

ELECTIONS

70-00-00

Elections



MISSION

The mission of the Department of Elections is to provide a standardized, secure, and current election system for the citizens of Delaware. The department endeavors to provide citizens with the information, access and the structure to participate.

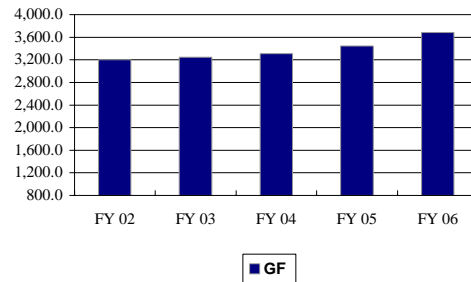
KEY OBJECTIVES

- 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.

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, every voting machine has an audio module making them accessible to persons with visual disabilities.

Five-Year Appropriation History



FUNDING

| | FY 2005 ACTUAL | FY 2006 BUDGET | FY 2007 GOV. REC. |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| GF | 4,661.5 | 3,683.2 | 3,846.5 |
| ASF | 229.9 | -- | -- |
| TOTAL | 4,891.4 | 3,683.2 | 3,846.5 |

POSITIONS

| | FY 2005 ACTUAL | FY 2006 BUDGET | FY 2007 GOV. REC. |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| GF | 43.0 | 47.0 | 47.0 |
| ASF | -- | -- | -- |
| NSF | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| TOTAL | 45.0 | 49.0 | 49.0 |

FY 2007 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATING BUDGET:

- ◆ Recommend \$2,068.9 for costs associated with the primary and general elections. Funding will be provided through a continuing appropriation.

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- ◆ Recommend \$15.0 in Contractual Services for the increased cost of office rent in Kent County.

COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS

70-01-01

MISSION

The Commissioner provides departmental leadership 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, access 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 on-line Internet program (CFIS) providing anywhere, anytime availability. This program enables electronic campaign reporting.

The office provides 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 Election in cooperation with the Secretary of State, Department of Education, and League of Women Voters. This project will continue as an outreach and voter education program for the department. The project has grown to

provide an on-line voting program available in every school district.

The Commissioner's Office has created two on-line 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 for the state. This act mandates federal standards for voting machines and access for voters, and provides Delaware citizens with improved services.

FUNDING

| | FY 2005 ACTUAL | FY 2006 BUDGET | FY 2007 GOV. REC. |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| GF | 1,033.3 | 1,246.2 | 1,285.3 |
| ASF | 93.8 | -- | -- |
| TOTAL | 1,127.1 | 1,246.2 | 1,285.3 |

POSITIONS

| | FY 2005 ACTUAL | FY 2006 BUDGET | FY 2007 GOV. REC. |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| GF | 11.0 | 13.0 | 13.0 |
| ASF | -- | -- | -- |
| NSF | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| TOTAL | 13.0 | 15.0 | 15.0 |

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, the Help America Vote Act and other federal mandates.
- Provide centralized support for each county Department of Elections.
- Collect unofficial results of the general election at each election district in the state; 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, voters' 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.

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES

| | FY 2005 Actual | FY 2006 Budget | FY 2007 Gov. Rec. |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| # of candidate committees | 2,485 | 1,139 | 1,479 |
| # of requests for campaign finance assistance | 1,075 | 7,070 | 10,500 |
| # of referenda elections | 18 | 10 | 10 |
| # of school board elections | 15 | 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

- 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.
- Educate the public in the use of the electronic voting machine and the election process.
- Remove ineligible voters from the voting rolls in accordance with state and federal laws.
- Enhance the department's productivity through application of technology and redesign of tasks.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Federal mandates over the past ten years, such as the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, Help America Vote Act of 2002, and Delaware's purchase of Direct Recording Electronic Voting Equipment (DRE) in 1996 have radically changed the administration and conduct of elections within the state.

Key issues facing the department include:

- Election officers who do not follow the correct procedures;
- Polling places that are not accessible to some disabled voters;

- The increasing use of the Federal Mail Application that requires additional steps to process; and
- The large volume of requests for absentee ballots and voted ballots that places considerable strain on staff, resources, and polling places.

The department is addressing these issues by enhancing the training of election officers, looking at new methods of educating the voter on the voting process, and replacing inaccessible polling places with accessible polling places where possible.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 provided the state with federal funds that can be used to meet federal mandates and improve the administration of elections. The department, in collaboration with the State Election Commissioner, is working to enhance the voting process within the state. Changes that will enhance the state's voting system over the next two election cycles include:

- New voter information poster;
- Provisional voting;
- A central count absentee voting system;
- The opportunity for disabled voters to vote without assistance at their polling place; and
- The use of Electronic Poll Books to process voters at the polling place.

The department makes large numbers of voter registration transactions each year, with the largest numbers in election years. As shown in the following table, the department has changed more addresses than registering new voters. The department expects this trend to continue.

Voter Registration Transactions

| | New Voters | Address Change | Name Change | Party Change | TOTAL |
|----------------|------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| FY 2001 | 20,379 | 28,569 | 3,527 | 3,860 | 56,335 |
| FY 2002 | 12,152 | 22,204 | 3,059 | 664 | 38,079 |
| FY 2003 | 13,268 | 26,129 | 3,005 | 1,629 | 44,031 |
| FY 2004 | 17,146 | 23,979 | 2,946 | 1,380 | 45,451 |
| FY 2005 | 28,159 | 31,239 | 4,097 | 5,922 | 69,417 |

The department has several programs for maintaining the lists of registered voters. The Address Verification program identifies persons who may no longer be eligible to vote within the county through mail returned to the department as undeliverable. The program removes a substantial number of persons from the list of registered voters following each election in accordance with the procedures that comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA).

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Address Verifications

| Calendar Year | Total Mailed | Replies | No Response | Not Deliverable |
|---------------|--------------|---------|-------------|-----------------|
| 2001 | 2,364 | 578 | 1,067 | 719 |
| 2002 | 4,091 | 747 | 1,481 | 1,863 |
| 2003 | 7,392 | 1,583 | 3,489 | 2,320 |
| 2004 | 2,498 | 251 | 1,321 | 926 |
| *2005 | 2,766 | 273 | 1,637 | 856 |

*January 1 to October 14.

The department continues to remove persons from the list of eligible voters in accordance with state and federal laws.

Cancelled Voter Registration

| Calendar Year | Deceased | NVRA Removal | Moved From State | Board Action | TOTAL |
|---------------|----------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------|
| 2001 | 2,129 | 3,324 | 1,071 | 6 | 6,530 |
| 2002 | 3,756 | 1,559 | 1,317 | 8 | 6,640 |
| 2003 | 2,292 | 8,475 | 970 | 20 | 11,757 |
| 2004 | 2,382 | 2,376 | 1,572 | 21 | 6,351 |
| *2005 | 2,204 | 23,304 | 851 | 32 | 26,391 |

*January 1 to October 14.

The department continues to use technology to implement positive changes in the planning, preparation and conduct of elections. Electronic voting machines have improved the accuracy of election night results and facilitated the official canvass. An interactive voice response telephone system greatly increased the department's capacity to deliver critical information to voters, provide timely Election Day responses to the voters, and provide vital information to staff at polling places.

The department conducts school board member elections and school referendums. It also supports numerous municipal, student government and union elections.

The department publishes and maintains a website that provides information regarding elections, the voting process, absentee voting and voter registration to the public.

FUNDING

| | FY 2005 ACTUAL | FY 2006 BUDGET | FY 2007 GOV. REC. |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| GF | 1,830.0 | 1,185.3 | 1,261.6 |
| ASF | -- | -- | -- |
| TOTAL | 1,830.0 | 1,185.3 | 1,261.6 |

POSITIONS

| | FY 2005 ACTUAL | FY 2006 BUDGET | FY 2007 GOV. REC. |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| GF | 17.0 | 18.0 | 18.0 |
| ASF | -- | -- | -- |
| NSF | -- | -- | -- |
| TOTAL | 17.0 | 18.0 | 18.0 |

ACTIVITIES

- Register voters.
- Maintain, update and correct voter registration records.
- Perform address verification.
- Plan, program and budget for upcoming elections.
- Conduct elections in accordance with state and federal laws.
- Train employees and election officers.
- Publish manuals, checklists and other documents as necessary.
- Educate the public in the voting process and use of the state's voting machines.
- Maintain the election system structure.
- Plan for and implement federal mandates.
- Conduct elections for unions, student governments and other entities.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Voter Registration Transactions

| | FY 2005 Actual | FY 2006 Budget | FY 2007 Gov. Rec. |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| New voters | 28,159 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Address change | 31,239 | 26,000 | 26,000 |
| Name change | 4,097 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Party change | 5,922 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Total | 69,417 | 46,000 | 46,000 |

Cancelled Voter Registrations

| | FY 2005 Actual | FY 2006 Budget | FY 2007 Gov. Rec. |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Deceased | 2,931 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Verification programs | 3,736 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Moved out of state | 1,756 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Board action | 42 | 12 | 12 |
| Total | 8,465 | 16,012 | 16,012 |

Absentee Ballots

| | FY 1999 *Actual | FY 2003 *Actual | FY 2007 Gov. Rec. |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Total voted ballots ** | 1,974 | 3,232 | 4,100 |

* Years reflect non- presidential elections.

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

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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 office conducted a statewide Primary Election, General Election, school elections, municipal elections, filing deadlines, and voter registration deadlines in a timely and professional manner. The department assisted with municipal elections pursuant to 15 Del. C. The department also performed many activities for voter education with the school districts and with group functions, such as supplying voting machines, ballots, voter registrars, polling place information, absentee balloting information, and promotional items to keep the public aware of the continuing changes in voting practices.

FUNDING

| | FY 2005 ACTUAL | FY 2006 BUDGET | FY 2007 GOV. REC. |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| GF | 998.5 | 669.7 | 718.3 |
| ASF | 110.2 | -- | -- |
| TOTAL | 1,108.7 | 669.7 | 718.3 |

POSITIONS

| | FY 2005 ACTUAL | FY 2006 BUDGET | FY 2007 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 2005 Actual | FY 2006 Budget | FY 2007 Gov. Rec. |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| New voters | 7,910 | 6,190 | 5,330 |
| Address change | 10,392 | 8,544 | 7,620 |
| Name change | 1,312 | 2,150 | 1,075 |
| Party change | 1,268 | 1,512 | 878 |
| Total | 20,882 | 18,396 | 14,903 |

Cancelled Voter Registrations

| | FY 2005 Actual | FY 2006 Budget | FY 2007 Gov. Rec. |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Deceased | 674 | 715 | 736 |
| Verification programs | 1,204 | 2,477 | 3,114 |
| Moved out of state | 401 | 318 | 276 |
| Board action | 221 | 193 | 179 |
| Felons | 223 | 229 | 232 |
| Total | 2,723 | 3,932 | 4,537 |

Voter Registration Corrections

| | FY 2005 Actual | FY 2006 Budget | FY 2007 Gov. Rec. |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Corrections | 35,992 | 20,622 | 12,957 |
| Social Security # changes | 265 | 216 | 192 |

Absentee Ballots

| | FY 1999 *Actual | FY 2003 *Actual | FY 2007 Gov. Rec. |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Total voted ballots** | 903 | 1,389 | 3,110 |

**Years reflect non-presidential elections.*

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

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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 Sussex County Department of Elections continues to manage increasing numbers of new registration and 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 2006, the department will provide for the set up and delivery of voting machines for 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 2005 ACTUAL | FY 2006 BUDGET | FY 2007 GOV. REC. |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| GF | 799.8 | 582.0 | 581.3 |
| ASF | 26.0 | -- | -- |
| TOTAL | 825.8 | 582.0 | 581.3 |

POSITIONS

| | FY 2005 ACTUAL | FY 2006 BUDGET | FY 2007 GOV. REC. |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| GF | 7.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 |
| ASF | -- | -- | -- |
| NSF | -- | -- | -- |
| TOTAL | 7.0 | 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 for municipal elections and referendums.
- Conduct the primary and general elections in Sussex County.
- Provide voter education.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Voter Registration Transactions

| | FY 2005 Actual | FY 2006 Budget | FY 2007 Gov. Rec. |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| New voters | 9,441 | 9,190 | 10,300 |
| Address change | 13,913 | 18,001 | 18,050 |
| Name change | 979 | 1,319 | 1,519 |
| Party change | 1,091 | 1,150 | 1,100 |
| Total | 25,424 | 20,470 | 20,669 |

Cancelled Voter Registrations

| | FY 2005 Actual | FY 2006 Budget | FY 2007 Gov. Rec. |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Deceased | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,320 |
| Moved out of state | 1,257 | 1,650 | 1,400 |
| Board action | 24 | 30 | 30 |
| Total | 2,481 | 2,880 | 2,750 |

General Election Information

| | FY 1999 *Actual | FY 2003 *Actual | FY 2007 Gov. Rec. |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Total voted ballots** | 1,302 | 2,350 | 3,850 |

*Years reflect non-presidential elections.

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