

# 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

3

## 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>

4

## 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>

5

## Summary by Category

General Revenues	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2015 Revised	FY 2016 Governor	FY 2016 Change to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,306,590	\$1,307,294	\$1,196,343	(\$110,247)
Contracted Services	73,488	73,488	73,488	-
Operations	657,109	568,589	526,784	(130,325)
Grants	2,000,000	2,620,273	-	(2,000,000)
Capital	107,940	-	107,940	(86,250)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,145,127</b>	<b>\$4,656,199</b>	<b>\$1,818,305</b>	<b>(2,326,822)</b>

6

## Budget Issues

- Personnel
- Elections
- Legal Services
- Matching Public Funds
- New Voting Equipment
- Building and Storage Space

7

## 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

8

## 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

9

## 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

10

## 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

11

## 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

12

## 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

13

## 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

14

## 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

15

## 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

16



## 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

17

## Board of Elections

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