



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1113: MODIFICATIONS TO ELECTIONS

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Sirota; Willford
Sen. Wallace

Fiscal Analyst:

Hamza Syed, 303-866-4976
hamza.syed@coleg.gov

Published for: House State Affairs**Drafting number:** LLS 26-0161**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note**Date:** February 19, 2026**Fiscal note status:** This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill makes several modifications to election laws.**Types of impacts.** The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis starting in FY 2026-27:

- Minimal State Expenditures
- Minimal State Workload
- State Revenue
- Local Government

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill makes several modifications to the election laws in Colorado. Among its many changes, the bill:

- sets additional communication standards for institutes of higher education concerning ballot drop off locations and voting resources;
- reduces the number of days voting service and polling centers (VSPC) need to open in certain university campuses;
- requires all VSPCs that experience a shortage of election supplies, such as ballots, remain open, and may remain open after 7:00 pm;
- requires county clerks to report to the Secretary of State (SOS) about excess wait times and delays at VSPCs on election day, and requires the Secretary of State to hold a hearing based on this report;
- adds a timeline by which county clerks must adapt modifications to the SOS written plan for mail ballot elections, and for the Secretary of State to review that plan;
- removes the requirement that election judges be sent certificates of acceptance by mail prior to their appoint, and provides additional flexibility on the method for election judges to accept an appointment;
- increases the number of days before an election that ballots must be mailed.;
- increases the number of days before an election that drop boxes may accept ballots;
- changes the requirements for voting in county jails and detention centers to be based on the number of beds in the facility;
- repeals the requirement that voluntary ballot markings be redacted; and
- clarifies that a person cannot be a candidate for more than one office to be voted on in the same election.

State Expenditures

The bill is expected to minimally increase state expenditures and workload in the Department of Higher Education and Department of State. These are described below.

Department of High Education

Institutions of higher education already provide versions of the communication requirements of the bill. Any changes to current practices are minimal and absorbable within the current workload of the schools.

Department of State

The Department of State will have increased workload to review county reports for election delays and hold hearings based on those delays. There may also be increased workload for review of county mail election plans. In addition, the Department of State will need to update rules and other informational material about the changes in the bill. Overall, these impacts are estimated to be minimal and absorbable within current appropriations.

Local Government

The bill results in both increased costs and savings for counties. Clerks in certain counties will be able to decrease the number of VSPCs in universities, as well as decrease the total number of hours certain jails operate a VSPC. Certain counties will also save costs they pay to redact ballot markings, and save costs from no longer needing to mail certificates to election judges.

Costs will increase from opening and staffing ballot boxes earlier. There may also be increased costs for additional staffing hours for VSPCs that runs low on supplies, and increased workload from filing reports and holding hearings for any voting delays.

The exact costs and savings vary by each county and have not been estimated in this fiscal note.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Secretary of State	County Clerks
Department of Higher Education	Counties