

# State Election Board

**FY 2025 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

## Top accomplishments for FY 2023 – FY 2024

- 1) Post-Election Audits – implemented in 2022 (pursuant to 26 O.S. § 3-130) as a way to increase proven accuracy, security and transparency in Oklahoma Elections. This service was provided within the existing budget.
- 2) Online Voter Registration – Worked with OMES and DPS/Service Oklahoma to implement Online Voter Registration in 2023 (pursuant to 26 O.S. § 4-109.4). No additional appropriations were requested for this project. This project was funded with Federal HAVA grants and existing appropriations.
- 3) Implemented electronic delivery of accessible balloting materials in 2023 for Oklahomans who are legally blind (pursuant to 26 O.S. § 14-115.12). This service was provided within the existing budget.
- 4) Successfully conducted 2022 Runoff Primary, General Election, and 2023 Special State Question Elections.
- 5) Currently conducting special elections for State Senate District 32 and State House of Representatives District 39.
- 6) Successfully conducted biennial training for County Election Board secretaries, assistant secretaries, board members and alternate board members in all 77 counties (pursuant to 26 O.S. § 3-109).
- 7) Successfully completed temporary relocation of Election Services Division and supplies department due to OMES restoration project at prior location.





# Challenges

## Top Challenges (current & upcoming years)

- 1) Proactively securing Oklahoma's Elections.
- 2) Conducting four statewide elections during calendar year 2024 (Presidential Preferential Primary, Primary, Runoff Primary, and General Election.)
- 3) 2024 Presidential Preferential Primary Candidate Filing in December 2023 and 2024 State and Federal Candidate Filing in April 2024.
- 4) Recruitment and retention of poll workers. (Pay increase provided by passage of SB 290 (2023) should help.)
- 5) Pay and retention of State Election Board employees and County Election Board secretaries.
- 6) Defending against lawsuits that seek to change election laws enacted by the Legislature.
- 7) MDM (misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation) about election processes and procedures, including nefarious use of AI and Gen AI by bad actors .
- 8) Possible Federal legislation that could negatively impact conduct of elections in Oklahoma.
- 9) Updating the statewide election management system to improve security and functionality.
- 10) Possible implementation of new technologies, such as implementing USPS Intelligent Mail Barcoding to track absentee mail.
- 11) Within approximately 5 years, implementation of a new statewide voting system (26 O.S. § 21-101) and electronic precinct registries (26 O.S. § 7-102.1).



# Savings & Efficiencies (Current or Planned)

Savings or Efficiency Name	Brief description of how savings were achieved	Savings in Unit of Measurement*	FY 2023 (Actual \$ Savings)	FY 2024 (Projected \$ Savings)	FY 2025 (Projected \$ Savings)
<b>Post-election Audits</b>	Post-election Tabulation Audits were implemented as a way to increase proven accuracy, security, and transparency.				
<b>Online Voter Registration</b>	Worked with OMES and DPS to facilitate Online Voter Registration.				
<b>Blind Voters</b>	Implemented electronic delivery of accessible balloting materials in 2023 for Oklahomans who are legally blind (pursuant to 26 O.S. § 14-115.12).				

\* Hours, FTE, square feet, etc.



# Agency Goals and Key Performance Metrics

Goal		Metric	FY 22 Actuals	FY 23 Actuals	FY 24 Target	FY 29 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)	70%	52%	50%	50%



# Projects for FY 2024 - 2025

## Projects

- 1) Explore implementation of USPS Intelligent Mail Barcoding to track absentee mail.
- 2) Upgrading the existing statewide election management system to improve security and functionality.
- 3) Explore implementation of USPS National Change of Address (NCOA) for voter list maintenance mailings (26 O.S. § 4-118.1).
- 4) Utilization of Social Security Administration Death Index for voter list maintenance (26 O.S. § 4-120.3).



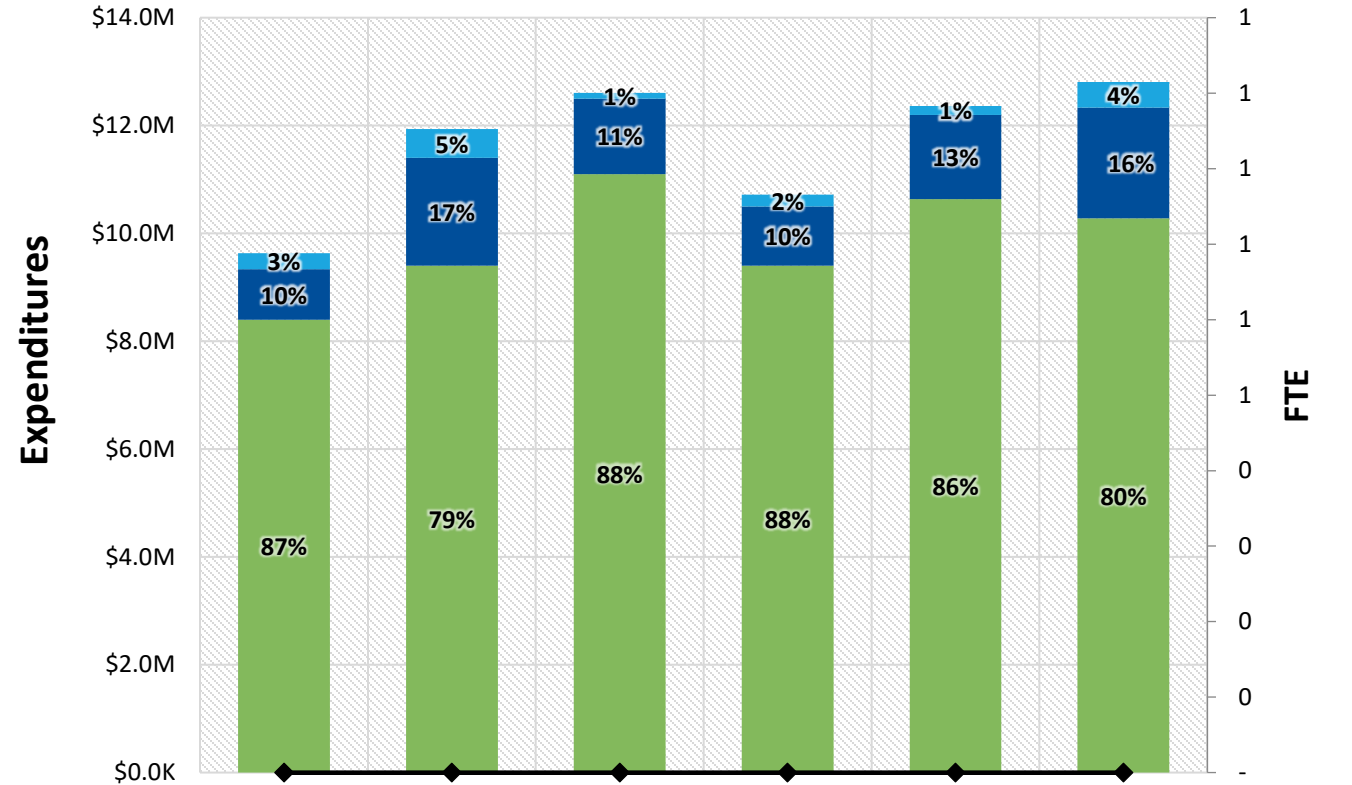


# Historic Actual Expenditures (FY 2019-23) and Current Year Budget (FY 2024)

Elections are cyclical, requiring additional funding for fiscal years when there are multiple statewide elections. Increases in Precinct Official and County Election Board Secretary pay have also increased our budgetary needs since the Legislature authorized the increases.

The State Election Board has a history of asking for only what is needed to effectively conduct secure and safe elections for the citizens of the State.

## Historic Actual Expenditures and Current Year Budget



	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024 Budget
Appropriated	\$8.4M	\$9.4M	\$11.1M	\$9.4M	\$10.6M	\$10.3M
Revolving	\$299.0K	\$538.8K	\$107.0K	\$221.9K	\$161.6K	\$473.1K
Federal	\$937.6K	\$2.0M	\$1.4M	\$1.1M	\$1.6M	\$2.1M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9.6M</b>	<b>\$11.9M</b>	<b>\$12.6M</b>	<b>\$10.7M</b>	<b>\$12.4M</b>	<b>\$12.8M</b>
FTE	23.7	25.2	26.3	28.4	25.7	29



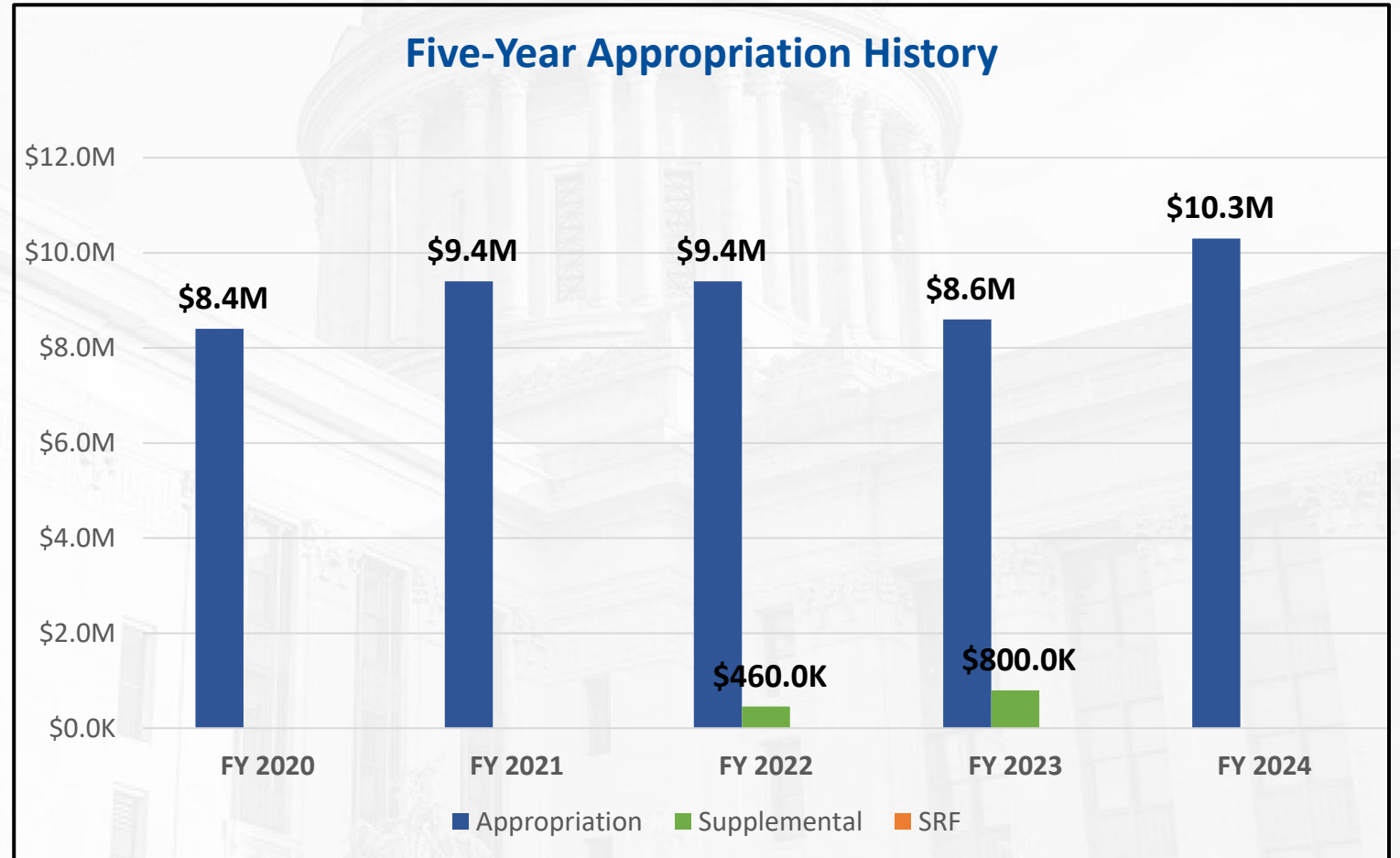


# FY 2024 Budgeted Full Time Equivalents (FTE)

	FY 2024 Budgeted FTE
Total FTE	29
Supervisor FTE	5
Supervisors to Total FTE Ratio	5.8

# Appropriation History

Fiscal Year	Legislated Appropriation (\$) (Includes supplementals and SRF/ARPA.)
FY 2020	9,400,000
FY 2021	11,100,000
FY 2022	9,900,000
FY 2023	9,400,000
FY 2024	10,300,000



\*Includes Supplemental and Statewide Recovery Fund (ARPA) appropriations.



# Financial Resource Analysis

Carryover	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Total appropriated carryover amount expended (\$)	\$726,153	\$899,362	\$1,670,441	\$825,035

Historical Cash Balances	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Year End Revolving Fund Cash Balances (21000 Revolving Fund)	\$313,164	\$386,220	\$680,499	\$588,863

Class Fund # (Unrestricted only)	Class Fund Name (Unrestricted only)	Current cash balance (\$)
#200	21000 Revolving Fund	\$573,718
#200	22500 State Question Recount Rev. Fund	\$250,000
#210	<b>Federal</b> Help America Vote Act Grant	\$2,026,430
#215	<b>Federal</b> HAVA Security Grant	\$8,852,923
#		\$
#		\$
	<b>Total Current Unrestricted Fund Cash balance:</b>	\$

Fiscal Year	Agency's plan to deploy unrestricted cash (including amounts):
<b>FY 2024</b>	2100 money is planned for voter outreach, Senate share of secretary salary, and possible special election expense. All federal funds will be used in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Federal Grant.
<b>FY 2025</b>	2100 money is planned for voter outreach, Senate share of secretary salary, and possible special election expense. All federal funds will be used in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Federal Grant.
<b>FY 2026</b>	2100 money is planned for voter outreach, Senate share of secretary salary, and possible special election expense. All federal funds will be used in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Federal Grant.



Unrestricted funds are those that are not limited by state or federal law, rule, regulation, other legally binding method, or donor restriction.

# FY 2022 Incremental Appropriation Review

<i>Purpose of appropriation increase / decrease</i>	<i>Amount of increase or decrease (\$)</i>	<i>Included in FY24 appropriation? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If yes, included in appropriation for same purpose? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If not included for same purpose, please explain.</i>
<b>FY 2022</b>				
Increase to mapping contract for reprecincting following census	\$250,000	NO		
Fund new position (salary & benefits)	\$131,000	YES	YES	
Supplemental Request – Funds for additional paper for additional General Election ballot	\$460,000	NO		
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
<b>Total adjustment</b>	\$841,000			



*\*Do not include SRF / ARPA appropriation increases.*



# FY 2023 Incremental Appropriation Review

<i>Purpose of appropriation increase / decrease</i>	<i>Amount of increase or decrease (\$)</i>	<i>Included in FY24 appropriation? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If yes, included in appropriation for same purpose? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If not included for same purpose, please explain.</i>
<b>FY 2023</b>				
HB 2663 (2021) Additional Day of Early Voting	\$40,000	NO		
SB 1130 (2018) Increase to County Election Board Secretary Salaries	\$82,000	YES	YES	
Adequate funding for Primary Runoff and General Election Expense	\$900,000	NO		
Ballot Printing Expense	\$125,000	YES	YES	
Fund new position (salary & benefits) – Cyber Navigator	\$102,000	YES	YES	
HB 2564 (2022) Funding for State Question Recount Revolving Fund	\$250,000	NO		
Supplemental for March 2023 Special State Question Election	\$850,000	NO		
<b>Total adjustment</b>	<b>\$2,349,000</b>			



*\*Do not include SRF / ARPA appropriation increases.*

# FY 2024 Incremental Appropriation Review

<i>Purpose of appropriation increase / decrease</i>	<i>Amount of increase or decrease (\$)</i>	<i>Does this need to be included in your FY 2025 appropriation? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If yes, included in appropriation for same purpose? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If not included for same purpose, please explain.</i>
<b>FY 2024</b>				
Funding for the Presidential Preferential Primary	\$1,100,000	YES	NO	Base funding for 2024 Runoff Primary
SB 1130 (2018) Salary increase for County Election Board Secretaries	\$485,509	YES	YES	
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
	\$			
<b>Total adjustment</b>	\$1,585,509			



*\*Do not include SRF / ARPA appropriation increases.*

# Budget & Supplemental Request Summary

	Request Name	FY 2025 Appropriated Request Amount (\$) {or FY 2024 for Supplementals}	Type of Request: Operating, One-time, or Supplemental
1	<p><b>Rent Increase –</b> The State Election Board was required to move the Election Services Division and Shipping and Receiving department from the Jim Thorpe Building (due to OMES restoration project) to a temporary location, with annualized rent increasing from \$51K to \$93K. This is an annualized difference of \$42,000, the amount of the request.</p>	\$42,000	Operating
2	<p><b>Funds to conduct the 2024 Runoff Primary Election -</b> This funding request will ensure the State Election Board has sufficient funds to conduct the 2024 Runoff Primary Election by 1] retaining \$1.1m in the agency's base that was appropriated for a second statewide election in FY24 (Presidential Preferential Primary), 2] adding \$725,000 to implement additional pay for precinct officials (required by SB 290(2023)), and 3] adding \$70,000 to cover increased costs due to new ballot printing contract.</p>	\$1,895,000	One-Time
3	<p><b>Additional funds for 2024 General Election -</b> This funding request will ensure the State Election Board has sufficient funds to conduct the 2024 General election by 1] Adding \$849,000 to implement additional pay for precinct officials required by SB 290 (2023), 2] adding \$80,000 to cover the cost of the additional day in-person absentee voting "early voting" required by 26 O.S. § 14-115.4, and 3] adding \$87,000 to cover increased costs due to new ballot printing contract.</p>	\$1,016,000	One-Time
4	<p><b>Matching Funds -</b> This one-time appropriation will be used as a state match for a total of \$2,000,000 in federal Help America Vote Act Election Security Grants. The \$2m is Oklahoma's share of grant funding that was appropriated by the U.S. Congress.</p>	\$400,000	One-Time
5			



# (1) Budget Request

<b>Rent Increase</b>	
Operating	\$ 42,000
<p>The State Election Board was required to move the Election Services Division and Shipping and Receiving department from the Jim Thorpe Building (due to OMES restoration project) to a temporary location, with annualized rent increasing from \$51K to \$93K. This is an annualized difference of \$42,000, the amount of the request.</p>	



# (2) Budget Request

## Funds to conduct the 2024 Runoff Primary Election

One-Time

\$ 1,895,000

This funding request will ensure the State Election Board has sufficient funds to conduct the 2024 Runoff Primary Election by 1] retaining \$1.1m in the agency's base that was appropriated for a second statewide election in FY24 (Presidential Preferential Primary), 2] adding \$725,000 to implement additional pay for precinct officials (required by SB 290(2023)), and 3] adding \$70,000 to cover increased costs due to new ballot printing contract.





# (3) Budget Request

## Additional funds for 2024 General Election

Type: One-Time

\$ 1,016,000

This funding request will ensure the State Election Board has sufficient funds to conduct the 2024 General election by 1] Adding \$849,000 to implement additional pay for precinct officials required by SB 290 (2023), 2] adding \$80,000 to cover the cost of the additional day in-person absentee voting "early voting" required by 26 O.S. § 14-115.4, and 3] adding \$87,000 to cover increased costs due to new ballot printing contract.



# (4) Budget Request

<b>Matching Funds</b>	
Type: One-Time	\$ 400,000
<p>This one-time appropriation will be used as a state match for a total of \$2,000,000 in federal Help America Vote Act Election Security Grants. The \$2m is Oklahoma's share of grant funding that was appropriated by the U.S. Congress.</p>	





**OKLAHOMA**  
State Election Board

# Appendix