

Program #90010C - Elections Restoration**FY 2025 Proposed****Department:** Community Services**Program Contact:** Tim Scott**Program Offer Type:** Restoration Request**Program Offer Stage:** Proposed**Related Programs:** 90010**Program Characteristics:****Executive Summary**

This program offer provides additional ongoing funds to restore ballot tracking, automatic signature verification for ballot sorter 2 and professional services, which were proposed to be cut to help the department cover its share of the FY 2025 general fund constraint.

Program Description

The Elections Division has focused its constrained program offer 90010A on statutorily mandated functions like voter registration, printing, mailing, and processing ballots and is unable to fund the ballot tracking for the November 2024 and May 2025 elections, automatic signature verification for ballot sorter 2 and professional services. None of these items are mandated by State law or County code but are key components to voter engagement and education, risk reduction and ballot processing efficiency. Program offer 90010C is an offer to restore Elections' portion of the FY 2024 general fund budget constraint and thereby restoring these best practices.

Ballot tracking is considered a best practice in vote-by-mail elections by national advocacy organizations. In Multnomah County 30% of voters are currently signed up to receive ballot status messages through ballot tracking. Prioritizing this service both empowers voters and builds confidence and trust in the voting process. Furthermore, it reduces the number of calls from voters about whether or not their ballot has been received and counted.

Elections added automatic signature verification to one of two high speed ballot sorters in 2020 using grant funding and was planning to add this tool to the second sorter prior to the presidential election to increase efficiency and reduce risk of failure to Sorter 1.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budgeted	FY24 Estimate	FY25 Target
Output	Number of voters using ballot tracking in languages other than English	26	NEW	39	80
Outcome	Percentage of signatures verified with automatic signature verification	NEW	60%	60%	60%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Output measure is the number of voters using BallotTrax to track and receive messages about their ballot status in languages other than English. The outcome measure refers to the percentage of ballots that will be signature verified using automatic signature verification.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

While the use of ballot tracking is not mandated by state statute or county code, many of the components of the Multnomah County ballot tracking program meet requirements of the Multnomah County Language, Communication and Cultural Access Policy and best practices for language access in elections.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2024	2024	2025	2025
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$14,485	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$57,232	\$0	\$60,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$57,232	\$0	\$74,485	\$0
Program Total:	\$57,232		\$74,485	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

This program is supported by County General Funds.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: