



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

Amendment 71

**FISCAL IMPACT
STATEMENT**

Date: September 1, 2016

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BALLOT TITLE: REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	<u>At least \$4,120</u>	<u>Potential increase.</u>
Cash Funds	At least \$4,120	Potential increase.

Summary of Measure

The measure proposes amending the Colorado constitution to add a requirement that signatures be collected statewide for citizen-initiated measures. It also proposes increasing the percentage of votes required to adopt changes to the constitution from 50 to 55 percent, except when a proposed amendment only repeals part of the constitution.

Background

In Colorado, citizens have the power to propose changes to the state constitution and statutes through the citizen-initiative process. Under this process, proponents must collect a certain number of signatures to place an initiative on the ballot. The state legislature may refer constitutional changes to the voters with a two-thirds vote of both houses. State statutes can be changed by the legislature without a vote of the people, but amending the constitution, whether by citizen initiative or legislative referendum, requires a majority of the votes cast in an election.

In order to place a citizen initiative on the ballot to change the constitution or state statutes, proponents must collect enough signatures to equal at least 5 percent of the votes cast in the most recent election for Secretary of State. In 2016, this requirement is 98,492 signatures. Proponents have up to six months to gather and submit signatures to the Secretary of State's Office for verification.

State Expenditures

The measure increases state cash fund expenditures for the Secretary of State's Office in FY 2016-17 by at least \$4,120 to pay a contractor to make changes to the statewide voter registration and election database prior to the next statewide election. There may also be an increase in state expenditures if the Secretary of State's Office requires additional personnel to verify the statewide signature requirements for citizen initiatives created by the measure. These costs are indeterminate and will depend on the number of petitions submitted in any given year and the review process used by the Secretary of State.

Effective Date

The measure takes effect after the date of the official declaration of the vote by proclamation of the Governor, not later than 30 days after the votes have been canvassed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Secretary of State