

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
STATE and LOCAL
CONDITIONAL FISCAL IMPACT

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0806	Date: April 1, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Martinez Humenik	Bill Status: Senate SVMA
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BILL TOPIC: REPEAL REQUIRED ELECTION OF COUNTY SURVEYORS

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

Summary of Legislation

The Colorado constitution currently requires a county surveyor to be elected in each county. This concurrent resolution places a ballot question to electors that removes this requirement.

Background

The constitution currently requires that the following positions be elected in each county: one county clerk, who shall be ex officio recorder of deeds and clerk of the board of county commissioners; one sheriff; one coroner; one treasurer who shall be collector of taxes; one county surveyor; and one county assessor.

The county surveyor represents the county in boundary disputes; files all surveys, field notes, calculations and maps pertaining to work from the County Commissioners; establishes corner monuments in cases of disputes; and creates and maintains a land survey plat record file and index system. Thirty of the state's 64 counties do not have an elected surveyor, principally due to a lack of candidates for the position. Under current practice, these counties contract for surveyor services when they need to.

As of 2007, state law fixes the salary range for elected county surveyors from \$1,000 per year for surveyors in the smallest counties, up to \$5,500 per year for surveyors in the largest counties.

State Expenditures

Election expenditure impact (existing appropriations). The bill creates a referred measure that will appear before voters at the November 2016 general election. Although no additional appropriation is required in this bill to cover election costs associated with this ballot

measure, certain election costs to the state are appropriated as part of the regular budget process. First, state law requires that the state reimburse counties for costs incurred conducting a ballot measure election paid from the Department of State Cash Fund. Second, the text and title of the measure must be published in one legal newspaper per county and an analysis of the measure must be included in the Ballot Information Booklet (Blue Book) mailed to all registered voter households prior to the election paid from the Ballot Analysis Revolving Fund. Table 1 below identifies the anticipated costs for a single statewide ballot measure election in 2016.

Cost Component	Amount
County Reimbursement for Statewide Ballot Measures	\$2,400,000
Ballot Information Booklet (Blue Book) & Newspaper Publication	670,000
TOTAL	\$3,070,000

Local Government Impact

If approved by voters, this concurrent resolution eliminates the constitutional requirement that surveyors be an elected officer of counties. Counties that choose not to elect a surveyor will reduce local expenditures when conducting elections, and are permitted to compensate surveyors at a pay rate that differs from the amount currently required in law. Depending on choices made under this permissive authority, county expenses for surveyors may change compared with current law.

Effective Date

This concurrent resolution takes effect after the date of the official declaration of the vote by proclamation of the Governor, not later than 30 days after the votes have been canvassed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties

Local Affairs

Secretary of State