

Priority: Accountability
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:

Lead Agency: Community Services
Program Contact: John Kauffman

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Elections Division conducts all local, city, county, state and federal elections for the citizens of Multnomah County. Local elections include boards of directors for schools and special districts as well as local measures. City elections include those for city offices as well as annexations and other city issues. County elections are for county officers and county measures. Federal elections include Presidential, US Senate and Congressional races. Regular election dates are in March, May, September and November.

Program Description

Conducting elections involves: registering voters; maintaining the voter data base; maintaining address and district data; 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; providing assistance to voters with disabilities; counting ballots; and releasing results. For major elections like Primary and General elections, we will employ as many as 250 temporary election workers. The office also processes passport applications.

Multnomah County was very active at the Gubernatorial General Election in assisting voters with disabilities. We have a room which was designed to assist citizens who need help voting. We have ballots available in HTML format for voters with visual disabilities and dexterity limitations. We used Voter Assistance Teams (VAT) to help register voters and provide assistance for voting in our office, at care facilities and in private residences. We had a pilot program at Providence Hospital in Portland for voters who need replacement ballots which we hope to expand to other hospitals for the Presidential elections in 2008. We also make ballots available by e-mail for overseas military and private citizens.

Program Justification

The Elections Division is an important component of our democratic process. All eligible citizens have the right to be registered to vote and to participate in elections. The perception of trust and confidence (one indicator of accountability) begins with open, fair and accurate elections. The program seeks to conduct elections in Multnomah County so that the focus of attention is on the candidates and issues, not on the election process.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY05-06)	Current Year Purchased (FY06-07)	Current Year Estimate (FY06-07)	Next Year Offer (FY07-08)
Output	Number of Votes Counted	137,386	520,000	415,116	300,000
Outcome	Percent of Survey Respondents who trust Election Results	0.0%	90.0%	0.0%	90.0%
Efficiency	Personnel Cost per 1,000 Ballots Cast	1,064	997	997	1,023

Performance Measure - Description

✔ **Measure Changed**

We are working on a customer survey, assessing the best way to measure our public perception and present these results for next year's budget cycle.

Personnel Cost per 1,000 Ballots Cast (in dollars)in FY05-06 is for the Gubernatorial Primary; Current Year Purchased and CYE is for the Gubernatorial General; and the Next Year Offer is for the Presidential Primary in May 2008.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Multnomah County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5, Elections, describes the process for county initiative/referendum petitions in Multnomah County as well as how to fill vacancies in county elective offices. Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 165, addresses state-wide uniformity in the conduct of elections by each county. Rules deal with issues such as County Voters' Pamphlets and Voting by Mail. Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapters 246 through 260, provide the legal authority for all aspects of conducting elections in Oregon from voter registration through counting ballots.

There are also Federal mandates. The National Voter Registration Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Help America Vote Act establish election administration standards for States and local governments who have the responsibility to administer Federal elections.

Federal and State law require vote tally hardware and software be purchased only from a list of Federal and State certified vendors.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2007	2007	2008	2008
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$1,533,835	\$0	\$1,583,966	\$0
Contracts	\$250,000	\$0	\$330,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$987,125	\$0	\$970,125	\$0
Internal Services	\$582,840	\$0	\$562,901	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$3,353,800	\$0	\$3,446,992	\$0
Administration	\$53,703	\$0	\$192,033	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$7,500	\$0	\$9,000
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$53,703	\$7,500	\$192,033	\$9,000
Total GF/non-GF:	\$3,407,503	\$7,500	\$3,639,025	\$9,000
Program Total:	\$3,415,003		\$3,648,025	
Program FTE	15.00	0.00	15.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$1,102,525	\$0	\$1,036,325	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$83,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Revenue for Admin	\$72	\$7,500	\$157	\$9,000
Total Revenue:	\$1,185,597	\$7,500	\$1,036,482	\$9,000

Explanation of Revenues

Reimbursement of election expenses are paid by school and special districts which place candidates and/or measures on the local ballot. Special elections called by the State are fully reimbursed by the State (not including the Primary or General elections). Some revenue is generated by candidate filing fees, voters' pamphlet fees and fees for processing passports.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #91008A, Elections