

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 elections for citizens in Multnomah County. Increasingly, to provide adequate services it also includes the provision of equitable services & access for diverse populations. Program #91010B-19 ensures & increases access through ballot tracking & voter communication service, providing voter information & services in multiple languages, maintaining service to citizens in East County at the Voting Center Express and operational support for 24-hour ballot drop sites.

Program Summary

The ballot tracking and voter communication service notify voters as their ballot makes its way through the election process. A voter is notified when a ballot has been mailed out to them when the Elections Division then receives that voted ballot and lastly when the voter's signature has been verified and the ballot will be counted. This increased communication with voters increases voter engagement with the process, increases the accuracy of ballot delivery, return, and provides greater access to voting.

Language Access through voter information and services in languages other than English: In response to increased demand, identified need and the desire to meet the goals of Language and Cultural Access Policy, information about each election is provided in English plus 5 most common languages spoken in homes in the county. Information is translated for the elections website, the voters' pamphlet, in press releases and on social media. Basic information about voting and elections is provided in print and on the elections website in 10 languages. Assistance is provided to voters in person and over the phone via bilingual permanent or on-call elections staff & interpretation services.

Voting Center Express in Gresham: This additional service location provides a closer choice for voter services and assistance for more than 165,000 Multnomah County voters. At the voting center, citizens can replace a lost or damaged ballot, update their voter registration information, get assistance voting if they have a disability, or get assistance in a language other than English. In its pilot election (January 2018), 449 voters used the more convenient service center allowing them to become successful voters. The Voter Access Program offer supports staffing and materials to open the Voting Center Express for 15 days before each election day.

Operational support for official 24-hour ballot drop sites: There is also an ongoing need for funds to provide traffic control, security and variable message signs for the 8 official 24-hour ballot drop sites. Increasingly voters are returning their ballots later in the election period and via 24-hour and library location drop sites (54% in November 2016). Secure, well-maintained official ballot drop sites placed strategically throughout the county increase access & encourage voter participation.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY17 Actual	FY18 Purchased	FY18 Estimate	FY19 Offer
Output	Voters using Voting Center Express in Gresham	New	New	New	675
Outcome	Assistance to voters in languages other than English	New	New	New	75

Performance Measures Descriptions

The performance measures for FY19 reflect an estimate for the November 2018 Gubernatorial Election.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

There are currently no firm legal or contractual obligations to undertake ballot tracking or the Voting Center Express. There continues to be significant growth in language communities other than English that continues to be the topic of study and interest at the state and local level. The work of the Language Access program helps prepare Multnomah County to meet any possible future legal requirements should the mandatory thresholds change in Oregon and as language communities continue to increase in Multnomah County. Security and access to drop sites are required by the Oregon Vote by Mail Manual.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2018	2018	2019	2019
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$0
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$90,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$90,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

Explanation of Revenues

There are no revenues associated with this program offer.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: