Multnomah County

Program # 91008 - Elections	Version 6/30/2009 s

Priority:	Accountability	**Lead Agency:**	Community Services
Program Offer Type:	Existing Operating	**Program Contact:**	Tim Scott
Related Programs:	91011		

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Elections Division conducts all local, city, county, state and federal elections for the citizens of, and all political districts within, Multnomah County. Under Oregon law, regular election dates are in March, May, September and November. Under state and local law, special elections can also be called at any time of the year. Recall elections can also occur at any time.

Program Description

The Elections Division conducts many types of elections in Multnomah County, from Water District Commissioner to President of the United States. Local elections include elected boards of directors for schools and special districts as well as local measures. City elections include elected city offices and city measures. County elections are for elected county offices and county measures. State elections include Governor, all statewide offices and state senate and house seats in Multnomah County. Federal elections include Presidential, US Senate and Congressional races.

Conducting elections involves: registering voters; maintaining the statewide voter registration and election management data base (OCVR); 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; managing drop site locations; accepting and processing returned ballots; providing assistance to voters with disabilities; counting ballots; and releasing results. For major elections, Elections employs as many as 250 temporary election workers. The office also processes passport applications.

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 in government) 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 (FY07-08)	Current Year Purchased (FY08-09)	Current Year Estimate (FY08-09)	Next Year Offer (FY09-10)
Output	Number of votes counted.	450,863	475,000	474,790	365,000
Outcome	Percent of customers who are satisfied with counter service.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	95.0%
Efficiency	Personnel cost per 1000 ballots cast.	1,500	1,232	1,255	1,000

Performance Measure - Description

Due to changes in personnel, the survey to determine level of customer satisfaction with counter service was not implemented in FY09. The survey will be implemented for FY10.

Personnel Cost per 1,000 Ballots Cast (in dollars) in FY 07-08 is for the Presidential Primary Election; Current Year Purchased and CYE is for the Presidential General Election; and the Next Year Offer is for the Gubernatorial Primary Election in May 2010.

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. There are also Federal mandates. The Voting Rights Act, The National Voter Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act establish election administration standards.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2009	2009	2010	2010
Personnel	$1,740,863	$0	$1,399,115	$0
Contracts	$400,000	$0	$388,000	$0
Materials & Supplies	$1,049,225	$0	$1,066,750	$0
Internal Services	$556,079	$0	$679,571	$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	**$3,746,167**	**$0**	**$3,533,436**	**$0**
Administration	$235,945	$0	$234,137	$0
Program Support	$0	$0	$0	$6,000
Subtotal: Other Exps:	**$235,945**	**$0**	**$234,137**	**$6,000**
Total GF/non-GF:	**$3,982,112**	**$0**	**$3,767,573**	**$6,000**
Program Total:	**$3,982,112**		**$3,773,573**	
Program FTE	14.00	0.00	12.50	0.00
Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	$1,285,279	$0	$1,173,750	$0
Program Revenue for Admin	$0	$0	$0	$6,000
Total Revenue:	**$1,285,279**	**$0**	**$1,173,750**	**$6,000**

Explanation of Revenues

Revenue is generated by the collection of fees for candidate filings, voters' pamphlet filings, data sales to candidates, campaigns and political parties and fees for processing passports. Revenue is also generated by reimbursements from districts for their apportioned share of the cost of the election. Election expenses are reimbursed by special districts. Special elections called by the State are reimbursed by the State. By state law, cities and the state cannot be charged for the cost of the election in the Primary or General election. The county must pay for those districts apportioned cost in these elections.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #91008, Elections
Elections will reduce personnel by 1.5 FTE (1.0 FTE Office Assistant 2 and 0.5 FTE Finance Specialist 1). Remaining Elections staff would take on additional responsibilities to compensate for these reductions.