



Oklahoma State Election Board

FY 2027 Budget Hearing Presentation

Submitted by: Paul Ziriaux, Secretary



Paul Ziriaux

Secretary, Oklahoma
State Election Board

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 2025 – FY 2026

- 1) USPS Intelligent Mail Barcoding used for tracking absentee ballots was rolled out statewide in calendar year 2025 after a successful pilot program was completed in Canadian County. This not only helps ensure uniformity for all voters, but will improve efficiency in tracking absentee ballots.
- 2) Conducted four and currently conducting another (five total) Special Legislative Elections **without requesting additional funding**, for a total as of December 1, 2025 of \$292,869.
- 3) Conducted statutory training for all County Election Board Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, members and alternate members covering a number of subjects including election security and election laws, ensuring that County Election Board officials are properly trained is key to fulfilling our mission.
 - 1) Training for Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries was conducted at an in-person conference.
 - 2) For the first time ever, training for County Election Board members and alternate members was conducted fully online using OMES's Workday learning portal.
- 4) Began upgrade of the State Election Board election management software system using federal HAVA Security grant funds. This upgrade will build upon our custom, multi-factor authenticated, secure system. It will bolster efficiency for County and State Election Board officials and will meet our core values of customer service, integrity, security, quality.
- 5) Voter List Maintenance: Sent biennial address confirmation mailings between April and June of 2025 to 351,191 voters identified in 26 O.S. § 4-120.2.
- 6) In December 2025 sent the first of two planned mailings, pursuant to 26 O.S. § 4-118.1, to voters identified in the USPS National Change of Address database as possibly having changed their address of residence. An additional mailing is planned in spring 2026.



Analysis of Agency Challenges

	Challenge Description	Current Actions (Briefly describe how the agency is currently addressing the challenge.)	Planned Actions (Briefly describe how the agency plans to address the challenge going forward.)
1	Special Elections for legislative offices that are vacated during the term.	Utilized existing appropriations and the State Election Board Revolving Fund to offset these expenses, without a request for supplemental appropriations.	Use existing appropriations and the SEB revolving fund to pay for Special Legislative Elections. However it is possible supplemental appropriations may be required for a large number of special elections.
2	Recruitment of precinct officials	Senate Bill 290 (2023) that increased pay for precinct officials, starting July 1, 2024, has been impactful in recruitment and retention.	We will consider utilizing paid media advertising moving forward to improve recruitment of precinct officials.
3	Implementing upgraded voting system	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.	Subject to available funding, create an RFP pursuant to state purchasing procedures, to purchase and implement a new statewide voting system.
4	Election Security	We continue to partner with Oklahoma 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.	Continue to work with our partners and learn new strategies and approaches to prevent cyber attacks and physical threats.



Savings & Efficiencies (Current or Planned)

Savings or Efficiency Name	Brief description of how savings were achieved	Savings in Unit of Measurement*	FY 2025 (Actual \$ Savings)	FY 2026 (Projected \$ Savings)	FY 2027 (Projected \$ Savings)
Statutory Training	<i>Provided the statutory training for all County Election Board Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries as provided in 26 O.S. § 3-109, within the existing budget. For the first time ever, training for County Election Board members and alternate members was conducted fully online using OMES's Workday learning portal.</i>				
Amazon Connect	Upgrading and modernizing the State Election Board contact center by implementing Amazon Connect, in partnership with OMES, and at no initial cost to the SEB. SEB personnel will still be available to assist citizens by phone, but Amazon Connect will enable callers to more quickly and efficiently receive answers to routine questions.				
Legislative Special Elections	The State Election Board has conducted four and is currently conducting a fifth special election for legislative offices. These were/are conducted using funds from our existing budget. Cost as of December 1, 2025: \$292,869				



Agency Goals and Key Performance Metrics

Goal		Metric	FY 25 Target	FY 25 Actuals	FY 26 Target
1	Election Accuracy - % of elections for state offices successfully certified.	≤ 2% elections 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
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%
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%
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%



Projects for FY 2026

- 1) Conduct Candidate Filing, Primary, Runoff Primary and General Elections.
- 2) Conduct statutory Precinct Official Training for thousands of poll workers, as required per 26 O.S. § 3-111.
- 3) With the roll out of Intelligent Mail Barcoding for absentee ballots in all counties complete, IMB will be available in all counties for the first statewide election (2026 Primary Election). After the 2026 election cycle, we will evaluate the effectiveness and look at additional usage cases for the system.
- 4) Develop a Request for Proposal for new voting device system, subject to available funding.
- 5) Continue 3 year plan to upgrade our election management software to enhance efficiency and security features.
- 6) Prepare for and implement state and federal election legislation.



Projects for FY 2027

- 1) Issue a Request for Proposal and enter into a contract for new voting device system, subject to available funding.
- 2) Continue 3 year plan to upgrade our election management software to enhance efficiency and security features.
- 3) Prepare for and implement state and federal election legislation.



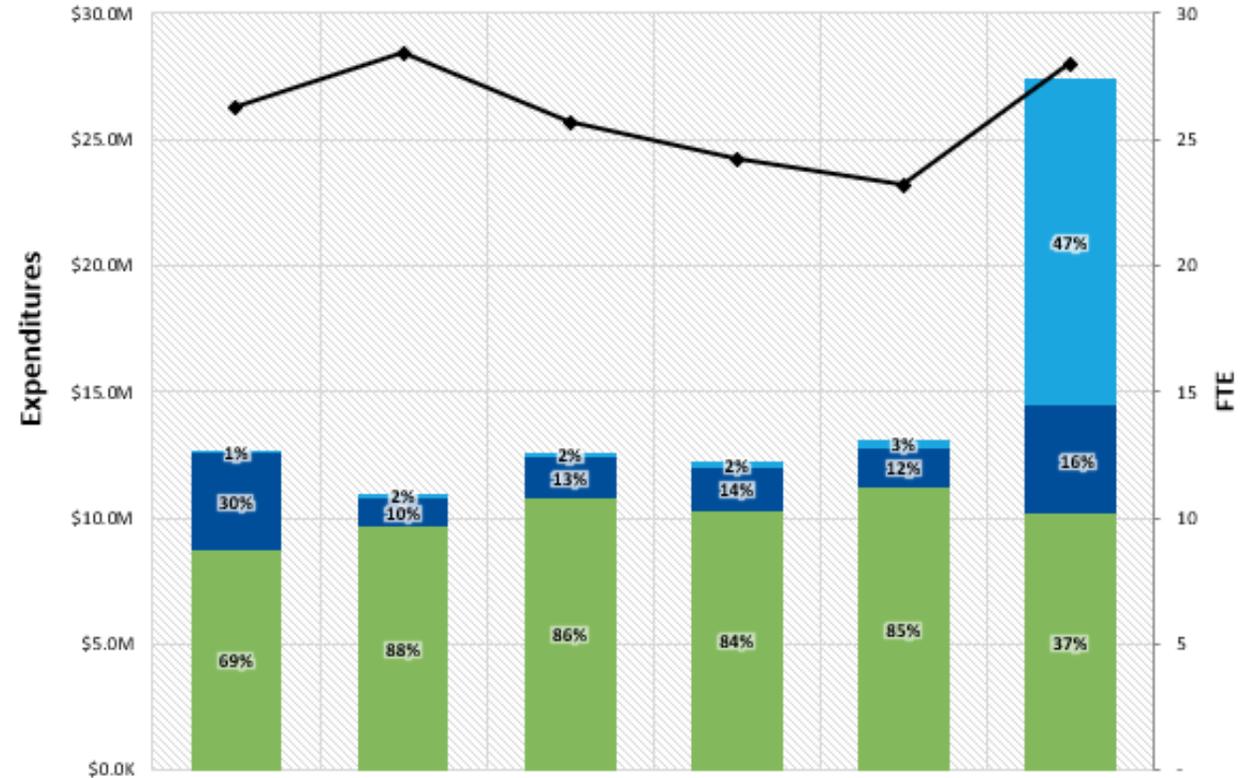
Total Historic Actual Expenditures (FY 2021-25) and Current Year Budget (FY 2026)

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 afore mentioned double in Precinct Official pay (FY25). The large increase in budgeted revolving funds in FY26 shown was included to ensure if the opportunity to begin the acquisition of a new voting device system was presented we would be able to expend the funds. As of this date, we have not begun that process.

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 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026 Current Budget
Appropriated	\$8.7M	\$9.6M	\$10.8M	\$10.3M	\$11.2M	\$10.1M
Revolving	\$107.0K	\$223.2K	\$220.8K	\$277.8K	\$375.1K	\$12.9M
Federal	\$3.8M	\$1.1M	\$1.6M	\$1.7M	\$1.6M	\$4.3M
Total	\$12.7M	\$11.0M	\$12.6M	\$12.2M	\$13.1M	\$27.4M
FTE	26	28	26	24	23	28



Estimated Impact of Federal Funding Changes

<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Federal Agency</i>	<i>Description of expected change (s) (i.e. change in state match, admin costs, program requirements or client eligibility, etc.)</i>	<i>Actual FY 25 Total Federal Funding Received (\$)</i>	<i>Projected FY 26 Total Federal Funding To Be Received (\$)</i>	<i>Estimated FY 27 Total Federal Funding To Be Received (\$)</i>
HAVA Election Security Grant (215)	Election Assistance Commission	None	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0
HELP America Vote Act (210)	Election Assistance Commission	None	\$0	\$0	\$0
			\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$

** Only list programs with federal funding that are expected to change. Refer to the agency's Federal Funds Schedule in the Budget Request document.*



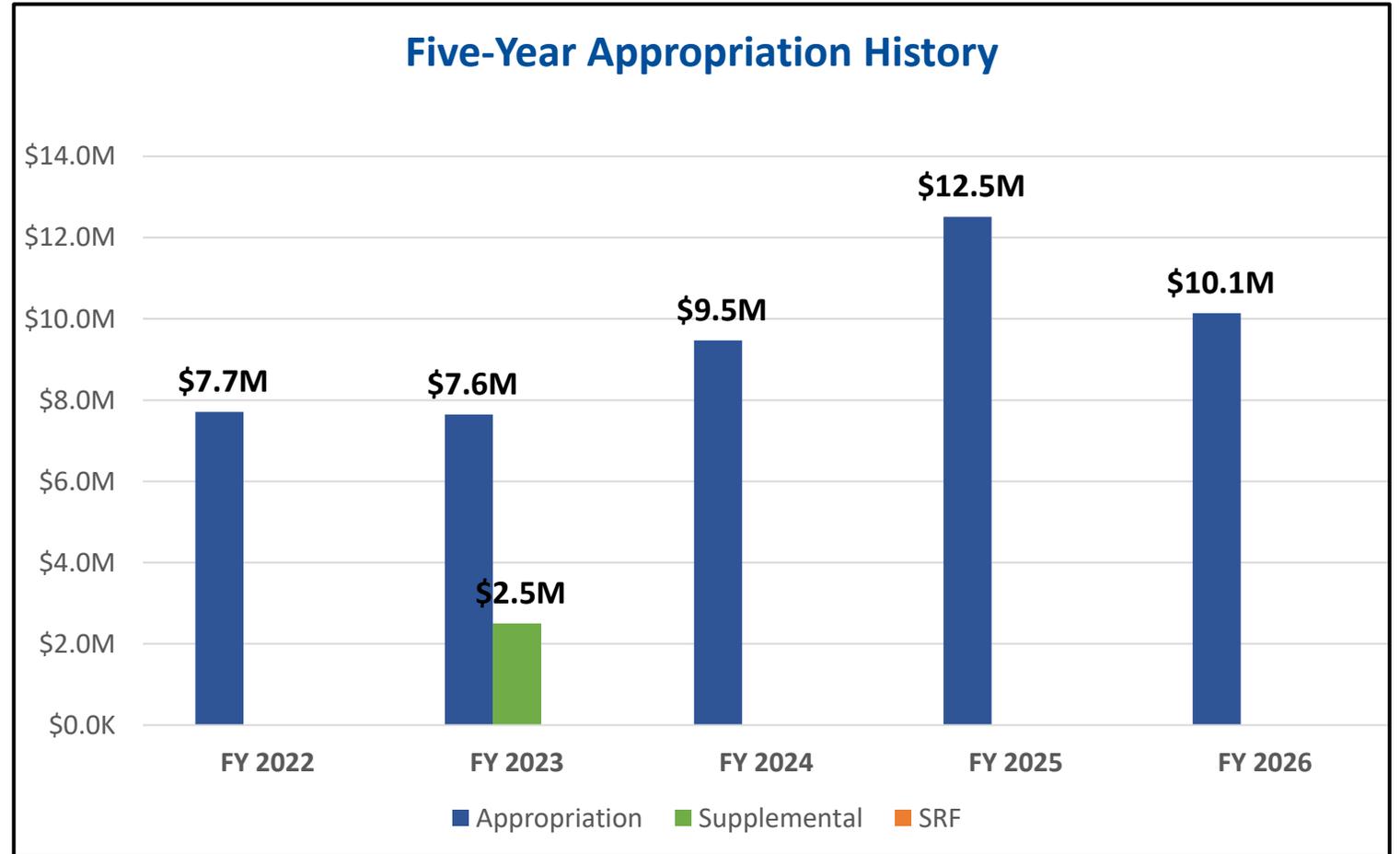


FY 2026 Budgeted Full Time Equivalents (FTE)

	FY 2026 Budgeted FTE
Total FTE	28
Supervisor FTE	7
Supervisors to Total FTE Ratio (%)	4
Current Budgeted but Unfilled FTE	2

Appropriation History

Fiscal Year	Legislated Appropriation (\$) <i>(Includes supplementals and SRF/ARPA.)</i>
FY 2022	\$7,709,609
FY 2023	\$10,142,327
FY 2024	\$9,470,338
FY 2025	\$12,513,152
FY 2026	\$10,140,057



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

Financial Resource Analysis

Carryover	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Total appropriated carryover amount expended (\$)	\$1,921,879	\$907,939	\$794,221	\$756,641

Historical Cash Balances	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Year End Revolving Fund Cash Balances (<i>All Revolving Funds</i>)	\$13,350,553	\$12,065,769	\$10,955,271	\$12,524,711

Revolving Class Fund # (<i>Unrestricted only</i>)	Revolving Class Fund Name (<i>Unrestricted only</i>)	Current cash balance (\$)	Projected FY 2026 year-end cash balance (\$)
20000	State Election Board Revolving Fund	\$647,715	\$800,000
20600	State Election Board Voting System	\$12,000,000	\$11,500,000
21000	HAVA Revolving Fund (federal)	\$532,112	\$200,000
21500	HAVA Security (federal)	\$10,498,292	\$8,000,000
22500	Statewide Recount Fund	\$250,000	\$250,000
#		\$	\$
	Total Unrestricted Revolving Fund Cash balance:	\$	\$

FY 2024 – 2025 Appropriation Change Review

<i>Purpose of appropriation increase or decrease</i>	<i>Amount FY 2024</i>	<i>Amount FY 2025</i>	<i>Total amount received FY 2024 - 25</i>	<i>Total amount expended by 11/1/2025</i>	<i>Included in FY 2026 approp? (Yes/No)</i>	<i>If not expended fully, please explain.</i>
Remove 2024 Presidential Preferential Primary One-time	\$1,100,000	\$0	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	No	
Rent increase	\$0	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000	Yes	
Runoff Primary Election Expense One-time	\$	\$1,895,000	\$1,895,000	\$1,895,000	No	
Additional General Election Expense	\$	\$936,000	\$936,000	\$936,000	Yes	
General Election One-time	\$	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	No	
Matching Funds for HAVA Grant One-time	\$	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	No	
Totals	\$1,100,000	\$3,353,000	\$4,453,000	\$4,453,000		



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

FY 2026 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 2027 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>
Remove one-time	\$1,895,000	Yes	Yes	
Remove one-time	\$80,000	Yes	Yes	
Remove one-time	\$400,000	No		
Upgrade Voting Device System	\$12,000,000	Yes	Yes	
National Change of Address Mailing	\$100,000	No	No	
	\$			
	\$			
Total adjustment	\$			



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

Incremental & Supplemental Request Summary

Request Name		FY 2027 Incremental Appropriation Request Amount (\$) {or FY 2026 for Supplementals}	Type of Request: Recurring, One-time, or Supplemental
1	Runoff Primary Election	\$1,900,000	One-time
2	General Election additional day of In-person Absentee Voting (Early Voting)	\$187,000	One-time
3	Upgrade of Statewide Voting System	\$12,000,000	One-time, \$12M is 2 nd installment of three
4	Address Confirmation Mailing	\$457,200	One-time



(1) Incremental Budget Request

Runoff Primary Election	
One-Time	\$ 1,900,000
<p>This request will fund the 2026 Runoff Primary in August of 2026. The State Election Board's baseline budget includes funds for one statewide election in a fiscal year. In FY27, there will be two statewide elections.</p> <p>26 O.S. § 1-103</p>	



(2) Incremental Budget Request

General Election additional day of In-person Absentee Voting (Early Voting)	
One-Time	\$ 187,000
<p>This request includes \$100,000 to cover the cost of the additional day (Wednesday) in-person absentee voting "early voting" required by 26 O.S. § 14-115.4, and to ensure funds to open additional "early voting" sites. This request also includes \$87,000 to cover increased ballot printing costs.</p> <p>26 O.S. § 14-115.4 and 26 O.S. § 6-103</p>	



(3) Incremental Budget Request

Upgrade of Statewide Voting System	
One-Time	\$ 12,000,000
<p>This is the second installment of a total \$36m request. 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. It is also expected that a new voting system will meet the requirements of the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines 2.0 as established by the Federal Election Assistance System.</p>	



(4) Incremental Budget Request

Address Confirmation mailing/Voter List Maintenance

One-Time

\$ 457,200

This request will allow the State Election Board to fulfill the statutory mandate to send an address confirmation mailing by June 1 of odd-numbered years to voters identified in 26 O.S. § 4-120.2.



(5) Incremental Budget Request

Appropriation in Cash	
One-Time	\$ 5,000,000
<p>This is not an additional request for appropriations, rather a request to receive a part of our appropriations in cash.</p> <p>This request will allow the State Election Board to fulfill the statutory mandate to hold the Runoff Primary and General Elections and have enough cash to ensure all election expenses are paid.</p>	

