

Summary of Legislation

2025



Elections

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During the 2025 legislative session, the General Assembly considered several bills concerning elections, including changes to vacancy elections, voting rights, voter verification, the initiative process, and the national popular vote.

Vacancy Elections

Current law requires vacancies in the General Assembly to be filled at the next General Election. [House Bill 25-1315](#) requires that if a vacancy in the General Assembly occurs for a member affiliated with a major political party after July 31 of an even-numbered year, and before July 31 of an odd-numbered year, a vacancy committee selects a candidate to serve until the next odd-year November election. A vacancy election, a new type of election created by this bill, is then held as a part of the district's odd-year November coordinated election. Only unaffiliated voters and voters affiliated with the vacating member's political party may vote in the vacancy election. Candidates for the vacancy election are required to submit a nominating statement and signed petition to the Secretary of State. The winner of the vacancy election serves until the next November General Election. The bill also adds

contribution limits and disclosure requirements to vacancy candidates.

In addition, [House Bill 25-1319](#) creates the same new vacancy election for county commissioners in counties with at least 50,000 active voters.

Under current law, a political party vacancy committee selects the person to fill any vacancy in the state legislature. If approved by voters at the 2026 election, [House Concurrent Resolution 25-1002](#), which was killed, would have prohibited any state representative or senator appointed by a vacancy committee from serving the term immediately following the term for which they were appointed.

Voting Rights

[Senate Bill 25-001](#) codifies the right of equal access to the political process for racial, color, and language minority groups, as established in the Federal Voting Rights Act. This includes engaging in voter suppression and adding voting prerequisites.

In addition, [House Bill 25-1225](#) prohibits an individual from intimidating, threatening, or coercing others in relation to voting or attempting to vote, assisting others in voting, or helping to administer past or present elections. It creates a presumption

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that an individual who is not a law enforcement officer who carries a real or imitation firearm while interacting with or observing voting activities engages in prohibited intimidation.

Voter Verification

Several bills would have added additional verification for voting. [Senate Bill 25-057](#) would have required the Department of State to collect citizenship status information and remove any noncitizens from voter rolls. [House Bill 25-1089](#) would have authorized county clerks to allow a team of bipartisan election judges, rather than a single election judge, to review mail ballots for purposes of signature verification. [House Bill 25-1193](#) would have required the use of distributed ledger voting for all elections conducted in the state. A distributed ledger allows information to be entered into a publicly available common database from multiple locations at different times, while using a computer code that makes the personal information in the ledger private. All three bills were postponed indefinitely.

Initiative Process

[House Bill 25-1327](#) makes several changes to the procedures for citizen-initiated and legislatively referred ballot measures. If initiative proponents submit five or more drafts to the Title Board in the same initiative cycle concerning the same subject, the bill requires that they also submit a chart that describes the differences between each draft.

The bill requires proponents of an initiated measure to notify the Secretary of State when the petition being circulated has received 75 percent of the required number of signatures to qualify for the ballot. The Secretary of State must post this information on the department's website.

In addition, the bill requires specific fiscal information to be reflected in the fiscal summary and statewide voter guide, more commonly known as the Blue Book.

National Popular Vote

Under current law, Colorado is a member of an interstate compact to elect the U.S. President by national popular vote once states with the majority of electoral votes ratify the agreement. Under the compact, presidential electors in Colorado are bound to support the winner of the national popular vote once it takes effect.

[House Bill 25-1102](#) would have removed Colorado from the interstate compact. It was postponed indefinitely.