

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

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

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

Summary by Category

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

Budget Issues

- Board Member Compensation
- Personnel
- Legal Services
- New Voting Equipment
- Election Expenses

Full-Time Equivalent Positions

Full-Time Positions	FTEs	Change to Enacted
Enacted Authorized	12.0	-
FY 2017 Rev. Req. / Gov. rev.	12.0	-
FY 2018 Request / Gov.	12.0	-
FY 2016 Average Filled	9.2	(2.8)
Filled as of April 1	9.0	(3.0)

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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