



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**Initiative #168**

**INITIAL FISCAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT**

**Date:** April 16, 2018

**Fiscal Analyst:** Ryan Long (303-866-2066)

**LCS TITLE:** LOWER VOTING AGE IN STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2018-19</b>	<b>FY 2020-21</b>	<b>FY 2021-2022</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>			
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$336,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
Cash funds	\$336,000	\$0	\$0

**Note:** This *initial* fiscal impact estimate has been prepared for the Title Board. If the initiative is placed on the ballot, Legislative Council Staff may revise this estimate for the Blue Book Voter Guide if new information becomes available.

**Summary of Measure**

This initiative amends the state constitution to change the voting age to 16 for all state and local elections.

**State Expenditures**

In FY 2018-19 only, this initiative will increase state cash fund expenditures in the Department of State cash fund by \$336,000 to modify the state's voter registration database, SCORE, and associated web applications. It is estimated that this work will take 3,000 hours of contractor time at a rate of \$112 per hour. Additionally, workload will increase for the Driver Control Section in the Department of Revenue for an increase in voter registration activities. It is assumed that this workload increase can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

**Local Government**

This bill will increase county expenditures by approximately \$300,000 per election. These expenditures are described below.

**Assumptions.** According to data from the State Demography Office in the Department of Local Affairs, the number of 16 and 17 year olds in the state is estimated to be approximately 146,220. Additionally, for the last two primary elections held in the state, the average cost to counties per voter was \$2.68 per eligible voter. Assuming approximately 75 percent of 16 and 17 year olds will be eligible and choose to vote, this initiative will increase county costs by around \$300,000 for election related expenses.

Additionally, as voters who are 16 and 17 would be unable to vote in federal elections, counties will have costs to create a new ballot style specifically for 16 and 17 year old voters. This cost will vary by count and has not been estimated.

## **Effective Date**

If approved by voters, the ballot initiative takes effect upon proclamation of the Governor within 30 days of the official canvas of votes at the 2018 general election.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties  
Local Affairs

County Clerks  
Revenue

Information Technology  
Secretary of State

## **Abstract of Initiative 168: LOWER VOTING AGE IN STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS**

**This initial fiscal estimate, prepared by the nonpartisan Director of Research of the Legislative Council as of April 14, 2018, identifies the following impacts:**

The abstract includes estimates of the fiscal impact of the initiative. If this initiative is to be placed on the ballot, Legislative Council Staff will prepare new estimates as part of a fiscal impact statement, which includes an abstract of that information. All fiscal impact statements are available at [www.ColoradoBlueBook.com](http://www.ColoradoBlueBook.com) and the abstract will be included in the ballot information booklet that is prepared for the initiative.

***State Expenditures.*** In FY 2018-19 only, this initiative will increase state cash fund expenditures by \$336,00 to modify the state's voter registration database, SCORE, and associated web applications

***Local Government.*** Beginning in FY 2018-19, this bill will increase county expenditures by at approximately \$300,000 per election by allowing 16 and 17 year olds to vote in state and local elections.