

The Agency

Board of Elections

Agency Operations

The Board of Elections supervises all elections and state and local referenda. The board supervises the maintenance, preparation and delivery of electronic optical-scan voting equipment, election return forms and other supplies used at each polling place. The board instructs and certifies all election officials assigned to polls and prepares and distributes poll worker guides and related materials. The board also appoints, trains and assigns bi-partisan pairs of supervisors for the mail ballot program for institutionally confined persons. The board certifies the results of all elections under its jurisdiction, including tabulating machine and mail ballot votes cast; conducts recounts; certifies results to the Secretary of State; issues certificates of election to candidates; and provides an official tabulation of returns.

The board oversees voter registration and public education activities and provides all registration materials used in the State. The board trains and supervises all individuals who serve as statewide voter registration agents. The agency conducts voter registration drives throughout the State and at each institution of higher education in Rhode Island. It oversees and coordinates the registration of voters at other state agencies and departments as part of the National Voter Registration Act. The board carries out the mandates of the Rhode Island Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act (the "Act"). The agency oversees and monitors the campaign finance activities of candidates, political action committees and state vendors. The board's responsibilities also include the development, printing and distribution of forms required for candidate, committee and vendor reports as well as the publication of manuals describing and explaining the requirements set forth in the statutes. The board reviews and makes available for inspection all reports filed, prepares summaries and an annual report, and is authorized to investigate suspected violations of the Act. The agency oversees and administers the public financing of campaigns program for each of the State's five general offices.

Agency Objectives

To protect the integrity of the electoral process and to effectively and efficiently administer the provisions of United States and Rhode Island election laws.

Statutory History

Chapter 825 of the Public Laws of 1901 created the "State Returning Board", which was replaced by Chapter 1040 of the Public Laws of 1941 which created the "Board of Elections" as a partisan board. Chapter 312 of the Public Laws of 1979 amended the law to establish the Board of Elections as a non-partisan board. R.I.G.L. 17-7 sets forth its duties and powers. R.I.G.L. 17-25 sets out the mandates of the Rhode Island Campaign Contributions and Expenditure Reporting Act (public financing of campaigns). R.I.G.L. 42-6 provides for the registration of voters at other state agencies. R.I.G.L. 17-27 provides for reporting requirements and monitoring of political contributions by state vendors. R.I.G.L. 17-19 provides for the use of an optical scan precinct count voting system in state elections.

The Budget

Board of Elections

	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2009 Revised	FY 2010 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	1,450,934	1,512,065	1,961,430	1,827,767	1,717,338
Operating Supplies and Expenses	903,524	418,277	213,788	219,893	132,803
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	2,015,172	-	-	300	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$4,369,630	\$1,930,342	\$2,175,218	\$2,047,960	\$1,850,141
Capital Purchases and Equipment	22,460	(3,849)	-	-	-
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$4,392,090	\$1,926,493	\$2,175,218	\$2,047,960	\$1,850,141
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	3,625,842	1,315,331	1,512,874	1,552,690	1,850,141
Federal Funds	766,248	611,162	662,344	495,270	-
Total Expenditures	\$4,392,090	\$1,926,493	\$2,175,218	\$2,047,960	\$1,850,141
FTE Authorization	14.0	14.0	14.0	12.0	12.0
Agency Measures					
Minorities as Percentage of the Workforce	14.0%	18.8%	18.8%	18.8%	18.8%
Females as Percentage of the Workforce	42.9%	37.5%	37.5%	37.5%	37.5%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	-	-	-
Program Measures	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS