

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

This bill allows certain local government bodies to conduct elections by mail without prior approval, permits a school board to determine whether to hold a primary election, and also permits the use of electronic voting systems for school board elections in certain circumstances.

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- 1 Elections by mail.** Permits a county, municipality, or school district conducting a special election to conduct the election by mail. Under current law, an election by mail in these circumstances requires approval of the county auditor. This bill eliminates the need for approval, but requires notice be given to the county auditor at least 53 days prior to the election.
- 2 School board elections.** Permits school boards to decide whether to hold a primary election to select nominees for the board. Under current law, a primary election is mandatory if there are more than two candidates for one board position or there are more than twice as many board candidates as there are at-large positions open. This bill permits a school district to conduct a primary election only if the school board adopts a resolution to that effect. A resolution must be adopted no later than June 1 of any year, and is effective for all future elections until the resolution is revoked.
- 3 Filing for school board office.** Modifies the deadline for filing an affidavit of candidacy, depending upon whether a school district is conducting a primary election. If a primary election is to be held, affidavits of candidacy must be filed between 8 and 10 weeks before the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September (under current law, the state

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primary date). If there is to be no primary election, affidavits must be filed between 8 and 10 weeks before the school district general election.

**4** **Electronic voting systems.** Permits school district elections to be conducted using an electronic voting system, if provided for by the school board, so long as the district has given proper notice and the secretary of state has approved the system.

**5** **Effective Date.** Provides for the bill to be effective the day following enactment, and applies to school board elections in 2007 and thereafter.