

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 pollworker 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, conducting recounts, certifying results to the Secretary of State, issuing certificates of election to candidates and providing 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 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	1,261,544	1,307,116	\$1,527,372	\$1,387,760
Operating Supplies and Expenses	1,293,408	1,077,303	\$733,343	\$636,348
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	\$2,015,171	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$2,554,952	\$2,384,419	\$4,275,886	\$2,024,108
Capital Purchases and Equipment	14,116	8,516	26,680	-
Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$2,569,068	\$2,392,935	\$4,302,566	\$2,024,108
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	1,502,197	1,439,759	3,684,992	1,437,214
Federal Funds	1,066,871	953,176	617,574	586,894
Total Expenditures	\$2,569,068	\$2,392,935	\$4,302,566	\$2,024,108
FTE Authorization	15.0	15.0	14.0	14.0
Agency Measures				
Minorities as Percentage of the Workforce	14.0%	14.0%	14.0%	14.0%
Females as Percentage of the Workforce	50.0%	35.7%	42.9%	42.9%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	-	-
Program Measures	NS	NS	NS	NS