



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Fiscal Summary

Date: March 19, 2024

Fiscal Analyst: Hamza Syed (303-866-4976)

LCS TITLE: PROHIBIT RANKED CHOICE VOTING

Fiscal Summary of Initiative 201

This fiscal summary, prepared by the nonpartisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council, contains a preliminary assessment of the measure's fiscal impact. A full fiscal impact statement for this initiative is or will be available at leg.colorado.gov/bluebook. This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

State expenditures. The measure prohibits voting systems in state and local elections in Colorado where voters may select multiple candidates for a single position or rank candidates for a certain position in order of preference. The measure may, on net, decrease total costs for the Department of State (DOS). Initially, there will be a slight increase in DOS workload to update election and ballot rules. At the same time, there will be a decrease in costs for voting system licenses needed for machines capable of ranked choice voting and staff needed to develop rules for conducting ranked choice elections, which is allowed under current law for certain municipal elections.

Local government impact. Local governments, including municipalities conducting their own ranked choice voting election or counties conducting an election featuring ranked choice voting for municipal races, may incur costs to change their voting systems, ballots, and voter guides. Other municipalities and counties where ranked choice voting is not used will continue to use their current systems and have no additional cost to comply with this measure.

Economic impacts. The measure has no direct impact on the state economy. Changes to elections may result in different leadership and different policies, which could have an economic effect. However, these effects depend on voter choices and future decision making.