

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 residents of Delaware. The department strives to provide residents with the information access and structure needed to participate, as well as access to fair and accurate campaign finance reports.

KEY OBJECTIVES

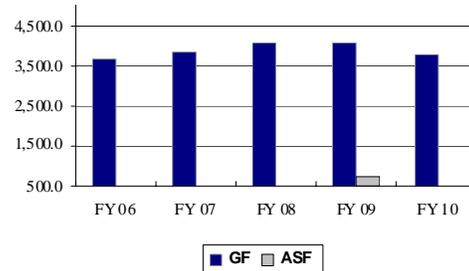
- Ensure the standard administration of Delaware election laws.
- Use technology to improve services to Delaware residents here and abroad.
- Conduct elections for Delaware residents from presidential primaries to school and municipal elections.
- Accurately track and post campaign finance reports.

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 2009 ACTUAL	FY 2010 BUDGET	FY 2011 GOV. REC.
GF	5,935.8	3,801.8	3,743.1
ASF	538.3	--	--
TOTAL	6,474.1	3,801.8	3,743.1

POSITIONS

	FY 2009 ACTUAL	FY 2010 BUDGET	FY 2011 GOV. REC.
GF	48.0	44.0	43.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	2.0	--	--
TOTAL	50.0	44.0	43.0

FY 2011 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

OPERATING BUDGET:

- ◆ Recommend one-time funding of \$2,952.9 in the Office of Management and Budget's contingency for costs associated with conducting primary and general elections.

ELECTIONS

70-00-00

COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS **70-01-01**

MISSION

The Office of the Commissioner of Elections coordinates statewide activities and standardizes election policies and practices. The office also oversees campaign finance reporting and federal programs, including the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Maintain a statewide voter registration system.
- Use technology to improve the efficiency our mission.
- Coordinate with the each county's election office to conduct all mandated elections.
- Educate and assist municipalities in the conduct of their elections.
- Accurately track and post campaign finance reports.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The office provides services to all residents as required by state and federal laws to ensure uniform access to the electoral process.

Campaign finance reporting is available through our online program, Campaign Finance Information System, providing 24/7 availability.

The office provides training and support to state agencies that are mandated by National Voter Registration Act to conduct voter registration. Training and support are also provided to the third party registration groups.

The office participates in Student/Parent Mock Election, in cooperation with the Departments of State, Education, Technology and Information and the League of Women Voters.

The office consistently updates its website and offers residents a Polling Place Locator, Provisional Ballot Locator, Online Voter Registration and Electronic Signature Registration, in conjunction with Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

The Commissioner administers the HAVA funding as the Chief State Election Official. The act mandates federal standards for voting machines, voter registration and access for Delaware voters. These funds have been used to upgrade voting machines, make polling places accessible and use technology to improve processes.

Delaware received national recognition for the Electronic Signature project, which uses technology to create a seamless, paperless connection between DMV and the Department of Elections.

FUNDING

	FY 2009 ACTUAL	FY 2010 BUDGET	FY 2011 GOV. REC.
GF	1,480.4	1,013.5	980.8
ASF	--	--	--
TOTAL	1,480.4	1,013.5	980.8

POSITIONS

	FY 2009 ACTUAL	FY 2010 BUDGET	FY 2011 GOV. REC.
GF	15.0	14.0	13.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	2.0	--	--
TOTAL	17.0	14.0	13.0

ACTIVITIES

- Administer the Organized Voter Registrar program, which involves training voter registrars throughout the State.
- Administer HAVA, which sets guidelines for election improvements.
- Collaborate with the Departments of Election in each county to ensure uniformity.
- Maintain the statewide voter registration file.
- Collect and report unofficial results of presidential primaries, state primaries, general and special elections in a timely manner.
- Provide support and assistance to candidates and committees regarding campaign finance laws.
- Work with other state agencies to ensure accuracy regarding the restoration of felon voting rights.
- Implement programs and systems that enable access to information during non-business hours.
- Support municipalities regarding election and campaign finance laws.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Budget	FY 2011 Gov. Rec.
# of candidate committees	1,947	2,300	2,100
# of requests for campaign finance assistance	2,740	3,000	4,000
# of referenda elections	10	10	10
# of school board elections	16	16	16

ELECTIONS

70-00-00

NEW CASTLE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

70-02-01

MISSION

The Department of Elections for New Castle County serves the residents 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 all eligible permanent residents of the State of Delaware who submit a complete and accurate voter registration application to vote.
- 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 subsequent administrative requirements;
- Streamlining labor-intensive processes while adhering 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 to implement improvements to the elections process;
- Using technological advances and staff-initiated innovations to improve efficiency; and
- Examining opportunities to reduce costs in a challenging fiscal climate.

FUNDING

	FY 2009 ACTUAL	FY 2010 BUDGET	FY 2011 Gov. Rec.
GF	2,270.8	1,387.3	1,365.7
ASF	538.3	--	--
TOTAL	2,809.1	1,387.3	1,365.7

POSITIONS

	FY 2009 ACTUAL	FY 2010 BUDGET	FY 2011 Gov. Rec.
GF	17.0	15.0	15.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	17.0	15.0	15.0

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.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Voter Registration Transactions

	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Budget	FY 2011 Gov. Rec.
New voters	23,276	15,000	20,000
Address change	25,260	25,000	25,000
Name change	3,419	5,000	5,000
Party change	6,405	5,000	10,000
Total	58,360	50,000	60,000

ELECTIONS

70-00-00

Cancelled Voter Registrations

	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Budget	FY 2011 Gov. Rec.
Deceased	3,210	3,000	3,000
Verification programs	6,597	10,000	15,000
Moved out of state	1,932	3,000	3,000
Board action	14	20	20
Not a resident	7	20	20
Total	11,760	16,040	21,040

Absentee Ballots

	FY 2003 *Actual	FY 2007 *Actual	FY 2011 *Budget
Total voted ballots**	3,536	4,596	6,000

*Years are for non-presidential year elections.

**Ballots issued.

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, 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 primary and general 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 2009 ACTUAL	FY 2010 BUDGET	FY 2011 Gov. Rec.
GF	1,167.5	755.0	756.8
ASF	--	--	--
TOTAL	1,167.5	755.0	756.8

POSITIONS

	FY 2009 ACTUAL	FY 2010 BUDGET	FY 2011 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 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Budget	FY 2011 Gov. Rec.
New voters	8,463	6,538	8,886
Address change	7,778	7,696	8,166
Name change	1,002	1,036	1,052
Party change	1,905	1,517	2,000
Total	19,148	16,787	20,104

Cancelled Voter Registrations

	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Budget	FY 2011 Gov. Rec.
Deceased	857	900	918
Verification programs	1,783	1,872	1,910
Moved out of state	389	408	417
Board action	49	51	52
Total	3,078	3,231	3,297

Absentee Ballots

	FY 2003 *Actual	FY 2007 *Actual	FY 2011 *Budget
Total voted ballots**	1,388	1,979	2,479

*Years are for non-presidential year elections.

**Ballots issued.

ELECTIONS

70-00-00

SUSSEX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS **70-04-01**

MISSION

The Department of Elections for Sussex County serves the residents 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 all eligible permanent residents of the State of Delaware who submit a complete and accurate voter registration application to vote.
- 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, regulations and registration requirements.
- Comply with the Sussex County 911 road naming project.
- Educate the public about 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 residents.

During Fiscal Year 2010, 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 2009 ACTUAL	FY 2010 BUDGET	FY 2011 Gov. Rec.
GF	1,017.1	646.0	639.8
ASF	--	--	--
TOTAL	1,017.1	646.0	639.8

POSITIONS

	FY 2009 ACTUAL	FY 2010 BUDGET	FY 2011 Gov. Rec.
GF	8.0	7.0	7.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	8.0	7.0	7.0

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 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Budget	FY 2011 Gov. Rec.
New voters	8,810	8,900	9,300
Address change	8,933	9,200	9,700
Name change	865	900	1,000
Party change	1,519	1,600	1,700
Total	20,127	20,600	21,700

Cancelled Voter Registrations

	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Budget	FY 2011 Gov. Rec.
Deceased	1,572	1,800	1,900
Moved out of state	2,813	2,900	3,300
Board action	24	28	32
Total	4,409	4,728	5,232

Absentee Ballots

	FY 2003 *Actual	FY 2007 *Actual	FY 2011 *Budget
Total voted ballots**	2,722	2,357	3,960

**Years are for non-presidential year elections.*

***Ballots issued.*