

**EXECUTIVE AGENCY**  
**FISCAL NOTE**

AGENCY'S ESTIMATES

Date Prepared: April 4, 2021

Agency Submitting: Office of the Secretary of State

Items of Revenue or Expense, or Both	Fiscal Year 2020-21	Fiscal Year 2021-22	Fiscal Year 2022-23	Effect on Future Biennia
Ballot Stock (Expense)		\$5,664,972	\$5,664,972	\$5,664,972
Outbound postage (Expense)		\$1,049,069	\$1,049,069	\$1,049,069
Inbound postage (Expense)		\$1,049,070	\$1,049,069	\$1,049,069
Ballot drop boxes (Expense)		\$196,500		
Voter education/outreach media campaign (Expense)		\$661,071	\$661,071	
Voter education postcards (Expense)		\$288,706		
Total	0	\$8,909,388	\$8,424,181	\$7,763,110

Explanation

(Use Additional Sheets of Attachments, if required)

The Elections Division of the Nevada Secretary of State has reviewed Assembly Bill 321 (BDR 24-927), which proposes to amend various sections of NRS 293 by requiring a mail ballot to be delivered to every active registered voter for every election for which the voter is eligible. As drafted, AB321 would have the following impacts: (1) increased cost in the amount of printed ballots for which the State is responsible for the cost of ballot stock (NAC 293.200); (2) increased cost in postage for the outbound and inbound ballot packages; (3) an increased need for permanent ballot drop boxes in every county; and (4) a dedicated voter outreach and education campaign for 2022 regarding this major change in election procedures. In order to provide this fiscal note, the Secretary's Office estimated an increase in active registered voters to approximately 1.9 million for the 2022 election cycle. The cost for ballot stock is based on information from counties' reimbursement requests for ballot stock in the 2016 general election, which worked out to be \$2.97 per ballot. The cost of postage is estimated based on a \$0.55 per package first class rate for both outbound (to the voter) and inbound (to the county clerk's office) packages. The costs for high quality ballot boxes range from \$500 to \$4,000, depending on size and capacity, and the recommendation is to have one ballot drop box for every 10,000 to 15,000 voters. In addition to these costs, several of the counties have indicated that they would likely need to hire additional permanent and temporary staff (including multiple two-person bipartisan teams to retrieve ballots from the ballot drop boxes and transport them to central counting facilities). The total fiscal impact to the Secretary of State's Office for the 2022 Election Cycle is \$17,333,569, and does not include the county-specific costs for increased staff and supplies. Going forward after 2022, the per election cost will be a minimum of \$7,763,110.00.

Name Debbie Bowman

Title Deputy Secretary for Operations

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF FINANCE COMMENTS**

The agency's response appears reasonable.

Date Friday, April 02, 2021

Name Heather Field

Title Executive Branch Budget Officer

	Current Population	2020 Registered Voters (Active)	Rate	Expected Population (2022)	Anticipated Registered Voters (2022) - FY21/22
	3,080,156	1,797,384	58.4%	3,268,686	1,907,398
Postcards		\$ 272,053.78	\$ 0.15		\$ 288,705.65
Voter Campaign FY21/22		\$ 622,000	\$ 0.35		\$ 660,071.38
Voter Campaign FY22/23		\$ 622,000	\$ 0.35		\$ 660,071.38
					<b>\$ 1,320,142.75</b>

2016 General

	Ballots Mailed	Print Cost	Envelopes	Mail Cost	Total	Cost per Ballot
Carson City	2,130	\$ 2,125.00		\$ 595.25	\$ 2,720.25	\$ 1.28
Churchill	613	\$ 3,934.91		\$ 1,175.00	\$ 5,109.91	\$ 8.34
Clark	51,621	\$ 218,142.60		\$ 97,224.62	\$ 315,367.22	\$ 6.11
Douglas	3,285		unknown		\$ -	\$ -
Elko	2,482	\$ 3,920.00			\$ 3,920.00	\$ 1.58
Esmeralda	165				\$ -	\$ -
Eureka	396	\$ 2,399.88		\$ 643.47	\$ 3,043.35	\$ 7.69
Humboldt	1,017				\$ -	\$ -
Lander	503	\$ 16,000.00		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 17,200.00	\$ 34.19
Lincoln	191	\$ 632.00		\$ 208.19	\$ 840.19	\$ 4.40
Lyon	1,268				\$ -	\$ -
Mineral	442				\$ -	\$ -
Nye	2,224	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 600.00		\$ 4,600.00	\$ 2.07
Pershing	454	\$ 1,029.00			\$ 1,029.00	\$ 2.27
Storey	235	\$ 2,403.50		\$ 644.50	\$ 3,048.00	\$ 12.97
Washoe	18,725				\$ -	\$ -
White Pine	1,240	\$ 3,500.00		\$ 750.00	\$ 4,250.00	\$ 3.43
Statewide	86,991	258,087	600	102,441	\$ 361,127.92	\$ 4.15

		Per Election
Ballot Print Cost	\$2.97	\$5,664,972.06
Outbound Postage	\$0.55	\$1,049,068.90
Inbound Postage	\$0.55	\$1,049,068.90
Total Per Election		\$7,763,109.86

\*\* The postage rates for first class is increasing to \$0.55 per piece in January, 2022, and this rate is for a 1 oz. piece of mail. Ballot packages generally weigh closer to 3-4 oz. for outbound because of the return envelope, secrecy sleeve, instructions, and I Voted sticker.

	Active Reg. Voters 3/1/2021	Recommended # of Ballot Boxes
Carson City	38511	3
Churchill	13732	1
Clark	1266803	85
Douglas	39407	3
Elko	27387	2
Esmeralda	553	1
Eureka	1147	1
Humboldt	8442	1
Lander	3361	1
Lincoln	3084	1
Lyon	41020	3
Mineral	2542	1
Nye	32781	3
Pershing	2918	1
Storey	3119	1
Washoe	315648	22
White Pine	5099	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1805554</b>	<b>131</b>

Recommendation is 1 ballot box for every 10,000 to 15,000 registered voters. This calculation is based on 15,000 registered voters per box.

At an estimated cost of \$1,500 per box, not including installation costs, the total is \$196,500