



## Fiscal Impact Statement

### Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

## INITIATIVE 251: CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

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**Date:** May 14, 2026

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### Summary Information

**Overview.** The measure requires the Independent Redistricting Commission to review any changes to district maps for the 2028 or any subsequent congressional election.

**Types of impacts.** The measure is projected to affect the following areas:

- State Expenditures

**Disclaimer.** This initial fiscal impact statement has been prepared for an initiative approved for petition circulation by the Secretary of State. If the initiative is placed on the ballot, Legislative Council Staff may revise this estimate for the ballot information booklet (Blue Book) if new information becomes available. Any appropriations required to implement this measure will be addressed through the annual or supplemental budget process if this measure is approved by voters.

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**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts**

Type of Impact	Non-Impacted Years	Impacted Years
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures (Cash Funds)	\$0	\$367,603
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	1.0 FTE

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The measure increases state expenditures in any fiscal year when a midcycle redistricting occurs and the Independent Redistricting Commission is not currently active. This impact could occur as soon as FY 2026-27 if new congressional maps for Colorado are approved by voters at the 2026 election.

## Summary of Measure

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Under current law, the Independent Redistricting Commission meets every ten years to create new district maps for state and federal offices. If the final map is modified for the 2028 congressional election or any subsequent election thereafter, this measure requires that the commission reconvene to review the changes, and that any changed map must be approved by the Colorado Supreme Court. The court may not approve a map that fails to preserve whole communities of interest, or that was drawn to favor one political party.

## State Expenditures

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If approved by voters, the measure increases state expenditures by about \$370,000 in any fiscal year where the commission must convene and review changes to congressional maps outside of its usual redistricting schedule. These costs could occur as soon as FY 2026-27 if a change to 2028 congressional maps is approved by voters at the 2026 election. These costs will be incurred in the Legislative Department as shown in Table 2 and described in the sections below. Costs are paid from the Legislative Department Cash Fund.

**Table 2**  
**State Expenditures**  
**Legislative Department**

<b>Cost Component</b>	<b>Non-Impacted Years</b>	<b>Impacted Years</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$75,756
Operating Expenses	\$0	\$1,280
Capital Outlay Costs	\$0	\$7,000
Commissioner Costs	\$0	\$11,664
Legal Services	\$0	\$250,000
Employee Insurance and Supplemental PERA	\$0	\$21,903
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$367,603</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>0.0 FTE</b>	<b>1.0 FTE</b>

## Staff

The Legislative Department requires 0.8 FTE Research Analyst and 0.2 FTE Staff Attorney to provide staff support to the commission and facilitate the selection of commissioners to fill any vacancies since the commission last convened. Staff support includes administrative, legal, geographic information services, and policy research and analysis.

## Commissioner Costs

Commissioners receive a per diem of \$200 for each meeting and \$124 for travel expenses and mileage reimbursement. For an assumed three meetings at the state capitol, this cost totals about \$11,000.

## Legal Services

The commission will contract with outside legal counsel to provide legal assistance in reviewing maps, complying with the measures criteria, and defending any legal challenges.

## Employee Insurance and Supplemental Retirement Payments

The measure increases various centrally appropriated costs associated with state employees, including employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, and other costs. These costs are shown in the table above.

## Judicial Department

The measure will minimally increase workload for the Colorado Supreme Court to review any modified maps outside of a redistricting year.

## Effective Date

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If approved by voters at the 2026 general election, this measure takes effect upon proclamation of the Governor, no later than 30 days after the official canvass of the vote is completed.

## State and Local Government Contacts

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Judicial      Legislative Council Staff