

Lead Agency: Community Services

Program Contact: Tim Scott

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

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 and recall elections can also be called at any time of the year.

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.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY08-09)	Current Year Purchased (FY09-10)	Current Year Estimate (FY09-10)	Next Year Offer (FY10-11)
Output	Number of votes counted.	430,288	365,000	391,533	344,400
Outcome	Percent of customers who are satisfied with counter service.	0.0%	95.0%	98.0%	95.0%
Efficiency	Personnel cost per 1000 ballots cast.	1,160	1,000	1,152	1,000

Performance Measure - Description

Customer satisfaction was measured through a survey completed by customers immediately following service. Both Elections and Passport customers were surveyed. 804 surveys were completed and the results shown above reflect the percentage of customers who indicated that customer service either met or exceed their expectations. This was the first year for this performance measure.

Personnel Cost per 1,000 ballots cast (in dollars) in FY 08-09 is for the Presidential General Election; Current Year Purchased and Current Year Estimate is for the Gubernatorial Primary Election; and the Next Year Offer is for the Gubernatorial General Election in November 2010.

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. 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	2010	2010	2011	2011
Personnel	\$1,351,210	\$0	\$1,355,197	\$0
Contracts	\$388,000	\$0	\$387,111	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$1,066,750	\$0	\$1,071,319	\$0
Internal Services	\$679,571	\$0	\$715,744	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$3,485,531	\$0	\$3,529,371	\$0
Program Total:	\$3,485,531		\$3,529,371	
Program FTE	12.50	0.00	11.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$1,173,750	\$0	\$1,020,368	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$1,173,750	\$0	\$1,020,368	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Revenue is generated by the collection of fees for candidate filings, voters' pamphlet filings and data sales to candidates, campaigns and political parties. 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

✔ Significantly Changed

Last year this program was:

Total FTE will be reduced by 1.5 in FY11. 0.5 FTE is due to a change in the structure of finance support. Several employees in DCS Finance Support will take on the duties of the .5 FTE and will charge time directly to the Elections cost center. Charges are budgeted in Internal Services Other instead of Permanent Staff. 1.0 FTE is due to transferring the Passports program from Elections to the Division of Assessment, Recording and Taxation in the Department of County Management.