

Elections, State Board of

Mission

The New York State Board of Elections executes and enforces all laws relating to elections, oversees the conduct of elections as well as the disclosure of campaign financing activities. The Board also strives to promote the full participation of the State's eligible voters and to maintain citizens' confidence in each stage of the process of elections.

The Board is responsible for reviewing the practices of all 62 local boards of elections; facilitating access to the ballot for State offices; approving voting systems for use within the State; maintaining the statewide voter registration database; conducting compliance reviews of campaign financing disclosure reports; training filers; and implementing various Federal voting programs including the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE).

The Division of Election Law Enforcement is responsible for responding to complaints filed with the State Board and for the enforcement of the provisions of the Election Law.

Organization and Staffing

The State Board of Elections is comprised of four commissioners and is organized into four main business units; Compliance, Enforcement, Election Operations, and the Public Campaign Finance Board. The workforce is comprised of administrative/clerical staff and investigators.

Budget Highlights

The FY 2022 Executive Budget recommends \$15.9 million in State Operations appropriations. This is a \$14.5 million decrease from the previous fiscal year, reflecting the reappropriation of Federal HAVA resources and the addition of \$7.3 million to support the Public Campaign Finance Board. The Executive Budget recommends a workforce of 90 FTEs, which is an increase of 15 FTE from the previous fiscal year. This increase reflects the addition of the Public Campaign Finance Board staff.

Reappropriations totaling \$87.4 million continue to be available to meet ongoing Federal and State election mandates, including funding for early voting and electronic poll books, federal funding for state and local cyber-security enhancements, original Help America Vote Act funding, and capital funds to build an online voter registration system as required by the Voter Enfranchisement Modernization Act of 2019.

Program Highlights

Compliance

The Compliance Unit, under the supervision of the Joint Counsel's Office, is responsible for the registration and termination of committees, receiving and processing campaign financial disclosure reports, operating a call center for Election Law and filing inquiries, and calculating contribution limits. The Board regularly receives and reviews campaign financial disclosure filings from over 16,000 state and local filers, performs audits of filings, assists campaign treasurers in bringing their filings into compliance and provides statewide training. The Board has also undertaken the redesign and redevelopment of systems used by campaign treasurers to report disclosures for public review. This multi-year project modernizes an outdated system to make campaign finance information easier to disclose and more transparent to the public.

Enforcement

The Board's Division of Election Law Enforcement is tasked with the investigation of complaints alleging violations of Election Law as well as potential violations of campaign finance reporting requirements. Based on the evidence, the Chief Enforcement Counsel decides whether the Division should close the matter, proceed with civil enforcement action, or seek criminal prosecution.

Election Operations

The Board provides oversight and assistance to each county board of elections and the Board of Elections in the City of New York in the facilitation of ballot access efforts by candidates for a variety of public offices and party positions, as well as ensuring compliance with all state and federal laws, regularly monitoring their list maintenance activities to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the voter rolls, and visiting each board on a biannual basis to ensure that proper procedures are in place and are being followed. The Board reviews any new voting systems or changes to existing systems for testing and possible certification for use in New York State. The Board is responsible for maintenance of the NYSVoter statewide voter list, required under HAVA, which is securely connected to each county, receives data on new and updated voters and provides information

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to counties for list maintenance activities.

Public Campaign Finance Board

The Public Campaign Finance Board (PCFB) is responsible for the administration and oversight of a small-donor public match program for candidates campaigning for Statewide and State Legislative office. The PCFB is comprised of seven commissioners, the four existing State Board of Elections commissioners and three new commissioners appointed by the Governor and Legislative Leaders. PCFB staff are responsible for the oversight of candidate eligibility, conducting post-election audits, reporting on program usage and statistics, providing educational and counseling services to participating candidates and imposing civil penalties for delinquency, mandated by Election Law.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available FY 2021	Appropriations Recommended FY 2022	Change From FY 2021	Reappropriations Recommended FY 2022
State Operations	30,398,000	15,896,000	(14,502,000)	48,225,000
Aid To Localities	0	0	0	20,431,000
Capital Projects	16,000,000	0	(16,000,000)	18,721,000
Total	46,398,000	15,896,000	(30,502,000)	87,377,000

ALL FUND TYPES PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Program	FY 2021 Estimated FTEs 03/31/21	FY 2022 Estimated FTEs 03/31/22	FTE Change
Regulation of Elections			
General Fund	56	71	15
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	8	8	0
Election Enforcement			
General Fund	11	11	0
Total	75	90	15

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Fund Type	Available FY 2021	Recommended FY 2022	Change
General Fund	8,559,000	15,896,000	7,337,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	21,839,000	0	(21,839,000)
Total	30,398,000	15,896,000	(14,502,000)

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STATE OPERATIONS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

Program	Available FY 2021	Recommended FY 2022	Change
Election Enforcement			
General Fund	3,960,000	3,960,000	0
Public Campaign Finance Board			
General Fund	0	7,337,000	7,337,000
Regulation of Elections			
General Fund	4,599,000	4,599,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	21,839,000	0	(21,839,000)
Total	30,398,000	15,896,000	(14,502,000)

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
FY 2022 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Election Enforcement	2,135,000	0	2,135,000	0
Public Campaign Finance Board	4,169,000	4,169,000	4,125,000	4,125,000
Regulation of Elections	3,025,000	0	2,976,000	0
Total	9,329,000	4,169,000	9,236,000	4,125,000

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Public Campaign Finance Board	40,000	40,000	4,000	4,000
Regulation of Elections	45,000	0	4,000	0
Total	85,000	40,000	8,000	4,000

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STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
FY 2022 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Election Enforcement	1,825,000	0	0	0
Public Campaign Finance Board	3,168,000	3,168,000	145,000	145,000
Regulation of Elections	1,574,000	0	128,000	0
Total	6,567,000	3,168,000	273,000	145,000

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Election Enforcement	0	0	1,825,000	0
Public Campaign Finance Board	29,000	29,000	2,819,000	2,819,000
Regulation of Elections	26,000	0	1,343,000	0
Total	55,000	29,000	5,987,000	2,819,000

Program	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Public Campaign Finance Board	175,000	175,000
Regulation of Elections	77,000	0
Total	252,000	175,000

STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
FY 2022 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)

Program	Total		Nonpersonal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Regulation of Elections	0	(21,839,000)	0	(21,839,000)
Total	0	(21,839,000)	0	(21,839,000)

CAPITAL PROJECTS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

Comprehensive Construction Program	Available FY 2021	Recommended FY 2022	Change	Reappropriations FY 2022
Program Improvement or Change				
Capital Projects Fund - Authority Bonds	16,000,000	0	(16,000,000)	18,721,000

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Total	16,000,000	0	(16,000,000)	18,721,000
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Note: Most recent estimates as of 01/19/2021