



# Initiative 278

## Legislative Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

### Fiscal Summary

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#### **LCS TITLE: PRIMARY ELECTIONS FOR MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES**

#### **Fiscal Summary of Initiative 278**

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](https://leg.colorado.gov/bluebook). This fiscal summary identifies the following impact.

**State expenditures and revenue.** The measure is estimated to increase state expenditures in the Department of State (DOS) to implement changes to the primary system. Specifically, the DOS must update election rules and conduct public awareness campaigns to inform voters about the changes to voting in Colorado. These costs may be partially offset as unaffiliated voters will not be able to vote in major party primaries, lowering the amount of reimbursement the state provides to counties. If costs are paid from the Department of State Cash Fund, state revenue from business filing fees paid to the DOS must be increased. The actual amount of new revenue and fee charges will be set administratively by DOS in order to cover any costs to implement the initiative paid from the DOS Cash Fund.

**Local government impact.** County clerks and other local election officials will need to update their voting rules and procedures to require only affiliated party electors to vote in that party's primary. Costs for local elections may also decrease as fewer ballots for unaffiliated voters will need to be printed and processed.

**Economic impacts.** The measure has no direct impact on the state economy.