

# Board of Elections

FY 2016 Revised and FY 2017 Recommended  
Staff Presentation  
March 10, 2016

# 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

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

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

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

# Summary by Category

General Revenues	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Governor	FY 2017 Change to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,196,343	\$1,132,527	\$1,439,944	\$243,601
Contracted Services	73,488	79,883	79,883	6,395
Operations	526,784	492,458	454,880	(71,904)
Grants	-	85,000	-	-
Capital	21,690	8,000	8,000	(13,690)
Total	\$1,818,305	\$1,797,868	\$1,982,707	\$164,402

# 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 \$2.1 million
  - Current service adjustments of \$0.4 million
  - 7.5 % reduction of \$0.1 million
- Request \$0.3 million above target
- Recommendation is \$0.1 million below target

# Personnel

- Board Members
  - No vacancies
  - Currently only four of the seven members accept \$7,000 annual salary
- 11.0 FTEs for FY 2016 and 12.0 for FY 2017
  - Governor adds new position for compliance activities with new campaign finance laws
    - Requested for revised but not recommended
  - Currently 9.0 are filled
- Seasonal Staff varies with two-year election cycle

# Personnel

- FY 2016 Revised - \$1.1 million
  - \$63,816 less than enacted
    - Turnover & statewide medical benefit savings
- FY 2017 - \$1.4 million
  - \$243,601 more than enacted
    - New position
    - Turnover savings & statewide medical benefit savings

# Personnel

- Seasonal Staff
  - FY 2016
    - \$60,000 added in revised
    - Funding was not included in the enacted budget
    - 2016 Presidential Preference Primary
  - FY 2017
    - Governor recommends \$210,000
    - 2016 November election

# Legal

- Board requests \$84,000 for FY 2016 & FY 2017
- Governor recommends \$66,095 for both years
  - Based on actual expenses from recent fiscal years
  - Board spent \$25,062 as of March 2016
- Governor also includes \$85,000 in the revised budget for a settlement with a former employee
  - Requested by the Board after budget submission

# Voting Equipment

- 2015 Assembly enacted 2015-H 6312, Substitute A authorizing the Secretary of State
  - submit and approve specifications used in procuring voting systems, voting system-related services and accessible voting equipment
- Last purchased voting machines in 1997
- Current maintenance budget for the voting equipment is \$0.4 million with \$0.1 million in the Office and the remaining budgeted in the Board of Elections budget

# Election Expenses

- \$0.2 million for FY 2017 election supplies
  - \$135,000 for delivery services
  - \$70,000 for printing
  - Cyclical expense

# 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
- FY 2016 enacted budget includes \$60,000 for alternative storage space
  - No funds requested in revised or FY 2017
  - Plan is to continue using the Armory

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