

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

**LS 6397**  
**BILL NUMBER: SB 201**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 1, 2024  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Closed Primary Elections.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Gaskill  
**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
 **DEDICATED**  
 **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** *Voter Registration*— The bill allows an individual to affiliate with a political party while registering to vote. The bill requires the text: "Would you like to choose your political party? If you wish to vote in a primary election, you must first choose your political party affiliation and may only vote that party's ballot in the primary election."; and a blank space for the applicant to list a party affiliation, to be included on a voter registration form. The bill provides that a voter may only vote at a primary election if the voter has affiliated with a political party not later than 119 days before the date of the primary election.

*Voting in a Primary*— The bill requires a voter to vote at the primary election held by the political party with which the voter is affiliated. The bill provides an exception to allow an individual who: (1) has moved to Indiana later than 119 days before the date of the primary election from another state; and (2) is 17 years of age but will be at least 18 years of age on the day of the next general, municipal, or special election; to register to vote and affiliate with a political party later than 119 days before the primary election, and vote at a primary election. The bill allows a voter to change party affiliation less than 119 days before the primary election and vote in a primary election if the voter has moved to a new election district less than 119 days before the primary election and the voter transfers the voter's registration record.

*Affiliation by Political Party*— The bill requires a county voter registration office to automatically affiliate certain voters with a political party and to allow all voters to affiliate or change political party affiliation. The bill allows a voter to affiliate with a political party when transferring the voter's registration record. The bill requires a voter who casts a provisional ballot to make an affidavit identifying the voter's political party affiliation.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2025.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Voter Registration*— The Election Division would need to revise voter registration application forms for the following agencies to include the above quotation within the application form:

1. Bureau of Motor Vehicles (with drivers license application)
2. Public Assistance Agencies (County TANF or Medicaid offices, Office of Division of Family

- Resources food stamp administration offices, IDOH special supplemental nutrition offices).
3. Agencies serving persons with disabilities.
  4. County voter registration offices.

It is likely, the Election Division could update the registration form as routine business, and should just present a workload increase to the Division and the Form Management division of the Indiana Archives and Records Administration.

The Election Division may also need to update voter publications to include the proposed changes the bill would bring.

*Affiliation by Political Party*– The current version of the statewide voter registration list (SVRL), does not have the capability to enter party affiliation with voters stored in the list. Likely, the SVRL would likely need to be modified. The cost of which to do so, would depend on negotiations reached between the Election Division and the vendor that maintains the SVRL. (This section will be updated, as additional information on vendor pricing becomes available.)

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Voting in a Primary*– It is likely that county election officials would realize an increased workload in preparation for future primary elections and on election day to explain and implement the proposed policy.

Additionally, county election board and voter registration boards may see an increase in workload to process changes to voting registrations after 119 days prior to primaries as allowed under the bill’s specifications.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** BMV, Election Division, Indiana Archives and Records Administration.

**Local Agencies Affected:** CVRO, county election boards, office of the circuit court clerk.

**Information Sources:** Brad King, Co-Director, Indiana Election Division.

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