

<b>Priority:</b>	Accountability	<b>Lead Agency:</b>	Community Services
<b>Program Offer Type:</b>	Existing Operating	<b>Program Contact:</b>	John Kauffman
<b>Related Programs:</b>			
<b>Frameworks:</b>			

### **Executive Summary**

We conduct all local, city, county, state and federal elections for the citizens of Multnomah County.

### **Program Description**

Conducting elections involves: registering voters; maintaining the voter data base; checking signatures on city, local and state candidate/initiative petitions; accepting candidate/measure filings; producing voters' pamphlets; issuing and mailing ballots; establishing drop site locations; accepting and processing returned ballots; counting ballots; and releasing results. The program monitors contribution and expenditure filings of candidates and committees. We also process passport applications.

### **Program Justification**

The perception of trust and confidence (one indicator of accountability) begins with open, fair and accurate elections. County money and other resources are being used to leverage federal money to pay for enhancements to our systems and to improve accessibility to our building for voters with physical disabilities.

### **Performance Measures**

Citizen satisfaction with the election process (not necessarily with the results). The Elections department will also begin to measure the accessibility of the elections process to the citizens of Multnomah County by asking 2-3 questions in the County Auditor's annual survey. Respondents will be asked of their ability to obtain information about and the ease of registering to vote. This will be Election's first year of inclusion in the Auditor's survey.

### **Summary of last year's program results and this year's expected results**

This past fiscal year we successfully conducted three special elections and a Presidential General Election, registering the largest number of voters ever in Multnomah County. Voter registration increased by 67,104 voters from the Primary in May to the General in November. Voter participation increased from 45% of registered voters in the Primary to nearly 85% in the General.

Next year, we will conduct a Gubernatorial Primary Election and may have special elections in September, November and March. We will implement the Oregon Centralized Voter Registration System and, with State funds, purchase at least one voting device designed to assist voters with disabilities.

**Program Mandate: 2 Mandated Program with Funding/Service Level Choice**

Multnomah County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5, Elections; Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 165; and Oregon Revised Statutes Chapters 246 through 260. Federal mandates include the National Voter Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act.

**Revenue/Expense Detail**

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2005	2005	2006	2006
<b>Program Expenses</b>				
Personnel	\$1,291,652	\$0	\$1,367,672	\$0
Contracts	\$133,500	\$0	\$262,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$1,044,050	\$0	\$914,325	\$0
Internal Services	\$706,400	\$0	\$553,014	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	<b>\$3,175,602</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,097,011</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$24,932	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,500
Subtotal: Other Exps:	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$24,932</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>
Total GF/non-GF:	<b>\$3,175,602</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,121,943</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>
Program Total:	<b>\$3,175,602</b>		<b>\$3,129,443</b>	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00
<b>Program Revenues</b>				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$1,026,915	\$0	\$877,525	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$86,000	\$0	\$83,000	\$0
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$44	\$7,500
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$1,112,915</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$960,569</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>

**Explanation of Revenues**

Partial reimbursement of election expenses (\$785,025) are paid by school and special districts which place candidates and/or issues on the local ballot. Special elections called by the State are fully reimbursed by the State (not the Primary or General elections.) Some revenue (\$92,500) is generated by candidate filing fees, voters' pamphlet fees and fees for processing passports. We also anticipate reimbursement (\$83,000) from the State of Oregon for the purchase of the new ballot counting equipment.

**Significant Program Changes**

During this fiscal year we expect to implement a state-wide voter registration system which will change our internal processes and increase the accuracy of our voter file by eliminating duplicate voter registration across county boundaries. In cooperation with the Secretary of State and the Oregon Association of County Clerks, we will continue to explore legislative changes to enhance our Vote by Mail System. We will complete the first phase of planned remodeling of our Elections Building by installing an elevator, improving access to citizens with physical disabilities. We will also pursue a program with the Secretary of State to email ballots to military and overseas citizens.