Board of Elections

FY 2015 Revised and FY 2016 Recommended Staff Presentation
April 14, 2015

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>• 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

<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</td>
<td>• Publishes guides for candidates, election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supplies to polling places</td>
<td>officials, and voters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conducts recounts</td>
<td>• Provides ballot information</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Certifies election results to Secretary of</td>
<td>and polling place locations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>on website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conducts voter registration drives</td>
<td>• Prepares and prints ballots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Maintains central voter registration system</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Summary by Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Revenues</th>
<th>FY 2015 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2015 Revised</th>
<th>FY 2016 Governor</th>
<th>FY 2016 Change to Enacted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>$1,306,590</td>
<td>$1,307,294</td>
<td>$1,196,343</td>
<td>($110,247)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted Services</td>
<td>73,488</td>
<td>73,488</td>
<td>73,488</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>657,109</td>
<td>568,589</td>
<td>526,784</td>
<td>(130,325)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>2,620,273</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(2,000,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>107,940</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>107,940</td>
<td>(86,250)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$4,145,127</td>
<td>$4,656,199</td>
<td>$1,818,305</td>
<td>(2,326,822)</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 $1.8 million
  - Current service adjustments of $2.2 million
  - 7.5% reduction of $0.1 million
- Request $1.0 million above target
  - Board did not submit a constrained budget request
  - Governor recommends $45,470 above target
Personnel

- Board Members
  - No vacancies
  - Currently only four of the seven members accept $7,000 annual salary
- 11.0 FTEs for FY 2015 and FY 2016
  - Same as enacted and requested
  - Currently 9.0 are filled
- Seasonal Staff varies with two-year election cycle

Personnel

- FY 2015 Revised - $1.1 million
  - $13,588 less than enacted
    - Turnover savings, statewide medical benefit savings and other adjustments
- FY 2016 - $1.2 million
  - $65,461 more than enacted
    - Cost-of-Living Adjustment
    - Some savings from new hires
    - Funds 11.0 FTEs
Personnel

- Seasonal Staff
  - FY 2015
    - $160,000 in enacted budget for November 2014 election
    - Governor adds $30,000 based on actual spending
  - FY 2016
    - Governor does not recommend the $35,000 the Board requests for Presidential Preference Primary

Legal Services

- Board requests $80,000 for FY 2015 and $60,000 for FY 2016
- Governor recommends enacted level of $60,000 for both years
  - Appears to be based on actual expenses from recent fiscal years
  - Board spent $51,454 as of April 2015
Matching Public Funds

- Program was enacted in 1992
- Funds available every four years for candidates for the general offices
- FY 2015 enacted budget includes $2.0 million
- Governor adds $0.6 million
  - Board provided $2.6 million to seven candidates

New Voting Machines

- Board intends to purchase new voting machines
  - Board anticipates cost of $10.2 million over 8-year period, payments beginning in FY 2016
  - No funds in Board’s request
  - Current machines purchased in 1997
  - Governor does not recommend funding for new voting machines
    - Includes $271,969 for regular vendor payment to fund service, maintenance, & support staff
Other Election Expenses

- $111,440 for FY 2015
  - $31,695 less than enacted
    - Decreases for delivery of voting equipment and postage based on actual expenditures
- $142,800 for FY 2016
  - $183,390 less than enacted
  - Cyclical
    - Reductions for delivery costs, printing, and postage

Storage

- Board occupies 10,350 square feet at Cranston Street Armory for storage
  - Limited storage space at current facility (50 Branch Ave.)
- State Fire Marshal’s Office expressed concern about some materials being stored
  - Governor recommends enacted level of $60,000 for alternative storage space – delayed from FY 2015 to FY 2016
Other Operations

- $0.1 million each in FY 2015 and FY 2016 for other operations
- IT improvements
  - Computer replacements, data systems, servers, and other equipment
  - Some of the work delayed from FY 2015 to FY 2016
- Increase for ballot marking pens
- Decreases for office supplies

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