

# STATE OF COLORADO

## Colorado General Assembly

Natalie Castle, Director  
Legislative Council Staff

**Colorado Legislative Council**  
200 E. Colfax Ave., Room 011  
Denver, Colorado 80203-1716  
303-866-3521  
lcs.ga@coleg.gov



Ed DeCecco, Director  
Office of Legislative Legal Services

**Office of Legislative Legal Services**  
1375 Sherman St., Suite 300  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
303-866-2045  
olls.ga@coleg.gov

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Emerson Sturgis & Marilee Sturgis

**From:** Legislative Council Staff and Office of Legislative Legal Services

**Date:** Mar 31, 2026

**Subject:** Proposed Initiative Measure 2025-2026 # 300, Concerning Colorado Oaths of Office and Constitutional Conventions.

Section 1-40-105 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, requires the directors of the Legislative Council Staff and the Office of Legislative Legal Services to "review and comment" on initiative petitions for proposed laws and amendments to the Colorado Constitution. We hereby submit our comments and questions to you regarding the appended proposed initiative.

The purpose of this statutory requirement of the directors of Legislative Council Staff and the Office of Legislative Legal Services is to provide comments and questions intended to aid designated representatives, and the proponents they represent, in determining the language of their proposal and to avail the public of the contents of the proposal. Our first objective is to be sure we understand your intended purposes of the proposal. We hope that the comments and questions in this memorandum provide a basis for discussion and understanding of the proposal. Discussion between designated representatives or their legal representatives and employees of the Legislative Council Staff and the Office of Legislative Legal Services is encouraged during review and comment meetings, but comments or discussion from anyone else is not permitted.

Proposed initiative **2025-2026 #300** was submitted by the same designated representatives as a part of a group of related proposed initiatives, including proposed initiatives **2025-2026 #287 through #301**. The comments and questions raised in this memorandum do not include comments and questions that were addressed in the memoranda for proposed initiatives **2025-2026 #288 through #301**, except as necessary to fully understand proposed initiative **2025-2026 #300**. Comments and

questions addressed in those memoranda may also be relevant, and those questions and comments are considered part of this memorandum.

## **Purposes**

### **Purposes for Proposed Initiative 2025-2026 #300**

The amendment does not put forth any changes to the existing language of the Colorado Constitution. Because there are no changes to the existing language, the purpose of the proposed amendment is unclear.

## **Substantive Comments and Questions**

The substance of the proposed initiative raises the following comments and questions:

1. Article V, section 1 (5.5) of the Colorado Constitution requires all proposed initiatives to have a single subject. What is the single subject of the proposed initiative?
2. What is the intent of the initiative?
3. The initiative contains an enacting clause and effective date but makes no changes to the current language of the Colorado Constitution. Was this your intent or did you intend to make changes to the constitutional provisions included in the initiative?
4. Because the initiative offers no change to existing language in the Colorado Constitution, how would voters discern the intent of the initiative?
5. This initiative 2025-2026 #300 was submitted as a part of a group of related initiatives, including proposed initiatives 2025-2026 #287 through #301. What is your intended effect if this initiative 2025-2026 #300 is adopted and all or some of the other initiatives in the group are not adopted?

## **Technical Comments**

The following comments address technical issues raised by the form of the proposed initiatives. These comments will be read aloud at the public meeting only if the designated representatives so request. You will have the opportunity to ask questions

about these comments at the review and comment meeting. Please consider revising the proposed initiative as follows:

1. When numbering each amending clause of the initiative, it is standard drafting practice to show the word “section” in all capital letters. Consider changing the “Section 1”, “Section 2”, “Section 3”, and “Section 4” references to all capital letters.
2. It is standard drafting practice to use small capital letters to show the language being added to the Colorado Constitution. To find small capital letters in Microsoft Word, go to the Home tab, click the arrow in the bottom right corner of the Font group, and in the Font dialog box, check the Small Caps checkbox under Effects.
3. It is standard drafting practice to show language being removed from the Colorado Constitution in stricken type, e.g., ~~stricken type~~.
4. Amending clauses follow a specific format that does not require the use of “subsection” before “(2)” in Section 1 of the proposed initiative.
5. Text in the headnotes of the Colorado Constitution after a section number is written in all capital letters. Consider amending the headnotes to be all capital letters to reflect current law.
6. Standard drafting language for an effective date clause is as follows: "This act takes effect on January 14th, 2027."