



Fiscal Impact Statement

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

INITIATIVE 288: COLORADO CITIZENSHIP

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Summary Information

Overview. The measure creates the new designation of Colorado citizen and establishes qualifications and a process for the designation.

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

- State Expenditures

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 Impact¹	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

Summary of Measure

The measure creates the new designation of citizen of Colorado and establishes qualifications for the designation. A person is automatically a citizen of Colorado under select circumstances, including having been born or having parents born in Colorado. Anyone who has lived in Colorado for 12 months may apply for citizenship with the Department of State. The department must take action on applications within 90 days of the application filing date. Rejected applicants may appeal their case to the Colorado Court of Appeals. Citizens of Colorado may also be a citizen of additional nations. Coloradans over 18 years of age may voluntarily forfeit their citizenship at any time.

State Expenditures

Total state expenditures have not been estimated since costs will depend on how the new designation will be implemented and other future policy decisions. Potential impacts are discussed below.

The measure increases state expenditures to establish a system to designate individuals as citizens of Colorado independently of their United States citizenship status. Costs will be incurred in the Department of State, which will review Colorado citizenship applications, and in the Judicial Department, to the extent that application determinations are appealed. The Department of Revenue may have additional costs for information technology system modifications to the extent Colorado citizenship is incorporated into the tax filing system or shown on state-issued identification. Additional impacts may be incurred, depending on future state and federal decisions on how this designation is used.

Effective Date

If approved by voters at the 2026 general election, this measure takes effect on January 14, 2027.

State and Local Government Contacts

Legislative Council Staff