

Department: Community Services

Program Contact: Tim Scott

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program

Program Offer Stage: As Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Executive Summary

The Elections Division conducts all local, city, county, state and federal elections for the citizens of and all political districts within Multnomah County. Under Oregon law, regular election dates are in March, May, September and November. Under state and local law, special elections and recall elections can also be called at any time of the year.

Program Summary

The Elections Division conducts many types of elections in Multnomah County, from Water District Commissioner to President of the United States. Local elections include elected boards of directors for schools and special districts as well as local measures. City elections include elected city offices and city measures. County elections are for elected county offices and county measures. State elections include Governor, all statewide offices and state senate and house seats in Multnomah County. Federal elections include Presidential, US Senate and Congressional races.

Conducting elections involves: registering voters; maintaining the statewide voter registration and election management database (Oregon Central Voter Registration database); maintaining address and district data; checking signatures on city and local candidate/initiative/referendum petitions; accepting candidate/measure filings; producing voters' pamphlets; issuing and mailing ballots; managing drop site locations; accepting and processing returned ballots; providing assistance to voters with disabilities; counting ballots; and releasing results. Elections employs as many as 260 temporary election workers for major elections.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY15 Actual	FY16 Purchased	FY16 Estimate	FY17 Offer
Output	Number of votes counted	379,000	265,324	203,240	550,000
Outcome	Percent of customers who are satisfied with counter service	98%	97%	98%	97%
Efficiency	Personnel cost per 1,000 ballots cast	\$1,004	\$950	\$850	\$900

Performance Measures Descriptions

Customer satisfaction was measured through a survey completed by Elections in-person customers and reflects the percentage of customers who indicated that customer service either met or exceed their expectations.

Personnel Cost per 1,000 ballots cast for FY15 Actual is for the Gubernatorial General Election; FY16 Purchased and Estimate is for the Presidential Primary Election; and the FY17 Offer is for the Presidential General Election.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Multnomah County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5, Elections, describes the process for county initiative/referendum petitions in Multnomah County as well as how to fill vacancies in county elective offices. Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 165, addresses state-wide uniformity in the conduct of elections by each county. Rules deal with issues such as County Voters' Pamphlets and Voting by Mail. Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapters 246 through 260, provide the legal authority for all aspects of conducting elections in Oregon. There are also Federal mandates. The Voting Rights Act, The National Voter Registration Act, The Help America Vote Act and the Military and Overseas Empowerment Act establish election administration standards.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2016	2016	2017	2017
Personnel	\$1,478,246	\$0	\$1,401,938	\$0
Contractual Services	\$531,637	\$0	\$366,143	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$1,144,609	\$0	\$1,286,977	\$0
Internal Services	\$805,513	\$0	\$879,757	\$0
Capital Outlay	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$4,460,005	\$0	\$3,934,815	\$0
Program Total:	\$4,460,005		\$3,934,815	
Program FTE	11.00	0.00	10.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Service Charges	\$961,662	\$0	\$1,086,193	\$0
Total Revenue	\$961,662	\$0	\$1,086,193	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Most revenue is generated through reimbursements from districts for their apportioned share of the cost of an election. Election expenses are always reimbursed by special districts. Special elections called by the State or Cities are reimbursed by the State or the City calling the election. By state law, Cities and the State cannot be charged for the cost of the election in the Primary or General election. The County must pay for those district's apportioned cost in these elections.

During FY 17 two smaller special elections are included in the budget at \$260,447 each. Another special election in May 2017 is in the budget at \$526,799. Budget amounts for all these special elections are calculated at 100% reimbursement. Reimbursement for the General election in November 2016 is budgeted at 3%, or \$30,000.

In addition to election reimbursement, the budget has revenue of \$6,000 for boundary changes and \$2,500 for petitions.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2016: 91008A-16 Elections