Board of Elections

FY 2013 Revised
FY 2014 Recommended
Staff Presentation
March 13, 2013
Departmental Functions

• Managing voting machines
• Certifying election results
• Managing election officials
• Overseeing voter registration
• Monitoring campaign finance reporting
• Matching public funds for general elections
Board of Elections and Secretary of State’s Role in Elections

• Board of Elections and Secretary of State’s Elections & Civics Division are charged with different responsibilities
  ➢ Complementary tasks, many of which are mandated by Rhode Island General Laws
## Board of Elections and Secretary of State’s Role in Elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board of Elections</th>
<th>Secretary of State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Supervises all elections</td>
<td>• Provides municipalities with forms for candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prepares state and local referenda</td>
<td>• Certifies federal and state candidates for ballot placement</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Instructs and certifies all election officials assigned to polls</td>
<td>• Provides descriptions and explanations of state referenda in Voter Handbook</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Prepares and distributes poll worker guides and related materials</td>
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</tbody>
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4
## Board of Elections and Secretary of State’s Role in Elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board of Elections</th>
<th>Secretary of State</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Prepares and delivers voting machines and supplies to polling places</td>
<td>• Publishes guides for candidates, election officials, and voters</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conducts recounts</td>
<td>• Provides ballot information and polling place locations on website</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Certifies election results to Secretary of State</td>
<td>• Prepares and prints ballots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conducts voter registration drives</td>
<td>• Maintains central voter registration system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Revenues</td>
<td>FY 2013 Enacted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>$1,239,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted Services</td>
<td>362,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>349,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,952,116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Governor’s Changes

- Personnel
- Elections
- Legal Services
Personnel

• Board Members
  ➢ Currently only five of the seven members accept the $7,000 annual salary

• 11.0 FTEs for FY 2013 and FY 2014
  ➢ Governor recommends the enacted and requested level - all 11.0 are filled

• Seasonal Staff
  ➢ Varies with the two-year election cycle
Personnel

- FY 2013 Revised - $1.2 million
  - $17,128 less than enacted
    - Includes $20,000 less for seasonal staff based on actual Nov. 2012 election expenses
- FY 2014 - $1.1 million
  - $102,182 less than enacted
    - No funding for seasonal staff reflects off-year in the election cycle
    - Statewide benefit savings and other adjustments
Election Expenses

- FY 2013 Revised - $0.6 million
  - $11,250 less than enacted
  - $18,000 less than requested
  - Reductions to printing, postage and staff training based on actual expenditures from Nov. 2012 election
Election Expenses

- FY 2014 - $0.5 million
  - $0.2 million less than enacted
  - Cyclical
  - $61,500 less than requested
    - Includes $60,000 less for legal expenditures
Legal Services

• Board requests $80,000 for FY 2013 and FY 2014
  ➢ $18,000 more than enacted

• Governor recommends $80,000 for FY 2013 and $20,000 for FY 2014
  ➢ Appears to be based on actual expenses from recent fiscal years
  ➢ Board spent $27,575 as of 2nd Quarter Report
November 2012 Election

• Voting machine failures and long wait times
  ➢ Board cites combination of multiple-page ballots and aging voting equipment as the primary cause
  ➢ Bureau of Audits Report from August 2012 indicates optical scan machines have exceeded their useful life
    • Board purchased the machines in 1997
November 2012 Election

- Board has verbally expressed interest in purchasing new voting machines
  - No funds in Board’s request or Governor’s Budget
Board of Elections Building

• BOE building is located at 50 Branch Avenue in Providence
  ➢ Approved capital plan includes $6.0 million from RICAP for new building in DOA Budget
  • Board updated request to $5.4 million
  ➢ Governor recommends $0.3 million in FY 2013 and $1.0 million in FY 2014 for repairs and renovations to the current facility
Electronic Reporting System

• Governor recommends requested $150,000 for FY 2014
  ➢ Modify electronic reporting system to comply with Disclosure of Political Contributions and Expenditures Act of 2012
  • Individuals, businesses and political action committees required to file additional electronic reports in certain instances
Electronic Reporting System

• Board’s current vendor provided the estimate
  ➢ Based on experience with similar reporting system in another state
Other Operations

- $78,715 in FY 2013 and $59,237 in FY 2014 for other operations
  - $1,915 less than requested for FY 2013 and $20,055 less for FY 2014
  - Appears to more closely reflect actual expenditures from recent fiscal years
  - Includes decreases for travel and miscellaneous expenses
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