

Colorado Legislative Council Staff
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Date: June 5, 2002

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BALLOT TITLE: AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION CONCERNING ELECTION DAY VOTER REGISTRATION, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, ALLOWING AN ELIGIBLE CITIZEN TO REGISTER AND VOTE ON ANY DAY THAT A VOTE MAY BE CAST IN ANY ELECTION BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2004; SPECIFYING ELECTION DAY VOTER REGISTRATION LOCATIONS; SPECIFYING THAT AN ELIGIBLE CITIZEN WHO REGISTERS TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY SHALL REGISTER IN PERSON AND PRESENT A CURRENT AND VALID COLORADO DRIVER'S LICENSE OR STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD OR OTHER APPROVED DOCUMENTATION; AND DIRECTING THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN IMPLEMENTING ELECTION DAY VOTER REGISTRATION, TO ADOPT NECESSARY PROTECTIONS AGAINST ELECTION FRAUD.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2002/2003	FY 2003/2004
State Revenues General Fund		
State Expenditures General Fund		
FTE Position Change	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
Other State Impact: None		
Effective Date: January 1, 2004		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2002/2003: None Required		
Local Government Impact: Cost to the offices of the county clerk and recorder is dependent upon the protections that the legislature will require against voter fraud. Other costs may be incurred for printing additional ballots, additional election officials at polling places, and computer related expenses to provide for voter registration.		

Summary of Referred Measure

Under current law, the following qualifications are required in order to register to vote:

- the person must be 18 years of age or older on the date of the next election;
- the person must be a citizen of the United States; and

- the person must have resided in the state and the precinct for at least 30 days immediately prior to the election at which the person intends to vote.

Effective January 1, 2004, this proposal would amend the Colorado Constitution to allow eligible citizens to register and vote on any election day. The proposal allows citizens to register at the polling place for the precinct where he or she resides, at the office of the county clerk and recorder, or at any other location that is designated by the county clerk and recorder. The proposal specifies that the individual must appear in person and must present a current valid Colorado driver's license or state identification card or other appropriate documentation that is approved by the Secretary of State.

State Expenditures

The proposal is assessed as having no fiscal impact at the state level. It is assumed that the Secretary of State would recommend legislation for consideration during the 2003 legislative session to implement the proposal. The legislation would include measures to minimize the potential for voter fraud.

Local Impact

The proposal requires the legislature to adopt all necessary additional protections against election fraud. While the proposal will not create a revenue or expenditure impact at the state level, expenses will be incurred by the offices of the county clerks to register individuals on election day.

More than 1.7 million individuals voted in Colorado at the 2000 General Election. This represents 76.6 percent of registered voters, but 56.8 percent of the state's voting age population. It has been estimated that voter participation may increase by as much as six to ten percent at general elections due to election day voter registration. Therefore, between 100,000 and 170,000 individuals may register on election day if the proposal is approved. Election day voter registration will vary by county, but is expected to be highest in communities surrounding colleges and universities.

The cost of implementing the proposal is dependent upon the protections that the legislature will require against voter fraud. Other costs may be incurred for printing additional ballots, additional election officials at polling places, and computer related expenses to provide for voter registration.

Current law provides that any voter who votes more than once shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 18 months, or both. The costs associated with providing additional protections against the increased voter fraud, as well as the potential cost of identifying, prosecuting, and incarcerating potential offenders has not been estimated.