



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 25-1155: MODIFY CANDIDATE AUTHORITY ELECTION WATCHERS

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Bradfield

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Published for: House State Affairs

Drafting number: LLS 25-0552

Version: Initial Fiscal Note

Date: February 5, 2025

Fiscal note status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill allows candidates to select election watchers for general and congressional vacancy elections, and for recounts for certain offices.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- State Expenditures
- Local Government

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, a candidate affiliated with a political party may only designate watchers for the primary election. This bill allows candidates to select watchers for general and congressional vacancy elections, and for any recount for the office of United States senator, representative in congress, and any state office or district office of state concern. If a candidate selects watchers for the central counting facility, the political party associated with that candidate cannot send different or additional watchers to the central counting facility. The political party can still send watchers to voting centers and polling locations, as well as to monitor the signature verification process in accordance with current law.

Local Government

This bill will likely result in more watchers that counties must accommodate during general elections, increasing workload and costs for county clerks. This increase in watchers will occur because multiple candidates can select watchers at covered elections, rather than a political party sending watchers on behalf of all candidates affiliated with that party who are on the ballot.

State Expenditures

The state reimburses counties for a portion of their costs to conduct elections. To the extent accommodating additional watchers increases reimbursable county expenses, state expenditures, paid from the Department of State Cash Fund, will increase under the bill. In addition, the Secretary of State may be required to adopt rules or guidance for county clerks regarding the appointment of watchers.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

County Clerks

Department of State

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).