

ELECTIONS

70-00-00

Elections



MISSION

The mission of the Department of Elections is to provide a standardized, secure and accurate election system for the citizens of Delaware. The Department endeavors to provide citizens with the information access and structure to participate, as well as, fair and accurate campaign finance reports.

KEY OBJECTIVES

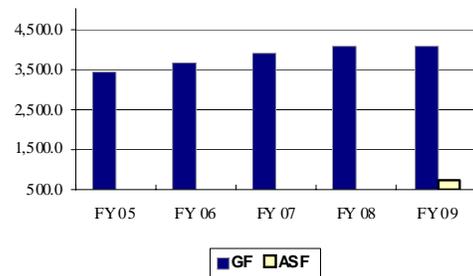
- Ensure the standard administration of Delaware election laws.
- Use technology to improve services to Delaware citizens here and abroad.
- Conduct elections for Delaware citizens from presidential primaries to school and municipal elections.
- Accurately track and post campaign finance reports.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Department of Elections has led the nation in developing the first statewide electronic voting system. Elections have been successfully conducted on all regional levels. In addition, voting machines have audio modules which make them accessible to persons with visual disabilities.

Delaware successfully maintained a statewide voter registration database long before it became a federal mandate.

Five-Year Appropriation History



FUNDING

	FY 2008 ACTUAL	FY 2009 BUDGET	FY 2010 GOV. REC.
GF	5,082.9	4,099.8	3,938.0
ASF	--	750.0	--
TOTAL	5,082.9	4,849.8	3,938.0

POSITIONS

	FY 2008 ACTUAL	FY 2009 BUDGET	FY 2010 GOV. REC.
GF	49.0	48.0	47.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	2.0	2.0	2.0
TOTAL	51.0	50.0	49.0

FY 2010 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATING BUDGET:

- ◆ Recommend (\$122.8) in Strategic Reduction/ Investment Target to identify additional expenditure reductions and/or revenue

ELECTIONS

70-00-00

enhancements necessary due to deteriorating economic conditions.

- ◆ Recommend (\$50.0) in School Elections to reflect a reduction in operating expenditures.

COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS

70-01-01

MISSION

The Commissioner provides coordination in developing and executing standard election policies and practices across the State. The office administers campaign finance reporting, federal programs, standards, and information services.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Administer campaign finance and provide constituent services.
- Administer election results reporting and voting machine standards.
- Verify and maintain a statewide voter registration system.
- Improve the Department's delivery of services through technology such as web-based programs, automated systems and accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- Administer federal programs for accessibility and election improvement.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Office of the Commissioner provides additional and expanded services as required by state and federal laws and as necessary for citizen involvement in the electoral process.

Campaign finance reporting is available through an online program, Campaign Finance Information System, providing anywhere, anytime availability.

The office provides voter registration training and support to persons in State agencies, such as agency-based registrars, and to Delaware residents who request training as registrars in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act.

The office participates in national voter outreach initiatives, specifically Student/Parent Mock Elections in cooperation with the Secretary of State, Department of Education, Department of Technology and Information,

and League of Women Voters. This project will continue as an outreach and voter education program for the Department. The project has developed an online voting program opportunity in every school district.

The Commissioner's Office has created two online programs, Polling Place Locator and Provisional Ballot Locator, designed to enable voters to search for their election districts and polling places.

The Commissioner of Elections administers the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) as the Chief State Election Official. The Act mandates federal standards for voting machines, voter registration and access for voters and provides Delaware citizens with improved services.

FUNDING

	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	GOV. REC.
GF	1,306.8	1,364.0	1,019.1
ASF	--	--	--
TOTAL	1,306.8	1,364.0	1,019.1

POSITIONS

	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	GOV. REC.
GF	15.0	15.0	14.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	2.0	2.0	2.0
TOTAL	17.0	17.0	16.0

ACTIVITIES

- Administer and coordinate the Department's state and federal programs such as the Organized Voter Registration program which involves training voter registrars throughout the State, and the Help America Vote Act which addresses election improvement standards.
- Collaborate with the departments of Elections in each county to insure uniformity.
- Maintain the statewide voter registration file.
- Collect unofficial results of primary and general elections, as well as special elections in each election district of the State; and tabulate, report and disseminate the results of the election in a timely manner to the public.
- Provide support and assistance to candidates and committees.
- Provide voter identity processes to assure voter eligibility and identity under the National Voter Registration Act, including the felon's right-to-vote statute.
- Implement programs that provide access to information during non-regular business hours.

ELECTIONS

70-00-00

- Support all municipalities regarding election and campaign finance law.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2010 Gov. Rec.
# of candidate committees	1,875	2,200	2,300
# of requests for campaign finance assistance	9,000	1,800	3,000
# of referenda elections	10	10	10
# of school board elections	16	16	16

NEW CASTLE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

70-02-01

MISSION

The Department of Elections for New Castle County serves the citizens of New Castle County by registering voters and conducting elections in accordance with state and federal laws.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Consistently provide quality service to all customers.
- Register to vote all eligible permanent residents of the State of Delaware who submit a complete and accurate voter registration application.
- Remove ineligible voters from the voter registration database as appropriate.
- Conduct all elections in an efficient and impartial manner as mandated by 14 and 15 Del. C.
- Educate the public regarding the elections process and the use of the State's electronic voting machine.
- Enhance efficiency by streamlining operational procedures.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Department operates under the provisions of 15 Del. C. and various federal laws. Policies and procedures have been developed and implemented to comply with these mandates.

Key issues facing the Department include:

- Election officers who do not follow policies and practices;

- Polling place accessibility for those with limited mobility;
- The increasing use of the Federal Mail Application, and the subsequent administrative requirements;
- Need to streamline of labor-intensive processes while maintaining adherence to legal mandates; and
- Maintenance of electronic voting machine fleet.

The Department is addressing these issues by:

- Broadening public outreach in recruitment of election officers;
- Continuing to enhance and improve the election officer training program;
- Partnering with the Commissioner of Elections in implementing improvements to the elections process;
- Engaging staff in devising streamlined operational procedures; and
- Conducting analysis of daily operations with a focus on continuous improvements.

FUNDING

	FY 2008 ACTUAL	FY 2009 BUDGET	FY 2010 GOV. REC.
GF	2,045.1	1,345.6	1,472.3
ASF	--	750.0	--
TOTAL	2,045.1	2,095.6	1,472.3

POSITIONS

	FY 2008 ACTUAL	FY 2009 BUDGET	FY 2010 GOV. REC.
GF	18.0	17.0	17.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	18.0	17.0	17.0

ACTIVITIES

- Register voters.
- Maintain an accurate voter registration database.
- Plan upcoming elections.
- Conduct elections in accordance with state and federal laws.
- Educate department staff and election officers.
- Produce printed materials and resources.
- Engage in public outreach and education initiatives.
- Maintain the election system infrastructure.
- Conduct elections for unions, student governments and other entities.

ELECTIONS

70-00-00

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Voter Registration Transactions

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2010 Gov. Rec.
New voters	17,668	33,000	15,000
Address change	23,730	33,000	25,000
Name change	2,603	5,000	5,000
Party change	6,057	7,000	5,000
Total	50,058	78,000	50,000

Cancelled Voter Registrations

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2010 Gov. Rec.
Deceased	2,662	3,000	3,000
Verification programs	298	10,000	1,000
Moved out of state	1,092	3,000	2,000
Board action	15	20	25
Not a citizen	11	20	25
Total	4,078	16,040	6,050

Absentee Ballots

	FY 2001 *Actual	FY 2005 *Actual	FY 2009 *Budget
Total voted ballots**	8,491	9,587	11,754

*Years reflect presidential primary elections.

**Ballots returned in-time and sent to polling places.

KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS 70-03-01

MISSION

The Kent County Department of Elections serves the residents of Kent County and the State of Delaware with the operation of voter registration programs, and conducts all elections in accordance with state and federal laws.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Perform all duties related to conducting an election pursuant to state and federal laws.
- Provide information to the public, candidates and political parties regarding election laws, rules and regulations and registration requirements.
- Conduct all elections mandated by 14 and 15 Del. C. in an efficient, fair and impartial manner.
- Notify, appoint and train election officers for all elections mandated by 14 and 15 Del. C. to perform uniform and non-partisan elections.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the past year, the Department conducted three special elections and three school board elections, and met filing and voter registration deadlines in a timely and professional manner. The Department assisted with municipal elections pursuant to 15 Del. C. and five municipalities in Kent County are now using the Voter Registration system pursuant to 15 Del. C. § 7554(b). The Department also performed many activities for voter education with the school districts and group functions, such as supplying voting machines, ballots, voter registrars, polling place information, absentee ballot information, and promotional items to keep the public aware of the continuing changes in voting practices.

FUNDING

	FY 2008 ACTUAL	FY 2009 BUDGET	FY 2010 GOV. REC.
GF	936.2	768.2	785.6
ASF	--	--	--
TOTAL	936.2	768.2	785.6

POSITIONS

	FY 2008 ACTUAL	FY 2009 BUDGET	FY 2010 GOV. REC.
GF	8.0	8.0	8.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	8.0	8.0	8.0

ACTIVITIES

- Maintain voter registration files, analyze voter registration documents and keep statistical information.
- Maintain a felon database for the prothonotary reports and Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS).

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Voter Registration Transactions

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2010 Gov. Rec.
New voters	6,105	6,400	6,500
Address change	7,186	7,500	7,700
Name change	966	1,020	1,040
Party change	1,416	1,500	1,550
Total	15,673	16,420	16,790

ELECTIONS

70-00-00

Cancelled Voter Registrations

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2010 Gov. Rec.
Deceased	640	670	690
Verification programs	1,712	1,800	1,850
Moved out of state	243	260	270
Board action	44	50	55
Total	2,639	2,780	2,865

Absentee Ballots

	FY 2001 *Actual	FY 2005 *Actual	FY 2009 *Budget
Total voted ballots**	1,979	2,170	7,000

*Years reflect presidential primary elections.

**Ballots returned in-time and sent to polling places.

SUSSEX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS 70-04-01

MISSION

The Department of Elections for Sussex County serves the citizens of Sussex County by registering voters and conducting primary, general, special, and public school elections in accordance with state and federal laws.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Provide prompt and courteous service to all customers.
- Conduct all elections mandated by 14 and 15 Del. C. in an efficient, fair and impartial manner.
- Register to vote all eligible permanent residents of the State of Delaware who submit a complete and accurate voter registration application.
- Provide mobile registration by scheduled events or at the request of organizations.
- Provide information to the public, candidates and political parties regarding election laws, rules and regulations and registration requirements.
- Comply with the Sussex County 911 road naming project.
- Educate the public in the use of electronic voting machines and the election process.
- Remove ineligible voters from the voting rolls in accordance with state and federal laws.
- Enhance the Department's productivity through the application of technology and redesign of tasks.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Department continues to manage increasing numbers of new registration, change of address and name applications due to the Motor Voter Act. The Act mandates the Division of Motor Vehicles, and the departments of Health and Social Services and Labor to register eligible citizens and residents of the State.

During Fiscal Year 2009, the Department will provide for the set up and delivery of voting machines for at least six student government elections, six school district elections and referendums, 26 municipal elections and referendums in Sussex County, and the annual Delaware Electric Co-op Board of Directors election.

FUNDING

	FY 2008 ACTUAL	FY 2009 BUDGET	FY 2010 GOV. REC.
GF	794.8	622.0	661.0
ASF	--	--	--
TOTAL	794.8	622.0	661.0

POSITIONS

	FY 2008 ACTUAL	FY 2009 BUDGET	FY 2010 GOV. REC.
GF	8.0	8.0	8.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	8.0	8.0	8.0

ACTIVITIES

- Register new voters by mail and mobile registration.
- Process applications received as a result of agency-based registration.
- Maintain voter registration files.
- Conduct school elections and referendums.
- Provide voting machines, training and support for municipal elections and referendums.
- Conduct the primary and general elections in Sussex County.
- Provide voter education.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Voter Registration Transactions

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2010 Gov. Rec.
New voters	6,643	6,700	4,600
Address change	8,365	9,500	8,500
Name change	771	900	800
Party change	1,277	1,400	1,200
Total	17,056	18,500	15,100

ELECTIONS

70-00-00

Cancelled Voter Registrations

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Budget	FY 2010 Gov. Rec.
Deceased	586	800	850
Moved out of state	1,016	1,200	1,250
Board action	32	55	60
Total	1,643	2,055	2,160

General Election Information

	FY 2001 *Actual	FY 2005 *Actual	FY 2009 *Budget
Total voted ballots**	4,261	5,583	7,010

**Years reflect presidential elections.*

***Ballots returned in-time and sent to polling places.*