FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE INITIATIVE PETITION TO AMEND THE NEVADA CONSTITUTION – IDENTIFIER: C-02-2023

FINANCIAL IMPACT - YES

OVERVIEW

The Statewide Constitutional Initiative Petition – Identifier: C-02-2023 (Initiative) proposes to amend Article 2 of the *Nevada Constitution* by adding new Sections 1B and 1C, as follows:

- Section 1B would require the presentation of a specified form of identification in order to vote in person in an election in Nevada, either through early voting or on election day.
- Section 1C would require voters who submit a mail-in ballot to provide certain specified information in order to verify that voter's identity.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE INITIATIVE

Pursuant to Article 19, Section 2 of the *Nevada Constitution*, an initiative proposing to amend the *Nevada Constitution* must be approved by the voters at two successive general elections in order to become a part of the *Constitution*. If this Initiative is approved by voters at the November 2024 and November 2026 General Elections, the provisions of the Initiative would become effective on the fourth Tuesday of November 2026 (November 24, 2026), when the votes are canvassed by the Supreme Court pursuant to NRS 293.395.

The provisions of the Initiative are anticipated to have a financial impact upon the State and local governments relating to procedures and systems utilized during the election process. The Secretary of State's Office has indicated that these provisions will require modifications to processes and systems related to check-in of voters at the polling location and verification of mail-in ballots, as well as ensuring that the statewide voter registration system is modified to ensure that all data necessary to implement the provisions of the Initiative is captured.

Based on information provided by the Secretary of State's Office, the estimated costs to make these changes to voter systems in Nevada would be approximately \$6,750, and these changes would need to be made in time for the elections that would be held in the year 2028.

The provisions of the Initiative additionally allow the Legislature to determine additional forms of valid identification that can be used to verify identity for voting, aside from those already specified in the Initiative, which the Fiscal Analysis Division assumes will need to be created by the Legislature for those people who do not have or cannot obtain another form of allowable identification.

The Fiscal Analysis Division additionally assumes that this alternate form of voter identification will be provided to the voter at no cost, which means that the cost for these identification documents will be wholly borne by the State or by one or more local governments. However, the Initiative does not specify the form which these alternative identification documents must take, nor does it specify which agency or agencies (either at the state or local level) will be required to provide these documents. Additionally, it is unknown how many registered voters will not have one of the specified documents that would be acceptable to provide as proof of identity for in-person voting, who would need to be issued one of these alternative documents.

Thus, the financial effect upon the State or local governments relating to the issuance of an alternative identity document to those voters who will require such a document in order to vote in person cannot be determined with any reasonable degree of certainty.

Prepared by the Fiscal Analysis Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau - July 29, 2024