Board of Elections

FY 2017 Revised and FY 2018 Recommended
House Fiscal Staff Presentation
April 11, 2017
Departmental Functions

- Managing voting machines
- Certifying election results
- Managing election officials
- Overseeing voter registration
- Monitoring campaign finance reporting
- Matching public funds for general elections
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
## 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prepares and distributes poll worker guides and related materials</td>
<td>• Describes and explains state referenda in Voter Handbook</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Role in Elections

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board of Elections</th>
<th>Secretary of State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Prepares and delivers voting machines and supplies to polling places</td>
<td>• Publishes guides for candidates, election officials, and voters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conducts recounts</td>
<td>• Provides ballot information and polling place locations on website</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tbody>
</table>
## Summary by Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Revenues</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2017 Revised</th>
<th>FY 2018 Governor</th>
<th>Change to Enacted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
<td>$1,439,944</td>
<td>$1,333,358</td>
<td>$1,252,717</td>
<td>$(187,227)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted Services</td>
<td>79,883</td>
<td>133,788</td>
<td>83,788</td>
<td>3,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>454,880</td>
<td>579,930</td>
<td>204,230</td>
<td>$(250,650)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>21,600</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,982,707</td>
<td>$2,068,676</td>
<td>$1,548,735</td>
<td>$(433,972)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Budget Issues

- Board Member Compensation
- Personnel
- Legal Services
- New Voting Equipment
- Election Expenses
## Full-Time Equivalent Positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full-Time Positions</th>
<th>FTEs</th>
<th>Change to Enacted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enacted Authorized</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2017 Rev. Req. / Gov. rev.</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2018 Request / Gov.</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2016 Average Filled</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>(2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filled as of April 1</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>(3.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Target Budget

- Budget Office provided general revenue target of $1.5 million
  - Current service adjustments of $0.4 million
  - 8.0% reduction of $0.1 million
- Constrained request $0.2 million above target
- Recommendation is $0.1 million above target
Board Member Compensation

- 6 members and 1 vacancy
  - 3 members are not eligible for compensation
  - Annual salary of $7,000 for eligible members
- Board requests to increase salary to $15,400 to be the same as legislators
  - $48,620 for FY 2017 and $65,420 for FY 2018
- Governor did not recommend the proposal
Personnel

- 12.0 FTEs for FY 2017 and FY 2018
- 3 vacancies:
  - Executive Director
  - Planning and Program Development Specialist
  - Campaign Finance
- The Board voted to dismiss Robert Kando on August 31, 2016
- Planning specialist and campaign finance positions are expected to be filled in April
- Executive Director expected for May
Personnel

- Gov. FY 2018 - $1.3 million
  - $187,227 less than enacted
    - Eliminates funding for seasonal staff
    - Off-year in the two-year election cycle
    - Statewide benefit savings

- Gov. FY 2017 Rev - $0.1 million less
  - Turnover & statewide benefit savings
Statewide Savings

- Assessment to salaries that funds workers’ comp., unemployment & unused leave
  - Lowered from enacted based on experience
    - Savings of $1.2 million in FY 2017
    - Savings of $1.5 million in FY 2018
- Medical benefit cost growth
  - Lower than initial estimates
    - Savings of $2.6 million in FY 2018
- Total impact to the Department
  - $1,360 in FY 2017; $6,922 in FY 2018
Personnel

- Temporary Staff
  - Gov. FY 2018 - No funding
    - None requested
  - Gov. FY 2017 Revised - $69,973 more for total of $0.3 million
    - 6 additional staff for a total of 11
    - State’s primary and presidential elections
    - As of March 1st, $253,500 spent
Legal Services

- Gov. FY 2018 - $70,000
  - $3,905 more than enacted
- Gov. FY 2017 Rev - $53,905 more for total of $120,000
  - $27,803 for ongoing investigation & $26,102 for pending litigation and additional hearings
  - As of March 31 - $95,722 spent
New Voting Equipment

- 2015 Assembly enacted 2015-H 6312, Substitute A authorized the Secretary of State to:
  - Submit and approve the specifications used in procuring voting equipment
- Last purchased voting machines in 1997
- Board required to maintain new equipment
Election Expenses

- Gov. FY 2018 - $174,340
  - $250,650 less than enacted
    - Off-year in the two-year election cycle
- Gov. FY 2017 Rev - $113,550 more
  - Includes $89,000 more for unanticipated costs exclusively associated with new voting equipment
  - $20,000 more for printing expenses based on anticipated increase in voter turnout for general election
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