

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.

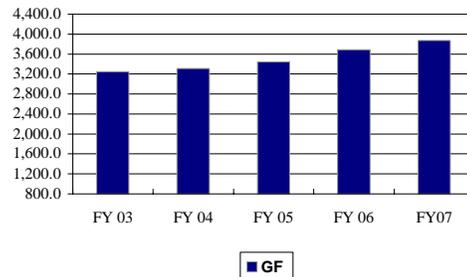
KEY OBJECTIVES

- 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, voting machines have audio modules which make them accessible to persons with visual disabilities.

Five-Year Appropriation History



FUNDING

	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 GOV. REC.
GF	3,848.7	3,871.5	4,055.6
ASF	4.1	--	--
TOTAL	3,852.8	3,871.5	4,055.6

POSITIONS

	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 GOV. REC.
GF	47.0	49.0	49.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	2.0	2.0	2.0
TOTAL	49.0	51.0	51.0

FY 2008 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATING BUDGET:

- ◆ Recommend \$1,423.9 for costs related to primary elections to be funded through the Office of

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Management and Budget's Federal Contingency Fund.

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 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 Election 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 for the State. The Act mandates federal standards for voting machines, voter registration and access for voters, and provides Delaware citizens with improved services.

FUNDING

	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 GOV. REC.
GF	1,054.6	1,310.3	1,349.2
ASF	1.7	--	--
TOTAL	1,056.3	1,310.3	1,349.2

POSITIONS

	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 GOV. REC.
GF	13.0	15.0	15.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	2.0	2.0	2.0
TOTAL	15.0	17.0	17.0

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, Help America Vote Act which addresses election improvement standards in the states, and other federal mandates.
- Maintain the statewide voter registration file.
- 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 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.

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Budget	FY 2008 Gov. Rec.
# of candidate committees	1,139	1,479	1,900
# of requests for campaign finance assistance	7,070	10,500	15,000
# 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

- 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

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 state and federal mandates.

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;
- An antiquated absentee voting process; and
- Accuracy and security of election voting machines.

The Department is addressing these issues by:

- Enhancing the training of election officers and recruiting new election officers;
- Working through the Commissioner of Elections to use Help America Vote Act funds to improve the accessibility of polling places;
- Implementing a central count absentee system that enhances the accuracy of the absentee tally;
- Implementing an automated process for mailing out absentee ballots; and
- Examining the feasibility of enhancing the voter check-in process at polling places by implementing electronic poll books.

FUNDING

	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 GOV. REC.
GF	1,359.9	1,261.6	1,331.3
ASF	--	--	--
TOTAL	1,359.9	1,261.6	1,331.3

POSITIONS

	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 GOV. REC.
GF	18.0	18.0	18.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	18.0	18.0	18.0

ACTIVITIES

- Register voters.
- Maintain, update and correct voter registration records.
- Perform address verifications.
- 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 voting machines.
- Maintain the election system structure.
- Plan for and implement federal mandates.

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- Conduct elections for unions, student governments and other entities.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Voter Registration Transactions

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Budget	FY 2008 Gov. Rec.
New voters	13,770	15,000	15,000
Address change	23,469	26,000	27,000
Name change	2,991	3,000	3,000
Party change	705	2,000	2,000
Total	40,935	46,000	47,000

Cancelled Voter Registrations

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Budget	FY 2008 Gov. Rec.
Deceased	2,963	3,000	3,000
Verification programs	22,627	10,000	10,000
Moved out of state	994	3,000	3,000
Board action	12	20	20
Not a citizen	17	20	20
Total	26,613	16,040	16,040

Absentee Ballots

	FY 2000 *Actual	FY 2004 *Actual	FY 2008 Gov. Rec.
Total voted ballots **	171	323	1,000

* Years reflect Presidential Primary elections.

** Ballots returned in time to be counted.

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 school 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 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 GOV. REC.
GF	779.0	718.3	760.6
ASF	2.4	--	--
TOTAL	781.4	718.3	760.6

POSITIONS

	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 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).

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Voter Registration Transactions

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Budget	FY 2008 Gov. Rec.
New voters	4,854	5,096	5,249
Address change	7,326	7,473	7,697
Name change	964	983	1,012
Party change	240	245	252
Total	13,384	13,797	14,210

Cancelled Voter Registrations

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Budget	FY 2008 Gov. Rec.
Deceased	733	748	770
Verification programs	476	486	500
Moved out of state	238	243	250
Board action	150	153	158
Felons	173	176	182
Total	1,770	1,806	1,860

Absentee Ballots

	FY 2000 *Actual	FY 2004 *Actual	FY 2008 Gov. Rec.
Total voted ballots**	89	165	129

*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 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 2007, 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 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 GOV. REC.
GF	654.5	581.3	614.5
ASF	--	--	--
TOTAL	654.5	581.3	614.5

POSITIONS

	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 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 for municipal elections and referendums.

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- Conduct the primary and general elections in Sussex County.
- Provide voter education.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Voter Registration Transactions

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Budget	FY 2008 Gov. Rec.
New voters	5,180	5,000	11,500
Address change	10,555	11,500	14,500
Name change	797	750	1,050
Party change	209	250	1,250
Total	16,741	17,500	28,300

Cancelled Voter Registrations

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Budget	FY 2008 Gov. Rec.
Deceased	1,270	1,300	1,450
Moved out of state	1,930	1,450	2,100
Board action	21	23	30
Total	3,221	2,773	3,580

General Election Information

	FY 2000 *Actual	FY 2004 *Actual	FY 2008 Gov. Rec.
Total voted ballots**	4,261	5,583	6,800

**Years reflect presidential primary elections.*

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