchscreen voting systems. Newer DRE systems have the capability to shut off the straight-party voting option. Currently, DRE voting systems must have either a push button (on older DREs) or an icon on a touchscreen system to vote a straight ticket.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Election Division.

Local Agencies Affected: County election boards.

Information Sources: Various county clerks.

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