Board of Elections
FY 2014 Revised
FY 2015 Recommended
Staff Presentation
March 5, 2014

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

<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>Instructs and certifies all election officials assigned to polls</td>
<td>Certifies federal and state candidates for ballot placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trains poll workers</td>
<td>Prepares state and local referenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepares and distributes poll worker guides and related materials</td>
<td>Describes and explains state referenda in Voter Handbook</td>
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Board of Elections and Secretary of State’s Role in Elections

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<tr>
<th>Board of Elections</th>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>• Conducts voter registration drives</td>
<td>• Maintains central voter registration system</td>
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Summary by Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Revenues</th>
<th>FY 2014 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2014 Revised</th>
<th>FY 2015 Governor</th>
<th>Change to Enacted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>$1,137,415</td>
<td>$1,127,758</td>
<td>$1,306,590</td>
<td>$169,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted Services</td>
<td>171,788</td>
<td>191,488</td>
<td>73,488</td>
<td>(98,300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>430,158</td>
<td>441,159</td>
<td>657,109</td>
<td>226,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>107,940</td>
<td>107,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,739,361</td>
<td>$1,760,405</td>
<td>$4,145,127</td>
<td>$2,405,766</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Budget Issues

- Personnel
- Elections
- Legal Services
- Matching Public Funds
- New Voting Equipment
- Building and Storage Space

Target Budget

- Budget Office provided general revenue target of $3.9 million
  - Current service adjustments of $2.3 million
  - 7% reduction of $0.1 million
- Request $0.3 million above target
  - Board did not submit a constrained budget request
  - Governor recommends $0.2 million above target
    - Primarily reflects adds for delivery of voting equipment and IT improvements
Personnel

• Board Members
  ➢ Currently only five members accept $7,000 salary
  ➢ One vacancy and one serving member who does not accept the annual compensation

• 11.0 FTEs for FY 2014 and FY 2015
  ➢ Governor recommends enacted and requested level – all 11.0 are filled

• Seasonal Staff varies with two-year election cycle

Personnel

• FY 2014 Revised - $1.1 million
  ➢ $9,657 less than enacted
    • Statewide medical benefits and other adjustments

• FY 2015 - $1.3 million
  ➢ $169,175 more than enacted
  ➢ Seasonal staff
    • Board spent $112,945 in FY 2013
    • $160,000 for FY 2015
Personnel

- FY 2015
  - Seasonal staff
    - Additional funding reflects recommendation in House Oversight Committee’s 2012 elections report:
      - Hire and train more technicians to repair machines on Election Day

Legal Services

- Board requests $80,000 for FY 2014 and FY 2015
  - $60,000 more than enacted
- Governor recommends $40,000 for FY 2014 and $60,000 for FY 2015
  - Appears to be based on actual expenses from recent fiscal years
  - Board spent $17,842 as of 2nd Quarter Report
Matching Public Funds

- Governor recommends requested $2.0 million for FY 2015
- Program was enacted in 1992
- Funds available every four years for candidates for the general offices
  - In FY 2011 Board provided $1.7 million to seven candidates
  - Increase every four years based on the CPI

New Voting Booths

- $61,500 to purchase approximately 245 new voting booths
  - Half of what the Board requested
  - Current voting booth supply only meets minimum in RIGL (one for every 175 voters)
  - House Oversight recommendation:
    - Consider increase in voting districts with multiple-page ballots
New Voting Machines

- Board has stated its intention to purchase new voting machines
  - No funds in Board’s request or Governor’s Budget
  - Machines were purchased in 1997
  - Voting machine failures and long wait times
  - Board anticipates cost of $10 million over 8-year period, payments beginning in FY 2016

Other Election Expenses

- $111,440 for FY 2014
  - $10,700 more than enacted
    - Increases for printing expenses and staff training
- $264,940 for FY 2015
  - Cyclical
  - $164,200 more than enacted
    - $125,000 for delivery of voting equipment
    - Increases for printing expenses and postage
Board of Elections Building

• Located at 50 Branch Avenue in Providence
  ➢ Approved capital plan includes $1.3 million from RICAP in DOA Budget
  • Repairs and renovations to current facility
  ➢ Governor does not recommend the funding
  ➢ Administration indicates it is currently developing RFP for office space for the Board

• Storage Space
  ➢ Board occupies 10,350 feet at Cranston Street Armory
    • Limited storage space at current facility
  ➢ State Fire Marshal’s Office expressed concern about some materials being stored
    ➢ Governor recommends $60,000 for alternative storage space
    ➢ $15,000 less than the Board requested
Other Operations

• $0.3 million in FY 2014 and $0.4 million in FY 2015 for other operations
  ➢ Includes $271,969 annual vendor payment for all election machines
  ➢ $58,690 for IT improvements for FY 2015
    • Board indicates computer infrastructure is aging and 16 of 18 computers are no longer under warranty
    • DoIT recommended upgrades
    • Computers, data systems, servers, and other equipment

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