

SCR24-002: Modify Constitutional Election Deadlines

Placed on the ballot by the legislature • Passes with 55 percent of the vote

1 **SCR24-002 proposes amending the Colorado Constitution to:**

- 2 • make deadlines one week earlier for citizens to submit signatures for initiative
- 3 and referendum petitions, and for judges to file declarations of intent to seek
- 4 another term; and
- 5 • require that the content of ballot measures be published in local newspapers 30
- 6 days earlier than under current law.

7 **What Your Vote Means**

8 **YES**

9 A “yes” vote on SCR24-002 results in
10 earlier deadlines for certain election filings
11 and the publication of ballot measures in
12 newspapers.

13 **NO**

14 A “no” vote on SCR24-002 maintains
15 current constitutional deadlines for
16 election filings and the publication of
17 ballot measures in newspapers.

18 **Summary and Analysis of SCR24-002**

19 **How does SCR24-002 change election filing deadlines?**

20 SCR24-002 makes certain election filing deadlines one week earlier. Specifically, the measure
21 moves up the deadline for citizens to submit signatures for initiative and referendum
22 petitions and for judges to file a declaration of intent to seek another term, as outlined
23 below.

24 **Citizen initiatives.** In Colorado citizens can collect signatures and file petitions to propose
25 changes to state law (initiatives) and to challenge a law passed by the state legislature
26 (referendum petitions). The deadline to submit both types of petitions is currently three
27 months before the general election. Under the measure, the deadline for citizens to file
28 these petitions is one week earlier.

29 **Intent for judges to seek another term.** Judges in Colorado are appointed by the
30 Governor. To retain their position at the end of their term, a judge must be retained by
31 voters. Judges must currently file a declaration with election officials that they intend to seek
32 another term at least three months before the general election. Under the measure, the
33 deadline for judges to file this form is one week earlier.

1 **How does SCR24-002 change the publication of ballot measure content in**
2 **newspapers?**

3 The nonpartisan staff of the state legislature must publish the title and text of all statewide
4 ballot measures in newspapers around the state. Currently, this publication must occur at
5 least 15 days before the election. Under the measure, the deadline to publish ballot measure
6 content in newspapers is 30 days earlier.

For information on those issue committees that support or oppose the measures on the ballot at the November 5, 2024, election, go to the Colorado Secretary of State's elections center web site hyperlink for ballot and initiative information:

<https://coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/Initiatives/InitiativesHome.html>

7 **Arguments For SCR24-002**

8 1) Election deadlines are tight, especially to send ballots to military and overseas voters,
9 and this measure gives election officials more time to format, translate, and review
10 ballots before they are sent to voters. It also ensures that publication of ballot measures
11 in newspapers occurs sooner and before voters receive ballots.

12 **Arguments Against SCR24-002**

13 1) For most initiatives, SCR24-002 gives citizens less time to collect signatures and file
14 petitions. Extra time for election officials should not make it more difficult for citizens
15 seeking to change state laws. The content of ballot measures is publicly available and
16 widely covered by the media. More time for this mandatory publication is unnecessary.

17 **Fiscal Impact of SCR24-002**

18 The fiscal impact will be included in second draft.