



Fiscal Impact Statement

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

INITIATIVE 362: MAIL BALLOT VOTER IDENTIFICATION

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Summary Information

Overview. The measure requires that voters affix additional identifying information when returning mail ballots.

Types of impacts. The measure is projected to affect the following areas:

- State Revenue
- State Expenditures
- Local Government

Disclaimer. This initial fiscal impact statement has been prepared for an initiative approved for petition circulation by the Secretary of State. If the initiative is placed on the ballot, Legislative Council Staff may revise this estimate for the ballot information booklet (Blue Book) if new information becomes available. Any appropriations required to implement this measure will be addressed through the annual or supplemental budget process if this measure is approved by voters.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

| Type of Impact ¹ | Budget Year FY 2026-27 | Out Year 1 FY 2027-28 | Out Year 2 FY 2028-29 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| State Revenue | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| State Expenditures (Cash Funds) | \$100,000 | \$260,000 | \$20,000 |
| Transferred Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Change in TABOR Refunds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Change in State FTE | 0.0 FTE | 0.0 FTE | 0.0 FTE |

Summary of Measure

Under current law, voters add their signature and self-affirm their mail ballots before returning to the county clerk. The measure requires additional forms of identification for mail ballots, including either the last four digits of a social security number, Colorado Real Identification number, or Colorado Drivers License number. If a voter fails to fill out the additional identification, or if an election judge cannot confirm the identification information when reviewing the mail ballot, the ballot is sent back to the voter to cure any discrepancy. Until the discrepancy is resolved the ballot is not counted.

State Revenue

Colorado law requires legislative service agency review of measures which create or increase any fee collected by a state agency. Under current law, the Department of State (DOS) is authorized to adjust fees so that the revenue generated approximates its direct and indirect costs. The DOS is primarily funded through business filing fees. To cover the costs described in the State Expenditures section below, fees may need to be raised to cover all or some of the costs of this bill. The fees affected, the timing of any increase, and the actual amount of fee charges will be set administratively by the DOS based on cash fund balance and total program costs.

State Expenditures

The Department of State will need to inform voters of the changes to mail voting across the state. This requires an outreach and communication campaign with a cost of \$100,000 in FY2026-27, and \$200,000 in FY 2027-28. The department will also have ongoing workload and costs for outreach and printed materials estimated at \$20,000 for each presidential primary, statewide primary, and general election. Counties will also have additional costs, a portion of which will be reimbursed by the state.

Local Government

Increasing the amount of information reviewed by election judges increases costs for county clerks to conduct elections. Costs also increase for additional mail ballots that must be remediated. This will require additional staffing hours and overtime from election workers. Costs will also increase for voter outreach, and additional printing and postage costs for ballots that must be cured. Counties will also have costs for added digital security and redesigning ballots and envelopes. A portion of local costs are reimbursed by the state.

Effective Date

If approved by voters at the 2026 general election, this measure takes effect upon proclamation of the Governor, no later than 30 days after the official canvass of the vote is completed.

State and Local Government Contacts

County Clerks

Secretary of State