



**Legislative
Council Staff**
Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Initiative # 318

INITIAL FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Date: April 14, 2020

Fiscal Analyst: Jeff Stupak (303-866-5834)

LCS TITLE: AMEND LAWS PERTAINING TO BALLOT ACCESS BY CANDIDATES

| Fiscal Impact Summary | | FY 2020-21 | FY 2021-22 | FY 2022-23 |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Revenue | | - | - | - |
| Expenditures | Cash Funds | - | \$525,938 | \$53,424 |

Disclaimer. *This initial fiscal impact statement has been prepared for the Title Board. 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.*

Summary of Measure

The measure amends laws pertaining to ballot access by candidates. The measure requires candidates to be placed on the election ballot through a petition process, rather than a precinct caucus or party assembly. The measure also increases the minimum number of valid signatures required to be placed on the ballot for various positions, with different thresholds for major and minor/unaffiliated party candidates.

Additionally, for major political parties, if a vacancy occurs for a designated candidate within 68 days of a primary election, and the party has no candidate for the office, a party vacancy committee may fill the position. Vacancies for minor parties may be filled by the person or persons designated in the constitution or bylaws of the minor party.

Lastly, the measure requires the order of names on a primary ballot to be determined by lot.

Background and Assumptions

Candidate petitions are submitted to the Department of State; however, the Document Services Group (DSG), housed in the Department of Personnel and Administration, is responsible for the scanning and processing of the petitions. The DSG charges the Department of State an hourly rate to process the petitions. This fiscal impact statement assumes the rate will increase by 3 percent each year going forward. The hourly rate will increase from the current rate of \$76.58 per hour in FY 2020-21, to \$78.88 in FY 2021-22, and to \$81.24 in FY 2022-23.

State Expenditures

The measure will increase state expenditures by \$525,938 in FY 2021-22, and by \$54,424 in FY 2022-23 as a result of additional petitions being filed with the Department of State. Due to the election cycle, the measure will have varying impacts depending on whether it is an even-year election or an odd-year election. Costs are shown in Table 2 and discussed below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under Initiative #318

| | FY 2020-21 | FY 2021-22 | FY 2022-23 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Department of State | | | |
| Document Services Group | - | \$417,804 | \$53,424 |
| Seasonal Employees | - | \$92,134 | - |
| Additional Machinery | - | \$16,000 | - |
| Maintenance Costs | - | - | \$1,000 |
| Total Cost | - | \$525,938 | \$54,424 |

Document Services Group. Beginning in FY 2021-22, the measure increases the number of candidate petitions filed with the Department of State, which increases state expenditures to process the petitions. Total hours spent processing petitions is anticipated to increase by 5,297 hours in even-number election years, and by 658 hours in odd-number election years.

Seasonal employees. In even-number election years, the DSG will hire temporary workers to handle the increased workload. The DSG will hire approximately 28 temporary workers in the spring and summer each even-numbered year to work approximately 200 hours over the course of the year. The DSG will be able to accommodate the smaller increase in workload occurring in odd-numbered years without hiring temporary employees.

Additional machinery and maintenance. To process the increased number of petitions in a timely manner, the DSG will make a one-time purchase of an additional cutting machine. Beginning in FY 2022-23, expenditures will increase to perform regular maintenance on the new machinery.

Local Government Impact

Beginning in FY 2021-22, the measure will increase the number of petitions submitted to local governments for various local positions. This will increase expenditures and workload for county and municipal governments to process these petitions.

Economic Impact

The measure is not anticipated to impact the economy.

Effective Date

If approved by voters at the 2020 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

Counties
Personnel

County Clerks
Secretary of State

Municipalities

Abstract of Initiative 318: AMEND LAWS PERTAINING TO BALLOT ACCESS BY CANDIDATES

The abstract includes estimates of the fiscal impact of the proposed initiative. If this initiative is to be placed on the ballot, Legislative Council Staff will prepare new estimates as part of a fiscal impact statement, which includes an abstract of that information. All fiscal impact statements are available at www.ColoradoBlueBook.com and the abstract will be included in the ballot information booklet that is prepared for the initiative.

This initial fiscal estimate, prepared by the nonpartisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council as of April 14, 2020, identifies the following impacts:

State expenditures. The measure will increase state expenditures by \$525,938 in FY 2021-22, and by \$54,424 in FY 2022-23. The measure's impact will vary between even-year elections and odd-year elections.

Local government impact. Beginning in FY 2021-22, the measure will increase expenditures and workload for county and municipal governments to process longer petitions.

Economic impact. The measure is not anticipated to impact the economy.