



Fiscal Summary

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Measure: Initiative 262 – ELECT MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY OPEN LIST PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

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Fiscal Summary of Initiative 262

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 leg.colorado.gov/bluebook. This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

State Expenditures and Revenue

The measure is estimated to increase state expenditures by several million dollars in the Department of State (DOS) to implement changes to elections systems and processes. Specifically, the DOS must update election rules, modify election software and information technology systems, create new vote counting methodology, and conduct public awareness campaigns to inform voters about the changes to voting in Colorado. Changes to the unaffiliated and minor political party nomination process can also add more primary elections, which would further increase costs to administer the additional elections. Costs will also increase to reimburse counties, which are equal to 45 percent of county costs under current law (see local government impacts below). If costs are paid from the Department of State Cash Fund, state revenue from business filing fees paid to the DOS must be increased. The actual amount of new revenue and fee charges will be set administratively by DOS in order to cover any costs to implement the initiative paid from the DOS Cash Fund.

Local Government

The measure increases costs for county clerks and other local election officials in several ways. Conducting a primary with multiple voting options, and adding proportional voting to the general elections, increases the size and complexity of printed ballots, which will require that clerks educate voters, and revise processes for the operation of polling places and ballot counting. For some counties, this will require new election system software and equipment. Other counties will have costs to modify existing voting systems. Any additional primary elections will also have increased costs to counties. A portion of local costs are reimbursed by the state.

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Economic Impacts

The measure has no direct impact on the state economy. Changes to elections may result in different leadership and different policies, which could have an economic effect. However, these effects depend on voter choices and future decision making.