



Esperanza "Hope" Andrade
SECRETARY OF STATE
State of Texas

September 9, 2009

Mr. Michael Quinn Sullivan
Texans for Fiscal Responsibility
PO Box 200248
Austin, Texas 78720

Dear Mr. Sullivan,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the potential costs of any potential special election for United States Senate, should a vacancy occur.

The Secretary of State's Elections Division estimates the cost to Texas counties of a special election to fill a vacancy for United States Senate could be between \$18 million to \$20 million.

This cost estimate is based on various factors, including examinations of historical data of prior elections for United States Senate and Constitutional Amendment elections and the assumption that few of the state's 8,400 voting locations would be consolidated, which would require U.S. Department of Justice approval. The Elections Division staff also took into account the potential of significant voter interest in such a very high profile vacancy with numerous candidates competing for the seat and the possibility that the election could take place on a non-uniform election date.

Additionally, the Secretary of State's Elections Division further estimates that any runoff election that may result could incur an additional cost to Texas counties of up to \$10 million.

With regard to your inquiry concerning the budgeting practices of counties, the Office of the Secretary of State has no information on whether or not Texas counties have budget contingencies to cover the cost of a special election. However, my office will be prepared to absorb any cost to the state for administering any special election as part of the agency's normal operating budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hope Andrade".

Hope Andrade
Texas Secretary of State