

**ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB501**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday February 25, 2009  
**Committee On:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
**Introducer:** Sullivan  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to submission of ballot issues and elections by mail

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 8 Senators Avery, Giese, Janssen, Karpisek, Pahls, Pirsch, Price, Sullivan  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Proponents:**  
Senator Kate Sullivan  
Neal Erickson  
Sandra Stelling

**Representing:**  
Introducer  
Secretary of State  
Clerks/Register of Deeds/Election Commissioners

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Currently, a governmental unit may exceed the allowable growth percentage if approved by voters at a special election. With LB 501, the county clerk or election commissioner will call for a special election on the issue within 30 days after receipt of the governing body recommendation or legal voter petition. The current requirement is 15 days after such receipt.

The bill also expands the number of counties eligible for conducting elections by mail to counties with less than 10,000 inhabitants. Current law allows counties with less than 7000 inhabitants to conduct elections by mail.

The final changes in the bill relate to the Local Option Revenue Act. If a municipality decides to submit to the voters the issue of changing or imposing a sales and use tax, the certified copy of the resolution proposing the tax will be submitted to the election commissioner or county clerk by March 1 for a primary election, by September 1 for a general election, or at least 50 days before a special election.

If the qualified electors of any municipality petition the governing body to submit the question of a sales or use tax at least 75 days before the next primary, general or special election, the governing body will submit the question at the next such election. The current deadline is 45 days before an election.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment adds the provisions of LB 362 which requires the candidate filing forms to contain the candidate's name, residence address, mailing address if different from residence address, telephone number, office

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sought, and party affiliation if seeking a partisan office.

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Bill Avery, Chairperson