

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE SAVE OUR SECRET BALLOT INITIATIVE

FINANCIAL IMPACT – CANNOT BE DETERMINED

OVERVIEW

The Save Our Secret Ballot Initiative (Initiative) proposes to amend Article 2, Section 5 of the *Nevada Constitution* to state:

1. The right of individuals to vote by secret ballot is fundamental. Where local, state, or federal law permits or requires elections for public office and ballot measures, the right of individuals to vote by secret ballot shall be guaranteed.
2. All elections by the Legislature, or by either branch thereof shall be “Viva-Voce”.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE INITIATIVE

Based on information the Fiscal Analysis Division received from the Office of the Secretary of State, the Initiative would establish a fundamental right to vote by secret ballot in federal, state, or local elections for public office and ballot measures. If this proposal to amend the Nevada Constitution is approved by voters, a secret ballot may affect the manner in which absentee voters, and in particular voters serving in the Armed Forces, cast a lawful absent ballot, thereby requiring expenditures at the State and local level to provide alternative methods of voting for those citizens. Additionally, this proposal may impact the manner in which a voter with a disability casts a ballot at a polling location. The resultant financial impact to the Office of the Secretary of State or to local governments cannot be determined at this time with any reasonable degree of certainty.

Prepared by the Fiscal Analysis Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau – March 10, 2010