Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO:	**The Honorable Phil Mendelson** **Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia**
FROM:	**Glen Lee** **Chief Financial Officer**
DATE:	**September 27, 2022**
SUBJECT:	**Fiscal Impact Statement – Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022**
REFERENCE:	**Bill 24-300, Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on September 7, 2022**

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill will cost $1.42 million in fiscal year 2023 and $1.64 million over the financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

Currently, District residents must be United States citizens to vote in local elections in the District. The bill expands[1] the definition of qualified elector to allow non-citizen District residents to vote in local elections. Non-citizen District residents will be able to vote for Mayor, Chairman or member of the Council, Attorney General, Member of the State Board of Education, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, and an initiative, referendum, recall, or charter amendment measure on a specific local election ballot.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill will cost $1.42 million in fiscal year 2023 and $1.64 million over the financial plan to implement the bill.

[1] By amending The District of Columbia Election Code of 1955, approved August 12, 1955 (69 Stat. 699; D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.01 et seq.).

Expanding who is eligible to vote in local elections to include non-citizens will require several modifications to printed materials and voter registration and ballot IT systems. The expansion will also require an outreach campaign to newly eligible voters. In total, the bill will cost $1.42 million in fiscal year 2023 and $1.64 million over the financial plan.

Bill 24-300, Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022 Summary of Total Costs					
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
Modifications to Existing Printed Materials	$215,000	$0	$0	$0	$215,000
Modifications to Voter Registration and Ballot IT Systems	$700,000	$0	$0	$0	$700,000
Outreach to Non-Citizen Voters	$506,000	$70,000	$72,000	$73,000	$721,000
Total	$1,421,000	$70,000	$72,000	$73,000	$1,636,000

The Board of Elections (BOE) requires $65,000 in fiscal year 2023 to update, print, and distribute a new Voter Registration Agency Manual (VRAM). The VRAM is used as a resource guide by agencies that are designated as voter registration agencies. The VRAM will be updated to include guidance on non-citizen voting. BOE will need to update voter registration applications to include an option for non-citizens to register. Currently, the voter registration applications do not have this option, but non-citizen votes will have to be distinguished in order to be properly excluded from federal elections. The one-time cost of producing, printing, and distributing new voter registration applications is $50,000 in fiscal year 2023. BOE also must design and modify its voter registration cards to accommodate non-citizen voters. This requires a one-time cost of $100,000 in fiscal year 2023. The total cost of designing and modifying various BOE printed materials is $215,000 in fiscal year 2023.

Modifications to Existing Printed Materials Total Cost					
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
New Voter Registration Agency Manuals	$65,000	$0	$0	$0	$65,000
Voter Registration Application Modification and Printing	$50,000	$0	$0	$0	$50,000
Modification of Voter Registration Cards	$100,000	$0	$0	$0	$100,000
Total	$215,000	$0	$0	$0	$215,000

BOE will need to make modifications to its voter database to update functionality to include seperate ballots for non-citizen voters. In addition, these ballots must be issued and tracked separately. These modifications are expected to cost $200,000 in fiscal year 2023. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will also need to update its voter registration IT systems to accommodate non-citizen registrants. Modifying the system is expected to cost $300,000 in fiscal year 2023. BOE must modify

its electronic Poll Pads[2] to accommodate non-citizen voting. The total cost of updating the Poll Pads is $200,000 in fiscal year 2023. In total, the cost of modifying voter registration and ballot IT systems will cost $515,000 in fiscal year 2023.

Modifications to Voter Registration and Ballot IT Systems Total Cost					
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
Database Modifications	$200,000	$0	$0	$0	$200,000
DMV Voter Registration Update	$300,000	$0	$0	$0	$300,000
Poll Pad Modifications	$200,000	$0	$0	$0	$200,000
Total	$400,000	$0	$0	$0	$400,000

BOE will conduct an initial outreach and marketing campaign to inform newly eligible voters of their ability to vote in local elections. This campaign will include District-wide mailings, brochures, educational materials, and media advertisements. BOE will also hire a multilingual employee to help target outreach materials to non-citizen voters. The total cost of outreach is $506,000 in fiscal year 2023 and $721,000 over the financial plan.

Outreach to Non-Citizen Voters Total Cost					
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
Citywide Mailers	$192,000	$0	$0	$0	$192,000
Postage	$150,000	$0	$0	$0	$150,000
Outreach and Education Materials	$50,000	$0	$0	$0	$50,000
Media Advertisements	$45,000	$0	$0	$0	$45,000
Multilingual Outreach Specialist[(a)]	$69,000	$70,000	$72,000	$73,000	$284,000
Total	$506,000	$70,000	$72,000	$73,000	$721,000

Table Notes:

(a) Salary and fringe for one Grade 9, Step 5 Outreach Specialist. Assumes salary cost growth of 1.75 percent. Assumes fringe rate of 15.4 percent and cost growth of 2.375 percent.

[2] Poll Pads are electronic tablets that are used for voter check-in and verification.