

Department: Community Services

Program Contact: Tim Scott

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Adopted

Related Programs: 90010B

Program Characteristics:
Program Description

Multnomah County Elections provides voter registration and education, conducts Federal, State and local elections, and manages County campaign finance regulations for all residents of the county.

Elections is dedicated to upholding a reputation for transparent, accurate, accessible and accountable elections in Multnomah County. The Elections Division provides excellent customer service that puts voters first and provides equity-focused resources for communities of color, people with disabilities and people who speak English as a second language.

This program supports the entire elections process, funding salaries for 15 full-time and up to 200 on-call election workers. It also covers materials and supplies for up to four elections annually, vendor contracts for ballot production, mailing, and technology, and all necessary County facilities and support services. Election administration includes a range of activities: daily voter registration and record updates; maintaining accurate address and district data for proper ballot delivery; verifying signatures on city and local candidate and initiative petitions; processing candidate and measure filings; issuing and mailing ballots; managing 30 ballot drop sites; receiving and processing returned ballots; conducting the ballot count; and releasing and certifying election results.

The Elections Division is committed to ensuring that all voters have the resources they need in order to be successful by providing a variety of voter education tools, including: voter registration and elections information translated into the top six languages spoken in the county; a voter assistance program helping voters with disabilities and voters in their native language; a second customer service location in Gresham open during elections; a countywide voters' pamphlet mailed to every household; a ballot tracking and messaging system so voters can follow the path of their ballot; and regular press releases that provide information about upcoming deadlines.

Elections will build on the successful implementation of ranked choice voting (RCV) for City of Portland candidate contests and further optimize elections processes and voter outreach for countywide RCV contests. In fiscal year 2026 Elections will:

- Optimize RCV ballot design, voter instructions, and results reporting formats based on the successes and feedback from November 2024.

- Update educational materials – including videos, website content, mock elections, and printed materials – to be county-focused.

- Manage the continuation and expansion of the intergovernmental voter education coordination with the City of Portland.

The Elections Division is also responsible for the County campaign finance contribution limits and disclosure program that became fully operational in September 2021. The Division is responsible for educating candidates, enforcing program requirements and investigating complaints.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY24 Actual	FY25 Budgeted	FY25 Estimate	FY26 Target
Output	Number of voter registration transactions	152,264	NEW	185,000	160,000
Output	Number of ballots issued to voters	584,126	NEW	1,160,575	1,145,000
Output	Number of voters reached about RCV through collaborative outreach between Portland and County		NEW	NEW	200,000

Performance Measures Descriptions

- Number of voter registration transactions processed by the Elections office between July 1 and June 30 .
- Number of ballots that were issued to voters for elections conducted within the fiscal year, which includes original, reissued, replacement and provisional ballots.
- Number of voters who will be reached about RCV by expanded collaboration with the City of Portland's voter education team.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5, addresses initiative/referendum petition process and filling county office vacancies. County Administrative Rules, Language, Communication and Cultural Access Policy, Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 165, addresses uniformity in conduct of elections. Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapters 246 to 260, provide authority for conducting elections. Federal Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, National Voter Registration Act, Help America Vote Act, and Military and Overseas Empowerment Act establish election administration standards.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2025	2025	2026	2026
Personnel	\$3,072,123	\$0	\$3,362,686	\$0
Contractual Services	\$1,564,558	\$0	\$1,693,456	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$627,986	\$0	\$732,125	\$0
Internal Services	\$1,508,169	\$0	\$1,433,425	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$6,772,836	\$0	\$7,221,692	\$0
Program Total:	\$6,772,836		\$7,221,692	
Program FTE	15.00	0.00	15.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Service Charges	\$1,192,317	\$0	\$1,431,466	\$0
Total Revenue	\$1,192,317	\$0	\$1,431,466	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

The Service Charges revenue includes the November 2025 special election at \$1,350,491, May 2026 primary election at \$70,275, Petition processing at \$10,700. The source of these revenues is reimbursement from the districts using the election. Special elections are fully reimbursable. For general and primary elections, cities and the State are exempt, but Special Districts are never exempt. Special elections are budgeted at 100% cost recovery; primary and general elections are budgeted at 5% recovery based on historical data.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2025: 90010A Elections

Funding for ranked choice voting was in program offer 90009 in FY 2025. In FY 2026, funding for ranked choice voting is included in program offer 90010 due to its ongoing nature.