

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

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Board of Elections and Secretary of State's Role in Elections

Board of Elections	Secretary of State
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervises all elections• Instructs and certifies all election officials assigned to polls• Trains poll workers• Prepares and distributes poll worker guides and related materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides municipalities with forms for candidates• Certifies federal and state candidates for ballot placement• Prepares state and local referenda• Describes and explains state referenda in Voter Handbook

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Board of Elections and Secretary of State's Role in Elections

Board of Elections	Secretary of State
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepares and delivers voting machines and supplies to polling places • Conducts recounts • Certifies election results to Secretary of State • Conducts voter registration drives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishes guides for candidates, election officials, and voters • Provides ballot information and polling place locations on website • Prepares and prints ballots • Maintains central voter registration system

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Summary by Category

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

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Budget Issues

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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Board of Elections Building

- 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

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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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