

**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

	2024 Actuals	2025 Actuals	2026 Enacted Budget	2026 Revised Budget	2027 Recommended
Expenditures by Program					
Central Management	4,694,417	5,260,825	4,474,931	4,981,278	9,147,157
Total Expenditures	4,694,417	5,260,825	4,474,931	4,981,278	9,147,157
Expenditures by Object					
Salary and Benefits	1,733,211	2,005,701	1,929,510	1,909,228	2,416,313
Contract Professional Services	680,716	896,142	1,406,497	1,406,497	1,623,433
Operating Supplies and Expenses	1,547,398	1,828,272	1,136,924	1,211,486	1,828,728
Assistance and Grants	0	0	0	0	3,000,000
Subtotal: Operating	3,961,325	4,730,115	4,472,931	4,527,211	8,868,474
Capital Purchases and Equipment	153,953	0	2,000	454,067	278,683
Debt Service (Fixed Charges)	579,139	530,710	0	0	0
Subtotal: Other	733,092	530,710	2,000	454,067	278,683
Total Expenditures	4,694,417	5,260,825	4,474,931	4,981,278	9,147,157
Expenditures by Source of Funds					
General Revenue	4,694,417	5,260,825	4,474,931	4,981,278	9,147,157
Total Expenditures	4,694,417	5,260,825	4,474,931	4,981,278	9,147,157
FTE Authorization	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0

Personnel Agency Summary

Board of Elections

	FY 2026		FY 2027	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified	13.0	1,093,976	13.0	1,159,420
Subtotal	13.0	1,093,976	13.0	1,159,420
Overtime		9,223		9,500
Seasonal/Special Salaries/Wages		75,000		435,000
Turnover		(34,141)		(34,148)
Total Salaries		1,144,058		1,569,772
Benefits				
FICA		86,812		119,358
Health Benefits		268,388		309,177
Payroll Accrual		6,177		6,490
Retiree Health		34,443		34,658
Retirement		338,615		343,099
Subtotal		734,435		812,782
Total Salaries and Benefits	13.0	1,878,493	13.0	2,382,554
Cost Per FTE Position		144,499		183,273
Statewide Benefit Assessment		30,735		33,759
Payroll Costs	13.0	1,909,228	13.0	2,416,313
Purchased Services				
Legal Services		175,000		175,000
Management & Consultant Services		1,226,497		1,443,433
Other Contracts		5,000		5,000
Subtotal		1,406,497		1,623,433
Total Personnel	13.0	3,315,725	13.0	4,039,746
Distribution by Source of Funds				
General Revenue	13.0	3,315,725	13.0	4,039,746
Total All Funds	13.0	3,315,725	13.0	4,039,746

Personnel

Board of Elections

Central Management

		FY 2026		FY 2027	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified					
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	0820 A	1.0	56,997	1.0	60,392
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY	0827 A	1.0	81,686	1.0	86,474
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR/FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	0835 A	1.0	119,209	1.0	122,785
CLERK/MACHINE DEMONSTRATOR/ASSISTANT BALLOT COORDINATOR	0313 A	1.0	51,514	1.0	53,059
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	0838 A	1.0	124,600	1.0	135,036
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	0844 A	1.0	168,596	1.0	180,617
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	0823 A	1.0	71,457	1.0	73,601
PRINCIPAL DEPUTY CLERK	0824 A	1.0	65,764	1.0	70,012
PROJECT COORDINATOR	0826 A	2.0	151,693	2.0	163,707
SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE	0317 A	1.0	60,445	1.0	62,259
SENIOR PLANNING & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	0823 A	1.0	64,790	1.0	68,878
SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR	0827 A	1.0	77,225	1.0	82,600
Subtotal Unclassified		13.0	1,093,976	13.0	1,159,420
Subtotal		13.0	1,093,976	13.0	1,159,420
Longevity Pay			29,640		31,487
Regular Wages			1,064,336		1,127,933
Seasonal/Special Salaries/Wages			75,000		435,000
Turnover			(34,141)		(34,148)
Total Salaries			1,144,058		1,569,772
Benefits					
FICA			86,812		119,358
Health Benefits			268,388		309,177
Payroll Accrual			6,177		6,490
Retiree Health			34,443		34,658
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Subtotal			734,435		812,782
Total Salaries and Benefits		13.0	1,878,493	13.0	2,382,554
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Payroll Costs		13.0	1,909,228	13.0	2,416,313
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Legal Services			175,000		175,000
Management & Consultant Services			1,226,497		1,443,433

Personnel

Board of Elections

Central Management

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Other Contracts		5,000		5,000
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Distribution by Source of Funds				
General Revenue	13.0	3,315,725	13.0	4,039,746
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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. [Note: This performance measure was established in FY 2025, and therefore some historical targets and actuals are not available. No targets available in years when statewide elections are not held.]

	<i>Reporting Period: Calendar Year</i>				
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Target	--	--	--	34	3
Actual	--	34	1	--	--

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. [Note: This performance measure was established in FY 2025, and therefore some historical targets and actuals are not available.]

	<i>Reporting Period: Calendar Year</i>				
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Target	--	--	100%	100%	100%
Actual	--	92%	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. [Note: This performance measure was established in FY 2025, and therefore some historical targets and actuals are not available.]

	<i>Reporting Period: Calendar Year</i>				
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Target	--	--	12	12	14
Actual	--	1	13	--	--

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. [Note: This performance measure was established in FY 2025, and therefore some historical targets and actuals are not available.]

	<i>Reporting Period: Calendar Year</i>				
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Target	--	--	789,059	790,559	791,059
Actual	--	787,559	784,207	--	--