

**VOLUME I: GENERAL GOVERNMENT
AND QUASI-PUBLIC AGENCIES**

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Agency Summary

Board of Elections

Agency Mission

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

Agency Description

The Board of Elections (Board) supervises all elections and state and local referenda. The Board supervises the maintenance, preparation, and delivery of voting equipment, election return forms, and other supplies used at polling places. It 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 bipartisan pairs of supervisors for the mail ballot program for institutionally confined persons. It 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. It also trains and supervises all individuals who serve as statewide voter registration agents. The Board 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 Board 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. It is also responsible for the publication of manuals describing and explaining the requirements set forth in the statutes. It 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 Board also oversees and administers the public financing of campaigns program for each of the State's five general offices.

Statutory History

Chapter 825 of the Public Laws of 1901 created the State Returning Board. Chapter 1040 of the Public Laws of 1941 created the Board of Elections as a partisan board, replacing the State Returning Board. Chapter 312 of the Public Laws of 1979 amended the law to establish the Board of Elections as a nonpartisan board. R.I. General Laws § 17-7 sets forth its duties and powers, § 17-25 sets out the mandates of the Rhode Island Campaign Contributions and Expenditure Reporting Act (public financing of campaigns) and § 17-27 provides for reporting requirements and monitoring of political contributions by state vendors.

Budget

Board of Elections

	2023 Actuals	2024 Actuals	2025 Enacted Budget	2025 Revised Budget	2026 Recommended
Expenditures by Program					
Central Management	5,855,517	4,694,417	5,682,615	5,726,638	4,474,931
Total Expenditures	5,855,517	4,694,417	5,682,615	5,726,638	4,474,931
Expenditures by Object					
Salary and Benefits	1,966,297	1,733,211	2,194,009	2,164,413	1,929,510
Contract Professional Services	296,198	680,716	1,601,309	1,601,309	1,406,497
Operating Supplies and Expenses	1,261,745	1,547,398	1,885,297	1,958,916	1,136,924
Assistance and Grants	2,288,862	0	0	0	0
Subtotal: Operating	5,813,102	3,961,325	5,680,615	5,724,638	4,472,931
Capital Purchases and Equipment	42,415	153,953	2,000	2,000	2,000
Debt Service (Fixed Charges)	0	579,139	0	0	0
Subtotal: Other	42,415	733,092	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Expenditures	5,855,517	4,694,417	5,682,615	5,726,638	4,474,931
Expenditures by Source of Funds					
General Revenue	5,861,156	4,694,417	5,682,615	5,726,638	4,474,931
Federal Funds	(5,639)	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	5,855,517	4,694,417	5,682,615	5,726,638	4,474,931
FTE Authorization	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0

Personnel Agency Summary

Board of Elections

	FY 2025		FY 2026	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified	13.0	1,024,032	13.0	1,087,356
Subtotal	13.0	1,024,032	13.0	1,087,356
Overtime		8,868		9,223
Seasonal/Special Salaries/Wages		410,000		35,000
Turnover		(30,000)		0
Total Salaries		1,412,900		1,131,579
Benefits				
FICA		107,406		85,827
Health Benefits		254,284		291,483
Payroll Accrual		5,817		6,338
Retiree Health		39,165		35,339
Retirement		316,013		347,413
Subtotal		722,685		766,400
Total Salaries and Benefits	13.0	2,135,585	13.0	1,897,979
Cost Per FTE Position		164,276		145,998
Statewide Benefit Assessment		28,828		31,531
Payroll Costs	13.0	2,164,413	13.0	1,929,510
Purchased Services				
Legal Services		175,000		175,000
Other Contracts		1,426,309		1,231,497
Subtotal		1,601,309		1,406,497
Total Personnel	13.0	3,765,722	13.0	3,336,007
Distribution by Source of Funds				
General Revenue	13.0	3,765,722	13.0	3,336,007
Total All Funds	13.0	3,765,722	13.0	3,336,007

Personnel

Board of Elections

Central Management

		FY 2025		FY 2026	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified					
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	0823 A	1.0	68,709	1.0	71,457
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR/FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	0835 A	1.0	114,623	1.0	119,209
CLERK/MACHINE DEMONSTRATOR/ASSISTANT BALLOT COORDINATOR	0313 A	1.0	48,221	1.0	50,150
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	0838 A	1.0	114,480	1.0	124,600
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	0844 A	1.0	162,161	1.0	175,387
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	0823 A	1.0	65,481	1.0	68,100
PLANNING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	0320 A	1.0	61,245	1.0	63,695
PROJECT COORDINATOR	0826 A	2.0	140,806	2.0	151,683
SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE	0317 A	1.0	56,076	1.0	58,319
SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE/TRAINING SPECIALIST	0319 A	1.0	58,959	1.0	61,317
SENIOR PLANNING & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	0823 A	1.0	60,617	1.0	65,158
SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR	0827 A	1.0	72,654	1.0	78,281
Subtotal Unclassified		13.0	1,024,032	13.0	1,087,356
Subtotal		13.0	1,024,032	13.0	1,087,356
Overtime			8,868		9,223
Seasonal/Special Salaries/Wages			410,000		35,000
Turnover			(30,000)		0
Total Salaries			1,412,900		1,131,579
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Personnel

Board of Elections

Central Management

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Distribution by Source of Funds				
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Performance Measures

Board of Elections

Central Management

Poll Worker Trainings

The mission of the Board of Elections is to protect the integrity of the electoral process and to effectively administer the provisions of election laws. Pursuant to this goal, the Board prepares training materials and conducts trainings for poll workers and election officials. The number of trainings required depends on the number of local and state elections held. The figures below represent the number of in-person poll worker training classes conducted in the state in the given year.

	<i>Reporting Period: Calendar Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Target	--	--	--	--	34
Actual	--	--	34	--	--

Campaign Finance Reporting Timeliness

The Board of Elections oversees and monitors the campaign finance activities of candidates, political action committees, and state vendors. The figures below represent the percent of campaign finance reports completed and filed on time as required by state law.

	<i>Reporting Period: Calendar Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Target	--	--	--	100%	100%
Actual	--	--	92%	--	--

Postsecondary Outreach (Count)

The Board of Elections oversees voter registration and public education activities related to elections. This includes hosting voter registration drives and educational activities at each institution of higher education (junior college or above) in Rhode Island. The figures below represent the number of postsecondary institutions in Rhode Island visited in the given year.

	<i>Reporting Period: Calendar Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Target	--	--	--	12	12
Actual	--	--	1	--	--

Eligible Voters

The Board of Elections oversees voter registration and public education activities related to elections. This includes conducting registration drives and other education activities to encourage Rhode Islanders participate in elections. The figures below represent the number of eligible voters in the state.

	<i>Reporting Period: Calendar Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Target	--	--	--	789,059	790,559
Actual	--	--	787,559	--	--

Early Voting Turnout

The Board of Elections oversees the tabulation of state elections, including by votes casted by mail. Early voting, by mail or in-person, allows for shorter lines and a smoother process for in-person voting on election day. The figures below represent the percent of early-voting ballots cast, in-person or by mail, in statewide elections in the given year.

	<i>Reporting Period: Calendar Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Target	--	--	--	--	46%
Actual	--	--	44%	--	--