



# State Election Board

**FY 2023 Budget Hearing Presentation**

Submitted by: Paul Ziriaux, Secretary

# Paul Ziriaux Secretary



The **State Election Board** serves as the **administrative agency** charged with the conduct of state and federal elections in the State of Oklahoma. The **Secretary of the State Election Board** has oversight of and general supervisory authority over the **77 County Election Boards** to ensure uniformity in the application of election and voter registration laws and rules.

Established under the Oklahoma Constitution in 1907, this agency now encompasses the following divisions:

- **Ballot Generation Services**
- **Election Services**
- **Support Services**
- **Administration**

# Agency Vision, Mission and Core Values

**Vision:** Our vision is to serve as the nation's model for election administration conduct.

**Mission:** The mission of the Oklahoma State Election Board is to achieve and maintain uniformity in the application, operation and interpretation of the state and federal election laws with a maximum degree of correctness, impartiality and efficiency.

**Core Values:** Our core values are customer service, integrity, security, quality and problem solving.



# Accomplishments & Challenges

## Top accomplishments for FY 2021

- 1) Conducted a successful Presidential General Election during a pandemic and days after a major ice storm, with the most votes ever cast in Oklahoma history, including a record number of absentee ballots. County election boards tabulated all legally cast ballots and reported 100% of Election Results on "Election Night" shortly after midnight.
- 2) With representation by the Office of the Attorney General, the state successfully defended against a federal lawsuit that sought to eliminate many of the protections the legislature has enacted to protect the integrity of Oklahoma elections.
- 3) Partnered with banks and credit unions to provide notary and ID copy services during the 2020 election cycle.
- 4) Implemented many enhanced security measures at both the State Election Board and County Election Boards.
- 5) Launched new Data Warehouse to share bulk data and help provide transparency.
- 6) Oversaw recounts – 1) State Senate runoff across 5 counties and 81 precincts, and 2) Edmond City Council Ward 3 race in Oklahoma County including 10 precincts. Both recounts confirming the results of the election – a testament to the accuracy of Oklahoma's voting system.

## Challenges (current & upcoming years)

- 1) Reprecincting following the implementation of new district lines.
- 2) Conducting the June 28 Primary Election, which will be the first statewide election with new precinct and district lines.
- 3) Defending against lawsuits that seek to change election laws enacted by the Legislature.
- 4) Recruitment of voters to work as election officials.
- 5) Implementation of Online Voter Registration and Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) in partnership with OMES and DPS.
- 6) Conducting statewide candidate filing in April 2022 and launching a new online candidate filing information portal to more efficiently share candidate filing data with voters, candidates and the media.
- 7) Possible Federal legislation that could negatively impact conduct of elections in Oklahoma.
- 8) Combating disinformation and misinformation.
- 9) Implementation of a new statewide voting system, as our current voting system installed in 2012 is approaching end of life cycle which will require an estimated \$25m - \$30m investment.



# Goals & Projects for FY 2023

## Goals

- 1) Develop and implement procedures for post-election tabulation audits as authorized by Oklahoma law.
- 2) Successfully conduct the August Runoff Primary and November General elections and certify all election results.
- 3) Conduct annual cyber and physical security training for State Election Board staff and County Election Board officials.
- 4) Continue working with Oklahoma Cyber Command and other state and federal partners to proactively protect and secure Oklahoma elections.
- 5) Conduct regular voter list maintenance (Spring 2023) as required by 26 O.S. § 4-120.2.

## Projects

- 1) Membership in ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center) that was authorized by SB 710 (2021).
- 2) Online Voter Registration in partnership with Department of Public Safety and Oklahoma Management and Enterprise Services (26 O.S. § 4-109.4).
- 3) Review feasibility of a pilot program for electronic Pollbooks, which were authorized by SB 712 (2021).
- 4) Explore options for new voting system to replace the current voting system, which was installed in 2012.
- 5) Explore the feasibility of including Intelligent Mail Barcodes for absentee ballot mailings to more efficiently track ballots while in transit through the USPS.

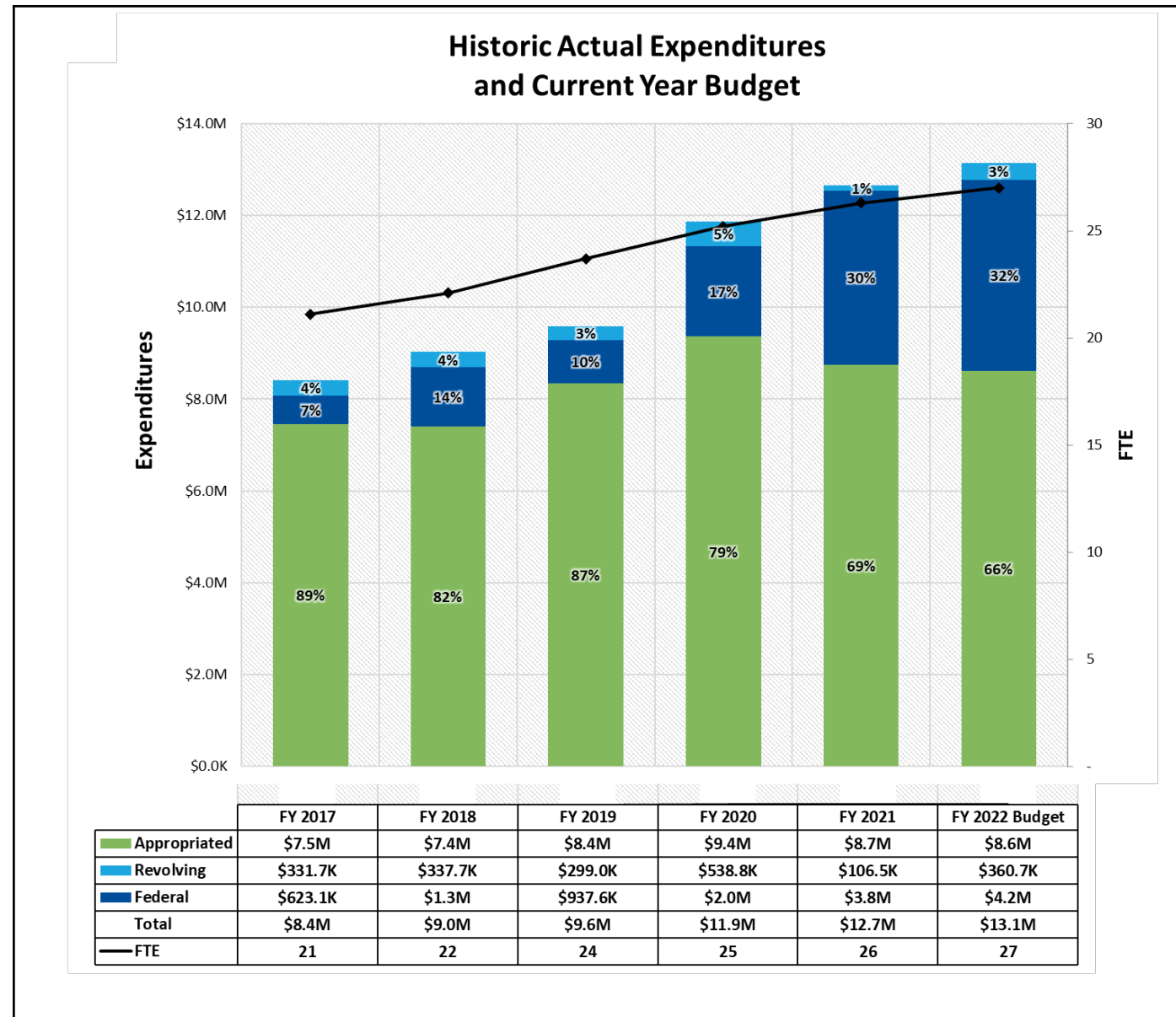


# Savings & Efficiencies

- Candidate Filing Information Portal will more quickly and efficiently share candidate filing information with voters, candidates, and media on the State Election Board website, providing an enhanced experience for all interested parties.
- Streamlined accounting procedures and consolidation of budget programs.
- Improved archiving and permanent records management to more efficiently comply with requests for information and records.
- The new State Election Board's OK Election Data Warehouse (EDW) has made publicly available data more easily accessible to subscribers, generating time savings for State Election Board Staff.
- Improved classification of communications to County Election Board offices will create efficiencies for both the State and County Election Board employees by assisting in time management and more timely sharing of information.
- When implemented, electronic pollbooks (ePollbooks) authorized by SB712, will reduce the risk of errors, increase speed of voter check-in, and will make the process of issuing voter history credit more efficient.



# Historic Actual Expenditures (FY 17-21) and Current Year Budget (FY 22)





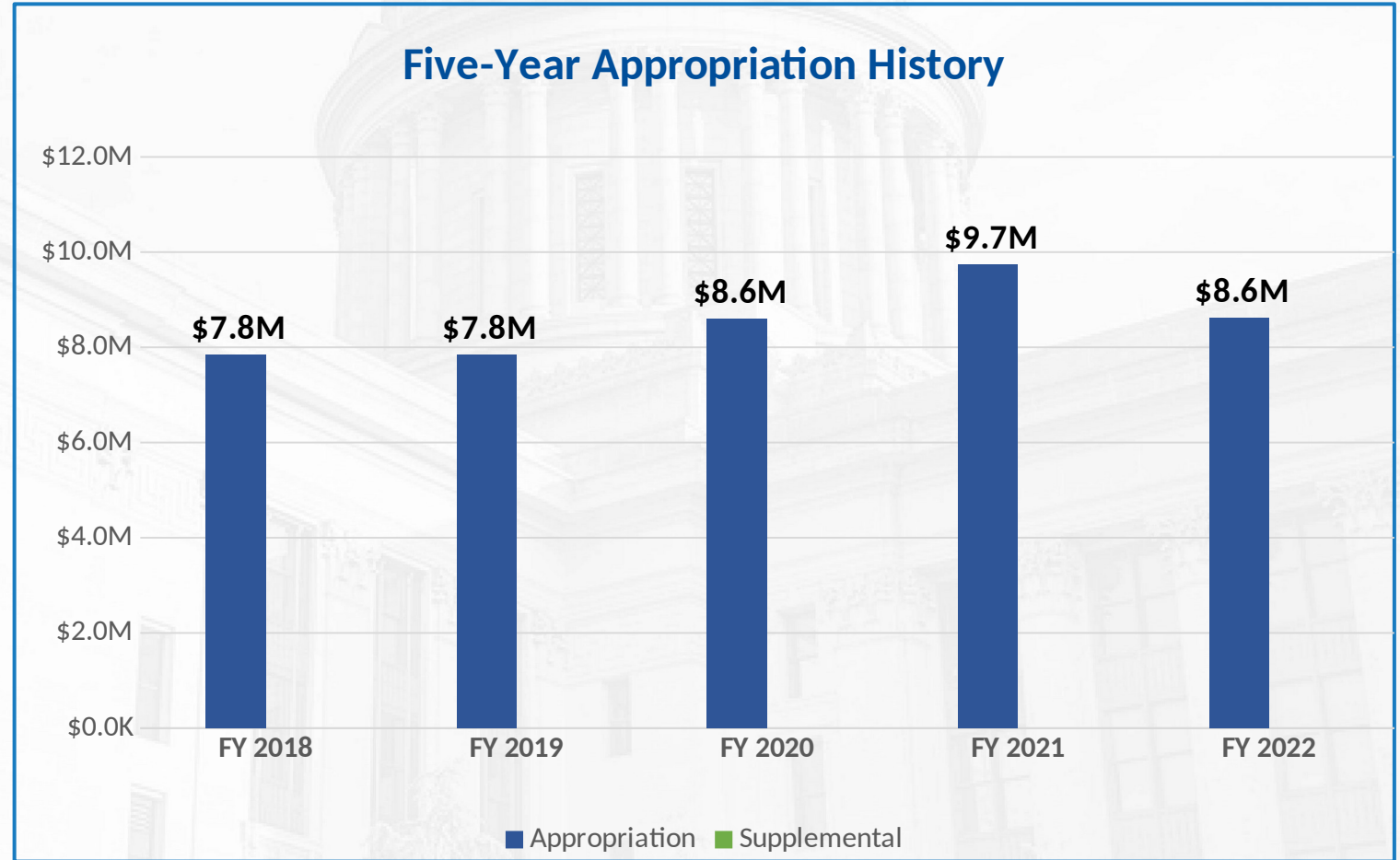
# FY 2022 Budgeted Full Time Equivalents (FTE)

	FY 2022 Budgeted FTE
<b>Total FTE</b>	27
<b>Supervisor FTE</b>	5
<b>Supervisors to Total FTE Ratio (%)</b>	5.4



# Appropriation History

Fiscal Year	Appropriation (\$) <i>(include supplemental if applicable)</i>
FY 2018	7,868,014
FY 2019	7,846,513
FY 2020	8,601,035
FY 2021	9,737,617
FY 2022	8,617,547



# Appropriated Carryover History and Justification

	FY 2017 (Actuals)	FY 2018 (Actuals)	FY 2019 (Actuals)	FY 2020 (Actuals)	FY 2021 (Actuals)	FY 2022 (Planned)
Total appropriated carryover amount expended (\$)	899,362	\$1,019,238	\$906,174	\$726,153	\$899,362	\$1,300,000

Fiscal Year of the original appropriation	Projected amount carried over to FY 2023 (\$)	Describe how projected carryover will be used in FY 2023
FY 2022	800,000	Additional carryover will be used to meet payroll obligations in order to free up current appropriated funds for Election Expenditures.
FY 2021	0	No funds are projected to be carried over from FY 2021 to FY 2023.
<b>Total projected FY 23 Carryover (\$)</b>	800,000	



# Available Cash Description and Justification

Class Fund #	Available Cash amount (\$)
20000	\$316,000
<b>Total Available Cash:</b>	

*Available cash is unbudgeted cash that is not restricted by federal partners, statute, or contractual obligations.*

Fiscal Year	Agency's plan to deploy available cash (include amounts):
<b>FY 2023</b>	We anticipate that the funds in the (20000) revolving fund will be kept in reserve to use to help cover expenses in the event a Special Election is required (amount varies based on type of election) and for voter outreach (\$150,000). For FY23 the agency will require \$1.5m - \$2m of our annual appropriation in cash to help fund the statewide elections in August and November 2022. If the special revolving fund for statewide recounts (TBD) is funded by appropriation in FY23, this money (\$250,000) would be used only if the need for a statewide recount of a State Question was triggered by the provisions in HB2564.
<b>FY 2024</b>	TBD
<b>FY 2025</b>	TBD



# Agency Key Performance Metrics

Metric		Goal	FY 20 Actuals	FY 21 Actuals	FY 22 Target	FY 23 Target
1	Election Accuracy - % of elections and state offices successfully certified.	≦ 2% elections overturned	0% overturned	0% overturned	0% overturned	0% overturned
2	Election Efficiency - Ballots for state and federal offices should be reprinted in no more than 4% of counties due to errors by the State Election Board staff.	< 4% counties reprinted	0% reprinted	0% reprinted	0% reprinted	0% reprinted
3	Election Security - Total number of State and County officials receiving annual election security training (i.e. cybersecurity, physical security, and disinformation efforts)	99% - 100% of election personnel trained annually	100%	100%	100%	100%
4	Election Management - Number of local election workers trained with accuracy and reliability (2 fiscal year cycle)	≥ 99% (~8,500 - 10,000 people)	100%	100%	100%	100%
5	Statewide Voting System - Conduct preventative maintenance (software and hardware) and inventory all voting equipment (2 fiscal year cycle)	≥50% (2,800 machines statewide)	52%	30% FY21 maintenance schedule disrupted by the pandemic	50% As of 11/01/21 The FY21 and FY22 schedules have been completed	50%



# Budget & Supplemental Request Summary

Request Name		FY 23 Appropriated Request Amount (\$)	Type of Request: Operating, One-time, or Supplemental
1	Additional funding needed for the additional day of Early Voting mandated by HB 2663.	\$40,000	Operating
2	Increase County Election Board Secretary salaries for May and June 2023 Mandated by SB 1130. Annualized, this increase will be approximately \$480,200 per year at current voter registration levels.	\$80,100	\$480,200 Operating beginning 2024.
3	Funding for new position - Cyber Navigator. This request would fund a new position, Cyber Navigator. This person will provide guidance for and assist in implementing policies and procedures at the State Election Board and the 77 County Election Boards to mitigate the risk of cyber threats.	\$102,000	Operating
4	Funding needed to establish a State Question Recount Revolving Fund that was mandated by HB 2564. If a recount is needed in the future and the fund is depleted, then additional appropriation will be necessary to build the fund back to the \$250,000 level.	\$250,000	One-time
5	\$1.5m - \$2m cash as part of regular appropriation for FY2023. This is to help cover the front-loaded costs of conducting statewide elections for August and November 2022.	Cash	Operating



# (1) Budget Request

## Additional Day of Early Voting mandated by HB 2663

Type: Operating

\$ Amount Requested for FY 2023: \$40,000

HB 2663 mandates an additional day of In-person Absentee Voting (Early Voting) for the General Election. The estimated additional cost to the State Election Board to conduct an additional day of voting is \$40,000.



# (2) Budget Request

## County Election Board Secretary Salary Increase

Type: Operating

\$ Amount Requested for FY 2023: \$80,100

SB 1130 mandated County Election Board Secretary salary increases beginning May 2023. The estimated amount requested will cover the months of May and June for the 2023 fiscal year. This estimated amount annualized would total \$480,200 for FY 2024 forward.



# (3) Budget Request

## Cyber Navigator

Type: Operating

\$ Amount Requested for FY 2023: \$102,000

This request would fund a new position, Cyber Navigator. This person will provide guidance for and assist in implementing policies and procedures at the State Election Board and the 77 County Election Boards to mitigate the risk of cyber threats.





# (4) Budget Request

## Fund State Question Recount Revolving Fund

Type: One-time

\$ Amount Requested for FY 2023: \$250,000

This funding is requested to establish a State Question Recount Revolving Fund that was mandated by HB 2564. If a recount is needed in the future and the revolving fund is depleted, then additional appropriation will be necessary to build the fund back to the \$250,000 level.



# Additional FY23 Budget Requests

- **Additional Precincts following redistricting**
- **Possible expenses related to Voting Rights Act Section 203 minority language requirements**
- **Additional Funds for 2022 Runoff Election**



# Additional Considerations

- **Inflation, rising costs, supply chain issues causing:**
  - Paper Cost increases
  - Upward pressure on wages demand for COLAs
- **Possible expenses related to reemergence of Covid-19 Pandemic**
- **New Statewide Voting System**

