Summary of Legislation

2024



Elections

During the 2024 legislative session, the General Assembly considered several bills concerning elections, including changes to the conduct of elections, penalties and complaints, ballot access, and voting.

Conduct of Elections

Senate Bill 24-210 makes several modifications to Colorado's election laws. Among other changes to Colorado's election laws, the bill:

- lowers the age an individual may preregister to vote from 16 years of age to 15;
- requires that the Secretary of State (SOS) create a pilot program for county clerks to request a waiver to lower the minimum number of required election-day voter service and polling centers from three to two, if the county is under a certain population threshold;
- allows a person who does not meet the 22-day residency requirement to register to vote and to cast a provisional ballot for president and vice president;
- makes a variety of deadline changes and other modifications to filing, curing, and submitting campaign finance reports to SOS:
- creates prerequisites to allow statewide ranked choice voting;
- expands the procedures for requesting a replacement ballot and provisional ballot; and

requires updates to financial disclosures by specified public officials.

In addition, Senate Concurrent Resolution 24-002 (Amendment K) asked voters in the 2024 general election to approve changes to certain election filing deadlines. The ballot measure did not pass.

House Bill 24-1177, which was deemed lost, would have required counties with populations of 70,000 or more to have five county commissioners, with at least three county commissioners elected by voters in the district in which the county commissioner is running for election.

Penalties and Complaints

False presidential electors are electors who are pledged to vote for a presidential candidate who did not win the highest number of votes in Colorado at the General Election. House Bill 24-1150 creates various criminal offenses, including forgery and perjury, related to false slates of presidential electors under the state election law.

House Bill 24-1147 also creates new regulations and penalties for using artificial intelligence (AI)- and deepfake-generated content related to communications about candidates for elected office. Al-generated communication without proper disclosure is prohibited. Violators may face civil penalties. In addition, candidates who are the subject of undisclosed Al-generated communications may file a civil action with

Elections

the courts for injunctive and other relief or damages.

Under current law, all complaints about municipal campaign finance violations must be filed with the clerk of the affected municipality. House Bill 24-1283 allows a clerk to refer a complaint to the SOS if the municipality does not have a campaign finance complaint ordinance and hearing process, or if the clerk determines that the clerk's review of the complaint would create a conflict of interest for the clerk or the clerk's staff.

election cycle to receive mail ballots. Both bills were postponed indefinitely.

Ballot Access

House Bill 24-1067 requires that the General Assembly, the SOS, and each political party ensure that any process by which candidates gain access to an election ballot be accessible to persons with disabilities. This includes requiring the use of video conferencing at any precinct, caucus, or party assembly.

Voting

<u>Senate Bill 24-072</u> requires that county jails and detention centers offer at least one in-person voting day for eligible confined voters at each general election.

Two bills that were not adopted would have changed how voting works in the state. House Bill 24-1279 would have required the use of distributed ledger technology in elections and established voter eligibility verification systems for in person and mail in voting. House Bill 24-1245 would have required voters to update their voting preferences on the SOS's website each

