



# Oklahoma State Election Board

**FY 2026 Budget Hearing Presentation**

Submitted by: Paul Ziriaux, Secretary

# Paul Ziriaux

Secretary, Oklahoma  
State Election Board



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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 2024 – FY 2025

- 1) Successfully conducted the 2024 Presidential Preferential Primary, 2024 Primary, 2024 Runoff Primary, and 2024 General Elections.
- 2) Conducted statewide Candidate Filing in April 2024.
- 3) Successfully completed a pilot implementation of Intelligent Mail Barcoding for absentee ballots in Canadian County. This program is planned to be rolled out statewide in 2025.





# Analysis of Agency Challenges

	<b>Challenge</b>	<b>Current Actions</b> (Briefly describe how the agency is currently addressing the challenge.)	<b>Planned Actions</b> (Briefly describe how the agency plans to address the challenge going forward.)
<b>1</b>	<b>Election Security</b>	<b>We currently partner with Cyber Command and a host of other partners and vendors to provide the latest in threat mitigation software, procedures, and tactics to combat cyber threats and physical threats.</b>	<b>Continue to work with our partners and learn new strategies and approaches to prevent cyber attacks and physical threats.</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Implementing upgraded voting system</b>	<b>We are currently studying the VVSG 2.0 voting device guidelines set forth by the Election Assistance Commission to include features that offer robust security and adhere to Oklahoma’s statutory requirements.</b>	<b>Create an RFP pursuant to state purchasing procedures, implement the system including training for election officials.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Upgrading election management software</b>	<b>We are currently upgrading our election management software to a new version which will build upon our current, multi-factor authenticated, custom, secure system.</b>	<b>We plan to use HAVA Security funds over a five year period to complete the upgrade.</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Recruitment of precinct officials</b>	<b>Senate Bill 290 (2023) that increased pay for precinct officials, starting July 1, 2024, has been impactful in official recruitment. We have also purchased radio advertising to bolster recruitment for the Primary and General Elections.</b>	<b>We will evaluate the effectiveness of the pay increase and radio advertising to determine if more advertising would be effective or should we pursue another avenue to improve recruitment.</b>



# Savings & Efficiencies (Current or Planned)

Savings or Efficiency Name	Brief description of how savings were achieved	Savings in Unit of Measurement	FY 2024 (Actual \$ Savings)	FY 2025 (Projected \$ Savings)	FY 2026 (Projected \$ Savings)
<i>Post-election Audits</i>	Post-election Tabulation Audits were implemented as a way to increase proven accuracy, security, and transparency.	<i>Services provided within the existing budget.</i>			
<i>Online Voter Registration</i>	Worked with OMES and DPS to facilitate Online Voter Registration.	<i>Services implemented with Federal Funding and provided within the existing budget.</i>			
<i>Electronic Data Warehouse</i>	Increased transparency and more efficient way to provide more data and more options to receive data for the public.	<i>Services provided within the existing budget.</i>			



# Agency Goals and Key Performance Metrics

Goal		Metric	FY 24 Target*	FY 24 Actuals	FY 25 Target	FY 29 Target
1	Election Accuracy - % of elections for 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)	50%	50%	50%	50%



# Projects for FY 2025

- 1) Planned roll out of Intelligent Mail Barcoding for absentee ballots in all counties. We had a successful pilot of IMB in Canadian County during the General Election. We plan to implement IMB in all counties during 2025 to ensure usage in the 2026 election cycle.
- 2) Planned issuance of RFP for new voting device system.
- 3) Continue 3 year plan to upgrade our election conduct software to enhance security and features.
- 4) Prepare for and implement state and federal election legislation.





# Projects for FY 2026

- 1) Planned installation of new voting device system.
- 2) Continue 3 year plan to upgrade our election conduct software to enhance security and features.
- 3) Conduct Candidate Filing, Primary, Runoff Primary and General Elections.
- 4) Prepare for and implement state and federal election legislation.



# Total Historic Actual Expenditures (FY 2020-24) and Current Year Budget (FY 2025)

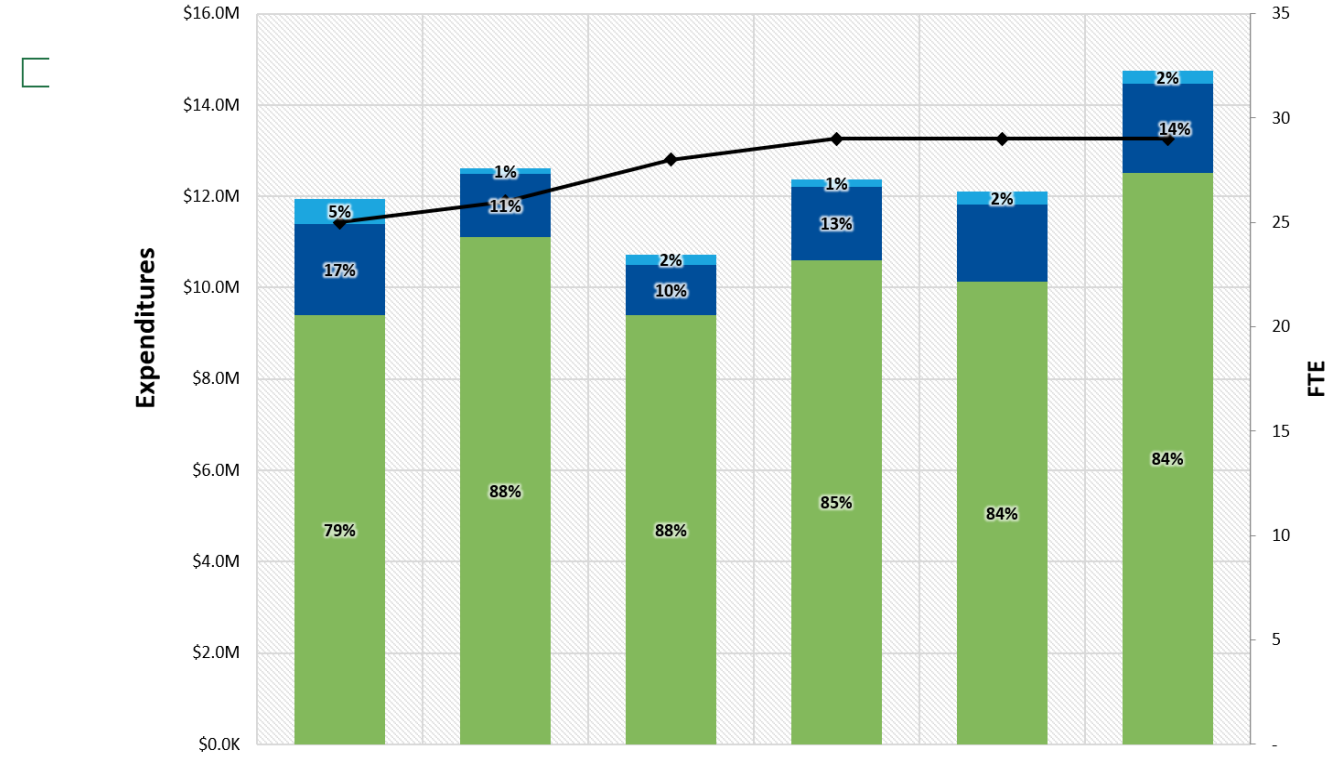
## Explanation of Changes and Trends

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

Additional expenses include budgeted cost for an additional ballot page (FY22), an additional Statewide Election in (FY23), the Presidential Preferential Primary (FY24) and the aforementioned double in Precinct Official pay (FY25).

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 Total Actual Expenditures and Current Year Budget



	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025 YTD Budget
Appropriated	\$9.4M	\$11.1M	\$9.4M	\$10.6M	\$10.1M	\$12.5M
Revolving	\$538.0K	\$107.0K	\$221.9K	\$161.6K	\$288.3K	\$281.6K
Federal	\$2.0M	\$1.4M	\$1.1M	\$1.6M	\$1.7M	\$2.0M
Total	\$11.9M	\$12.6M	\$10.7M	\$12.4M	\$12.1M	\$14.8M
FTE	25	26	28	29	29	29



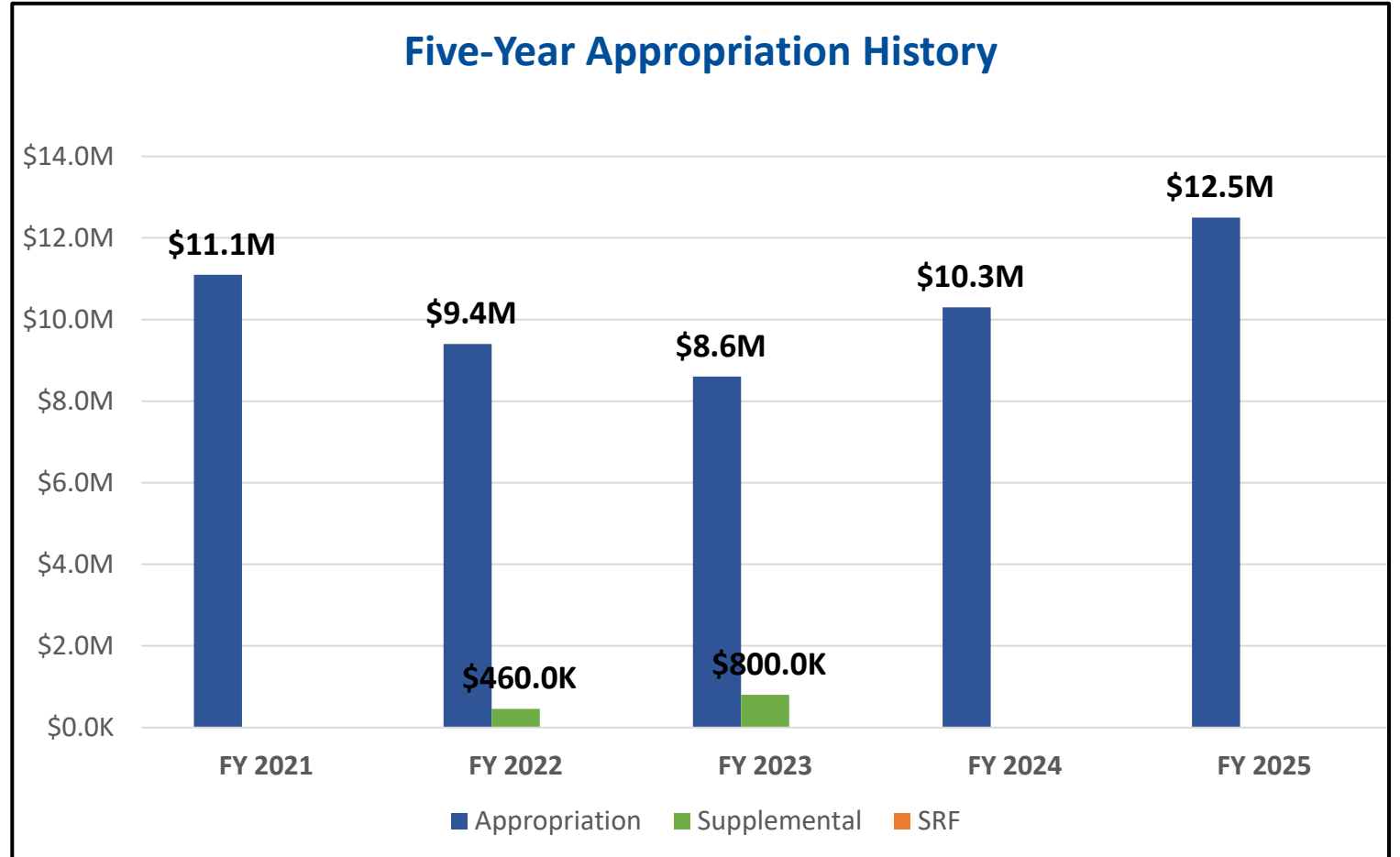


# FY 2025 Budgeted Full Time Equivalents (FTE)

	FY 2025 Budgeted FTE
<b>Total FTE</b>	28
<b>Supervisor FTE</b>	6
<b>Supervisors to Total FTE Ratio (%)</b>	4.66
<b>Current Budgeted but Unfilled FTE</b>	0

# Appropriation History

Fiscal Year	Legislated Appropriation (\$) <i>(Includes supplementals and SRF/ARPA if applicable.)</i>
FY 2021	\$ 11,100,000
FY 2022	\$9,900,000
FY 2023	\$ 9,400,000
FY 2024	\$ 10,300,000
FY 2025	\$ 12,500,000





# Financial Resource Analysis

Carryover	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total appropriated carryover amount expended (\$)	\$ 899,362	\$ 1,921,879	\$ 907,939	\$ 557,677

Historical Cash Balances	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Year End Revolving Fund Cash Balances <i>(All Revolving Funds)</i>	\$14,051,726	\$13,350,553	\$ 12,065,769	\$ 10,955,271

Revolving Class Fund # <i>(Unrestricted only)</i>	Revolving Class Fund Name <i>(Unrestricted only)</i>	Current cash balance (\$)	Projected FY 2025 year-end cash balance (\$)
#200	21000 Revolving Fund	\$ 819,840	\$ 680,000
#200	22500 State Question Recount Revolving Fund	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
#210	Federal Help America Vote Act Grant	\$ 1,361,621	\$ 600,000
#215	Federal HAVA Security Grant	\$ 8,276,591	\$7,190,000
#		\$	\$
#		\$	\$
	<b>Total Unrestricted Revolving Fund Cash balance:</b>	\$ 819,840	\$ 680,000



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

# FY 2023 - 2024 Appropriation Change Review

<i>Purpose of appropriation increase or decrease</i>	<i>Amount FY 2023</i>	<i>Amount FY 2024</i>	<i>Total amount received FY 2023 - 24</i>	<i>Total amount expended by 11/1/2024</i>	<i>Included in FY 2025 approp? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If not expended fully, please explain.</i>
Additional Day of Early Voting	\$40,000	<b>-\$40,000</b>	\$40,000	\$40,000	No	
Ballot Printing and Election Materials	\$125,000	\$0	\$125,000	\$125,000	No	
Cyber Navigator FTE	\$102,000	\$0	\$204,000	\$204,000	Yes	
Increase CEB Secretary Salaries SB 1130 (2018)	\$82,000	\$485,509	\$649,509	\$649,509	Yes	
Reprecincting for Census Redistricting	<b>-\$250,000</b>	\$0	<b>-\$250,000</b>	<b>-\$250,000</b>	No	
Runoff Primary Expense	\$900,000	<b>-\$900,000</b>	\$900,000	\$900,000	No	
SQ Revolving Fund Establishment	\$250,000	<b>-\$250,000</b>	\$250,000	\$0	No	Money is kept in a revolving fund for State Question Recount per HB2564 (2022)
SQ 820 Election Costs Supplemental	\$	\$850,000	\$850,000	\$850,000	No	
<b>Totals</b>	See next slide	See next slide	See next slide	See next slide		



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

# FY 2023 -2024 Appropriation Change Review cont.

<i>Purpose of appropriation increase or decrease</i>	<i>Amount FY 2023</i>	<i>Amount FY 2024</i>	<i>Total amount received FY 2023 - 24</i>	<i>Total amount expended by 11/1/2024</i>	<i>Included in FY 2025 approp? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If not expended fully, please explain.</i>
2024 Presidential Preferential Primary Election Expense	\$	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	No	
<b>Totals</b>	\$1,249,000	\$1,245,509	\$3,868,509	\$3,618,509		

**\*Please review guidance and instructions at the end of this slide deck, then delete this text box.**



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

# FY 2025 Appropriation Change Review

<i>Purpose of appropriation increase or decrease</i>	<i>Amount of increase or decrease (\$)</i>	<i>Does this need to be included in your FY 2026 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>
General Election Expense increase	\$1,016,000	Yes, partially	Yes	The SEB requested an additional \$1,016,000 in FY25 to ensure sufficient funds to conduct the 2024 General Election by implementing the mandatory additional pay for precinct officials required by SB 290 (2023), an additional day of in-person voting, and increased ballot printing costs. We are not asking to retain the \$80,000 in funds to cover the additional in-person voting day, since it only occurs for the General Election.
Primary Runoff Expense	\$1,895,000	No		
Removed PPP Funding from FY24	<b>-\$1,100,000</b>	No		
HAVA Security Grant – Matching Funds	\$400,000	No		
Rent Increase	\$42,000	Yes		
<b>Total adjustment</b>	<b>\$2,253,000</b>			



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



# Budget & Supplemental Incremental Request Summary

	Request Name	FY 2026 Incremental Appropriation Request Amount (\$) {or FY 2025 for Supplementals}	Type of Request: Recurring, One-time, or Supplemental
1	Upgrade and implement voting device system to replace the current eScan system.	\$35,000,000	One-time
2	Retain additional funds for statewide election	\$936,000	Recurring
3	Certified Oklahoma Election Official Training	\$100,000	One-time
4	National Change of Address Mailing	\$100,000	Recurring
5	Moving Expenses to return to Jim Thorpe Building	\$50,000	One-time



# (1) Incremental Budget Request

<b>Upgrade Voting Device System</b>	
One-Time	\$35,000,000
<p>The current voting system was first used in elections in 2012, more than 12 years ago. 26 O.S. § 21-101 gives the State Election Board Secretary the authorization to purchase and install electronic, optical scanning voting devices compatible with the same system in every precinct polling place. Since the upgrade is on or after January 1, 2023, the system is required to report the official election returns of each election by precinct, including, but not limited to, all votes cast in person and by absentee ballot.</p>	



# (2) Incremental Budget Request

<b>Retain additional funds for statewide election</b>	
Recurring	\$ 936,000
<p>The SEB requested an additional \$1,016,000 in FY25 to ensure sufficient funds to conduct the 2024 General Election by implementing the mandatory additional pay for precinct officials required by SB 290 (2023), an additional day of in-person voting, and increased ballot printing costs. We are not asking to retain the \$80,000 in funds to cover the additional in-person voting day, since it only occurs for the General Election.</p>	



# (3) Incremental Budget Request

<b>Certified Oklahoma Election Official</b>	
One-Time	\$ 100,000
<p>In addition to the current training regimen, the State Election Board will create an additional enhanced training curriculum for county election officials who choose to become a Certified Oklahoma Election Official. The curriculum will include online courses with testing. Subject to approval by the Legislature, program completion would increase pay for County Election Board Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries who become certified.</p>	





# (4) Incremental Budget Request

<b>National Change of Address Mailings</b>	
Recurring	\$ 100,000
<p>This funding will be used to send mailings to voters whose address was matched with the USPS National Change of Address list. The request will cover Central Printing matching our voter registration list to the NCOA list, printing, and mailing postcard mailings in accordance with 26 O.S. § 4-118.1. The mailings will remind voters to update their voter registration with their new address.</p>	



# (5) Incremental Budget Request

<b>Moving Expenses to return to Jim Thorpe Building</b>	
One-Time	\$ 50,000
<p>Moving expenses back to Jim Thorpe Building from the Stiles Building (temporary site) after the remodel of JTB. Expenses to include moving expenses moving and furniture expenses. The initial move was initiated by OMES remodeling of the Jim Thorpe Building.</p>	

