

Summary of Election Bills, 2007 Session (As of May 14, 2007)

Bill No / Short Title / Sponsor(s) / Status	Bill Summary	Department(s) With Expenditure Impact	Total FY 2007-08 Expenditure Impact
Enrolled Bills			
<p>SB 07-083</p> <p>Conduct of Elections</p> <p><i>Sen. Tupa</i> <i>Rep. Weissmann</i></p> <p>Enrolled into an act</p>	<p>The enrolled bill amends several areas of state election law, including election offenses, judicial review, county vote centers, accessible voting systems, and audits of voting machines. Following are among the bill's major provisions.</p> <p>Emergency registration. Provisions for emergency registration are clarified in cases in which an elector moves to a new county or applies to register at a voter registration drive or a federally designated voter registration agency.</p> <p>Voter registration drives. The conduct of voter registration drives is addressed through lengthened deadlines for delivery of registration applications and through changes in penalties that specify maximum fines for violations and that strike current judicial discretion for imposing a term of imprisonment.</p> <p>Petition circulators. The bill clarifies requirements for petition circulators by specifying that a circulator must be: a resident of Colorado, a United States citizen, and at least 18 years of age.</p> <p>Election offenses. The bill changes the penalty for tampering with voting equipment from an unclassified to a class 1 misdemeanor.</p> <p>Judicial review. The bill establishes judicial review of petitions for candidacies and subsequent appeals through a district court.</p> <p>County vote centers. The bill requires the Secretary of State to promulgate rules establishing requirements for equipment used at vote centers, including the equipment used for the secure electronic connection to the computerized registration book.</p> <p>Accessible voting systems. The bill adds to requirements for accessible voting machines by specifying standards for ballot marking devices available to electors with disabilities.</p> <p>Vote machines audits. The bill increases the percentage of county voting devices subject to random audit by the Secretary of State from 1 to 5 percent, unless the Secretary of State approves an alternative statistical sampling method.</p>	<p>The Department of State is expected to incur an estimated \$82,332 in costs for investigations into possible violations of statutes related to voter registration drives.</p> <p>The bill may increase fine revenue in the Fines Collection Cash Fund (Judicial Department) due to the change in classification for specified misdemeanors.</p>	<p align="right">\$82,332 CF</p>

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Enrolled Bills (Cont.)			
<p>SB 07-234</p> <p>Election Ballots by Mail</p> <p><i>Sen. Gordon</i> <i>Rep. Levy</i></p> <p>Enrolled into an act</p>	<p>The enrolled bill establishes provisions for mail-in ballots to replace current provisions and references to "absentee ballots." It allows an eligible elector to apply to be a permanent mail-in voter, specifies the authorized application procedures, and sets requirements for record maintenance of mail-in voter registrations. Each county clerk must be able to verify, upon request of a mail-in voter, the receipt of his or her ballot.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>No fiscal impact</p>
<p>HB 07-1074</p> <p>Clean Campaign Act of 2007</p> <p><i>Rep. M. Carroll</i> <i>Sen. Tupa</i></p> <p>Enrolled into an act</p>	<p>The enrolled bill defines "political organization" for purposes of the Fair Campaign Practices Act (FCPA) as those organizations defined as such under Section 527(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code that are influencing or attempting to influence candidacies for local or state office and are exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code. The bill amends the FCPA so that contributions or gifts made to or on behalf of a political organization are covered under the act, and so that political organizations are required to file the disclosure reports as set forth in the act.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>No fiscal impact</p>
<p>HB 07-1376</p> <p>Precinct Caucus Day in Presidential Year</p> <p><i>Rep. Garcia</i> <i>Sen. Shaffer</i></p> <p>Enrolled into an act</p>	<p>The enrolled bill changes the dates for party caucuses and county assemblies in presidential election years. Party caucuses in those years will be held on the first Tuesday in February rather than the third Tuesday in March. The bill also changes the time period for county assemblies to be held in presidential election years. Under the bill, they must be held not less than 15 days, nor more than 40 days, after the precinct caucuses held on the first Tuesday in February. The current time frame is retained for other election years — not less than 10 days, nor more than 30 days after precinct caucuses held on the third Tuesday in March.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>No fiscal impact</p>

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Postponed Indefinitely			
<p>SB 07-046</p> <p>Agreement to Elect President by Popular Vote</p> <p><i>Sen. Gordon</i> <i>Rep. Pommer</i></p> <p>Postponed indefinitely by the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee</p>	<p>The reengrossed bill provided for Colorado's participation in an interstate agreement to elect the President of the United States by national popular vote. Upon Colorado entering into such an agreement, Colorado's presidential electors from the party of the candidate that wins the national popular vote, rather than the electors from the party of the candidate that wins the most votes in Colorado, would have participated in the electoral college. Colorado's participation in the agreement was contingent upon the agreement being enacted in a number of states sufficient to possess an electoral vote majority.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>No fiscal impact</p>
<p>HB 07-1162</p> <p>Advanced Voting Methods Pilot and Study</p> <p><i>Rep. Kefalas</i> <i>Sen. Gordon</i></p> <p>Postponed indefinitely by the House Appropriations Committee</p>	<p>The introduced bill establishes a 13-member voter choice study group to study instant runoff voting and other advanced voting methods. An "advanced voting method" is defined as a method to allow an elector to indicate a preference for more than one candidate in an election and that determines the election winner by majority vote, including instant runoff voting, approval voting, range voting, and proportional voting. The study group is directed to report and make any recommendations to the General Assembly by January 8, 2008.</p>	<p>Legislative Department</p> <p>The expenditures are due to expense reimbursement for study group members and staff support from the Legislative Council Staff and the Office of Legislative Legal Services.</p>	<p>\$25,431 GF</p>
<p>HCR 07-1001</p> <p>Initiated and Referred Amendments to the Colorado Constitution and the Colorado Revised Statutes</p> <p><i>Rep. White</i> <i>Senator Groff</i></p> <p>Postponed indefinitely by the Senate Judiciary Committee</p>	<p>The concurrent resolution would have referred a change to the constitution to require three-fifths voter approval for adoption of any initiated or referred measure to amend the constitution. The current majority vote requirement was retained to change or repeal constitutional amendments passed at or before the 2008 general election. Additionally, the resolution would have required a two-thirds vote of both chambers of the General Assembly to amend or repeal any initiated or referred statute for the five years after its effective date.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>No fiscal impact</p>