



*The new State Archives: 33 Broad Street, Providence*

# Rhode Island Department of State – FY 2022 Budget Request

## Presentation to the Senate Finance Committee

May 25, 2021

The Department of State requests \$10.9 million in FY 2021 and \$10.1 million in FY 2022. This request reflects the Department's priorities based on the following five core goals:

- 1** Work to ensure that Rhode Island elections are fair, fast and accurate.
- 2** Increase Rhode Islanders' knowledge of state history and their engagement in civic life.
- 3** Enhance commerce by creating a new culture of cooperation and collaboration between the Department of State, private and non-profit sectors and constituents.
- 4** Improve the transparency and accessibility of public data and civic information.
- 5** Create a culture at the Department of State that enables staff to meet the agency's mission, vision and goals.

The Department of State is charged with collecting and keeping safe vast amounts of information. Key among each of these goals is the necessary and heightened attention to cybersecurity throughout our divisions.

Cybersecurity is a continually evolving road that requires constant attention to mitigate risk. It also requires an ongoing investment of resources to ensure the integrity of the information that is created, stored, and transmitted in our applications.

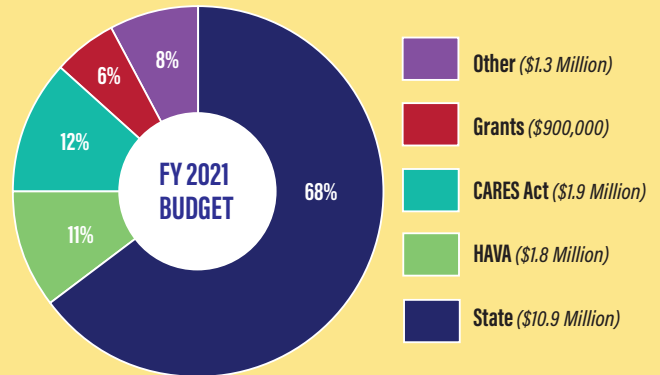


**Nellie M. Gorbea**  
Secretary of State

## Fiscal Year 2021 - Major Accomplishments

Under the leadership of Secretary Gorbea, the Department of State has been able to enhance services to meet the evolving needs of Rhode Islanders during the COVID-19 pandemic. The office has continued to invest in and modernize our systems, including:

- » Successfully implemented a new and more secure Central Voter Registration System.
- » Effectively managed four statewide, predominantly mail ballot elections.
- » Expedited digitization of all Rhode Island's corporate records to create a more robust corporate database.
- » Efficiently implemented Remote Online Notarization (RON).
- » Safely relocated the State Archives to a new, state of the art facility, which allows for the preservation and protection of state documents that date back to 1638.



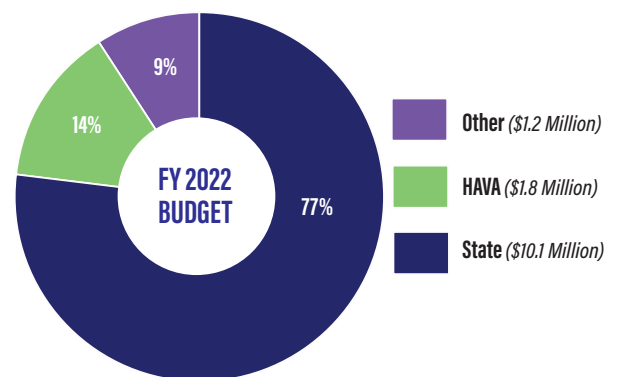
Additionally, the Secretary secured nearly \$1 million in grant funding including:

- » \$50,000 to continue digitizing the state's public laws.
- » \$650,000 to enhance elections communications initiatives throughout the state.
- » \$200,000 to improve municipal cybersecurity related to elections.

## Fiscal Year 2022 - General Revenue Request

The Department of State has several strategic initiatives planned to meet the evolving needs of Rhode Islanders. Some of these initiatives include:

- » Upgrades to business corporations database to enhance and encourage online filings.
- » Continued digitization of historic archival records.
- » Enhancements to the Central Voter Registration System to strengthen data matching, improve the mail ballot application process, and ensure the continued integrity of voter rolls.
- » Redesign of open government and transparency tools including lobby tracker and public meetings.



Under the leadership of Secretary Gorbea, the Department of State has a track record of delivering results within the enacted budget. The Department of State requests **\$10.1 million in FY 2022** to continue providing exceptional services to all Rhode Islanders.