



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Summary

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LCS TITLE: CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

Fiscal Summary of Initiative 38

This fiscal summary, prepared by the nonpartisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council, contains a preliminary assessment of the measure's fiscal impact. A full fiscal impact statement for this initiative is or will be available at www.ColoradoBlueBook.com. This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

State revenue. The measure creates new felony offenses for specified election infractions and authorizes new fines for each illegal ballot cast. This may increase state revenue by a minimal amount. The measure may also result in higher business filing fees, which are charged by the Department of State to cover its expenses, including election-related costs created by this measure.

State expenditures. The measure significantly increases costs in the Department of State in several areas related to election administration and potentially increases costs for several agencies related to new felony offenses. Among the various costs drivers under the measure, the Department of State will be required to make major system updates to the statewide voter registration system, the ballot access system, the campaign finance tracking system, and its post-election risk limiting audit software. The Department of State will also be required to create all-new rules and processes related to in-person and mail-in voting, voter identification, absentee ballots, polling locations and procedures, vacancy elections, and campaign finance. This work will require significant increases in staff and legal services provided by the Department of Law. Concerning the new felony offenses, workload and costs will increase in the Judicial Department for the trial courts to hear additional cases and for agencies that provide representation to indigent defendants, and in the Department of Corrections to house additional offenders convicted of the new offenses.

Local government impact. The measure will increase costs for county clerks and other local government election officials. Among these new costs, county clerks will be required to develop new procedures for voter registration, polling places, and other aspects of election administration. County clerks will also be required to operate significantly more polling places during election, which will increase costs for poll workers, site rental, and voting equipment.

Economic impacts. The measure is not expected to have a direct economic impact on the state.