



OTING
IS LOCAL

ELECTION BUDGETING

A DEEPER DIVE INTO
THE COST OF STATE
ELECTIONS





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Invaluable research and data analysis by Harrison Clack LLC, a government affairs and research firm. Additional contributions by Nicholas Martinez at All Voting is Local.

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

Elections are the foundation of American democracy and ensure the peaceful transfer of power. As stated in Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof,” making elections a task run by each state legislature. Elections are like many other governmental functions that rely on the tax base and budget allocations to provide financial resources for their success. Unfortunately, elections are regularly underfunded at the state and local levels.

The funding of elections can be understood in the context of a report issued by MIT in 2022, [The Cost of Conducting Elections](#), which outlines several relevant factors to consider when evaluating the current state of elections in the country. This report also notes:

“ ”

The total budget for running American elections is opaque because of the decentralized nature of elections, the resulting differences in how elections are run, and the expenditure of funds at the state, local, and federal levels. The best information we have on election funding comes from grant reporting of federal and private funding, not the baseline funding of states and localities.

Megan Irving Tyler
Executive Vice President of Campaigns and Strategy

The function of a system and the funding of that system are closely linked. When a county cannot hire or retain employees and positions go unfilled for years, this can cause a lack of experienced staff, and it is felt on the front lines of the polling booth. Similarly, just the basic equipment needed to conduct an election has become more complex and costly. The federal government’s [United States Election Assistance Commission](#), established through the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), is partially dedicated to helping states with these increased costs.



“The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof.”

Article I, Section 4, Clause 1, U.S. Constitution

This report expands upon aspects of MIT’s [The Cost of Conducting Elections](#) by looking at budgeting from the state and county budgeting perspective.

The report covers how states and local governments choose to fund their elections, the role of private and public grants, and the differences between states and some of their counties. For this report, we parsed through the budgets of eight states, and within each of those states, two counties, for a total of 24 entities.

The baseline funding of the elections systems of states and localities, while difficult to uncover and parse through, is available on public government websites or through public records requests filed with the appropriate parties.

After a deep dive into the way these states and counties fund their elections, several themes emerged, but even more importantly, several big questions about what is next for the election system in our country.

This research looks at the budget allocations in eight U.S. states and 16 local jurisdictions.

ARIZONA (AZ)
Maricopa County, Pinal County

FLORIDA (FL)
Broward County, Brevard County

GEORGIA (GA)
Fulton County, Chatham County

MICHIGAN (MI)
Wayne County, Oakland County

NEVADA (NV)
Storey County

OHIO (OH)
Cuyahoga County, Lawrence County

PENNSYLVANIA (PA)
City of Philadelphia, Luzerne County

WISCONSIN (WI)
Milwaukee County, Dane County

FINDINGS

01 State and Local Spending on Elections Ranges Widely

Each state spends millions annually in support of elections. Our research of eight states shows funding that ranges annually from \$6 million in Wisconsin to over \$56 million in Ohio. The amount spent per voter also shows a huge range, where Georgia spends approximately \$0.99 per voter compared to Nevada which spends \$17.57 per voter. State budgets are either small and consistent or large and erratic.

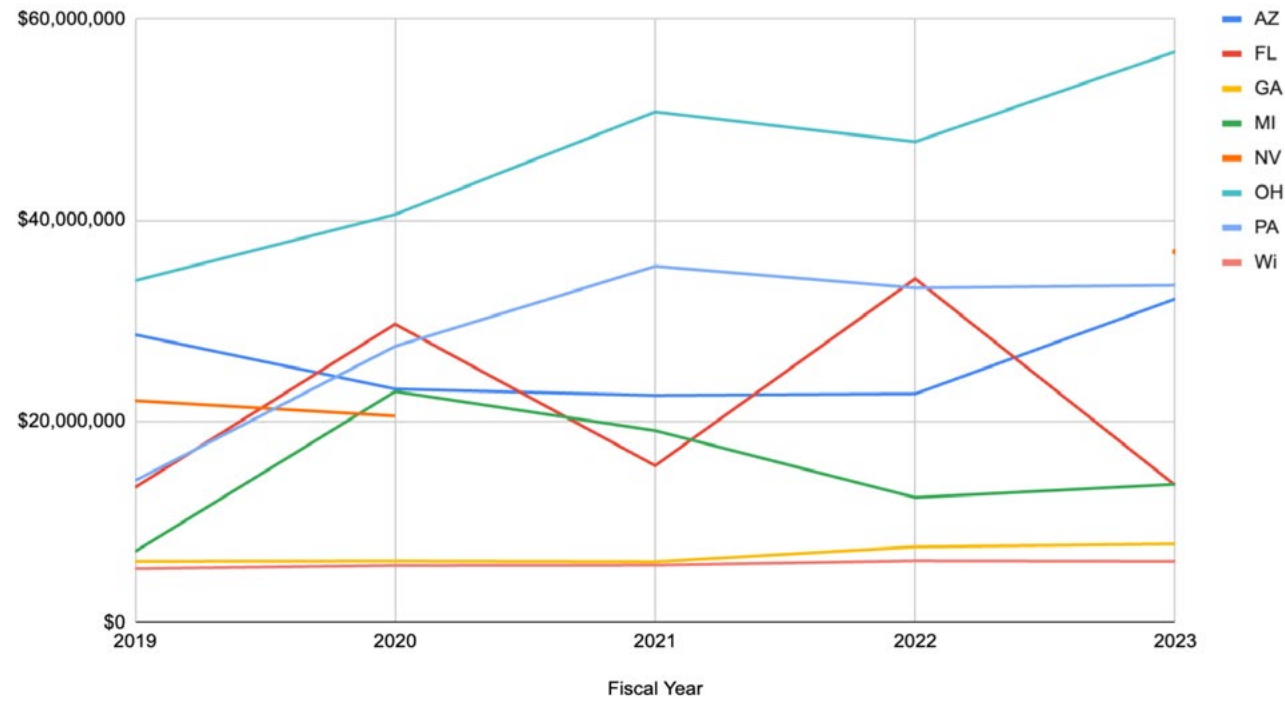
Figure 1 shows the part of the overall state budget that is specific to elections each year from 2019 to 2023. Figure 1 also calculates the per capita spending, or the dollar amount dedicated to each voter, for each state, using the citizen voting age population (CVAP) as a denominator, with the 2022 budget as the numerator (2023 for NV).

Figure 1: AVL State Election Budgets 2019-2023
In millions

STATE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	CVAP	PER CAPITA
AZ	\$28.6	\$23.2	\$22.6	\$22.8	\$32.2	5,000,090	\$4.55
FL	\$13.4	\$29.7	\$15.6	\$34.2	\$13.6	15,394,170	\$2.22
GA	\$6.1	\$6.0	\$6.0	\$7.5	\$7.8	7,568,140	\$0.99
MI	\$7.1	\$23.0	\$19.1	\$12.4	\$13.8	7,592,235	\$1.64
NV	\$22.1	\$20.5	N/A	N/A	\$36.9	2,099,150	\$17.57
OH	\$34.0	\$40.6	\$50.8	\$47.8	\$56.8	8,909,350	\$5.37
PA	\$14.1	\$27.5	\$35.4	\$33.3	\$33.5	9,893,015	\$3.36
WI	\$5.3	\$5.7	\$5.7	\$6.1	\$6.1	4,437,215	\$1.38

Chart 1 depicts the budgets graphed across time. Some states, like Georgia and Wisconsin, have fairly consistent funding year over year, while others, like Michigan, Florida, and Pennsylvania, have spikes in their funding levels. Ohio stands out with a significant bump that almost doubles its allocation in the most recent budget year.

Chart 1: AVL State Election Budget Trends 2019-2023



02 Local Budgets are Key to Funding Elections

With the range of state budgets and disparate per capita spending, analysis of local budgets becomes necessary. Local budgets range from below a half-million dollars in Dane, WI, to over \$42 million in Maricopa, AZ. In fact, there are many local jurisdictions that allocate more to their elections than an entire state. Maricopa, AZ, and Broward, FL spend more than their respective states while Fulton, GA, and Philadelphia, PA, spend on par with their respective states. Per capita spending at the local level does not dip below \$1.00, as it did with the states, with Dane, WI, registering the

lowest at \$1.24 and the smallest jurisdiction, Storey, NV, at \$170.19 per person.

Figure 2 shows information about local jurisdiction election budget allocations within the states. The broad range in total funding for each local jurisdiction requires that their chart depictions be split to effectively trend spending over time. Chart 2 shows the budget trends for local jurisdictions whose budgets exceed \$5 million, and Chart 3 shows the budget trends for local jurisdictions whose budgets are less than \$5 million annually.

Figure 2: AVL Select Local Election Budgets 2019-2023

In millions

JURISDICTION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	CVAP	PER CAPITA
Maricopa, AZ	\$22.8	\$24.7	\$42.0	\$22.9	\$42.7	2,998,590	\$7.62
Pinal, AZ	N/A	\$1.2	\$2.0	\$0.9	\$1.6	305,975	\$2.80
Broward, FL	\$27.3	\$28.1	\$33.1	\$33.3	N/A	1,291,460	\$25.81
Brevard, FL	\$5.3	\$6.7	\$6.0	\$6.4	\$6.6	474,525	\$13.57
Fulton, GA	\$2.3	\$15.1	\$10.0	\$37.4	\$7.6	758,910	\$49.30
Chatham, GA	N/A	\$1.1	\$1.6	\$1.1	\$1.8	223,240	\$5.07
Wayne, MI	\$2.7	N/A	\$2.5	\$2.5	N/A	1,300,665	\$1.95
Oakland, MI	\$1.2	\$2.0	\$2.1	\$2.3	\$2.1	938,195	\$2.44
Clark, NV	\$12.1	\$13.5	\$17.7	\$24.6	\$25.0	1,493,190	\$16.45
Storey, NV	\$0.6	\$0.5	\$0.6	\$0.6	N/A	3,280	\$170.19
Cuyahoga, OH	\$12.4	\$17.1	\$13.0	\$17.3	\$15.5	968,395	\$17.82
Lawrence, OH	\$0.5	\$0.6	\$0.6	\$0.7	\$0.6	45,460	\$14.90
Philadelphia, PA	\$16.6	\$14.5	\$20.9	\$21.2	\$29.0	1,150,785	\$18.40
Luzerne, PA	\$0.8	\$0.8	\$0.8	\$1.5	\$1.5	247,440	\$5.96
Milwaukee, WI	\$1.9	\$2.8	\$2.1	\$2.8	\$2.2	668,020	\$4.26
Dane, WI	\$0.2	\$0.6	\$0.4	\$0.5	\$0.4	416,410	\$1.24



03 Smaller Budgets = More Consistency

Jurisdictions with budgets under \$10M seem to have more consistency in their annual budgets. Smaller jurisdictions with consistent budgets, including Dane, WI, Lawrence, OH, Storey, NV, and, although there are gaps in the data, Wayne, MI. Chatham, GA, Pinal, AZ, and Milwaukee, WI, have more-irregular funding. Luzerne, PA, and Oakland, MI, have grown their budgets over the study period. The information and accessibility of county budgets varied widely: Some had extensive rationale documentation, and some were merely line items without even a total allocation at the bottom.

Chart 3 shows four of the nine smaller jurisdictions with consistent budgets, including Dane, WI, Lawrence, OH, Storey, NV, and, although there are gaps in the data, Wayne, MI. Chatham, GA, Pinal, AZ, and Milwaukee, WI, have more-irregular funding. Luzerne, PA, and Oakland, MI, have grown their budgets over the study period.

Chart 2 shows very dramatic budget changes year over year. Compared to states, the local jurisdiction budgets are even more erratic. Broward, FL, Clark, NV, and Philadelphia, PA, show consistent growth. Maricopa, AZ, and Fulton, GA, show dramatic spikes and falls. Only Brevard, FL, shows regular funding over time.

Chart 2: AVL Local Election Budget (\$5M+) Trends 2019-2023

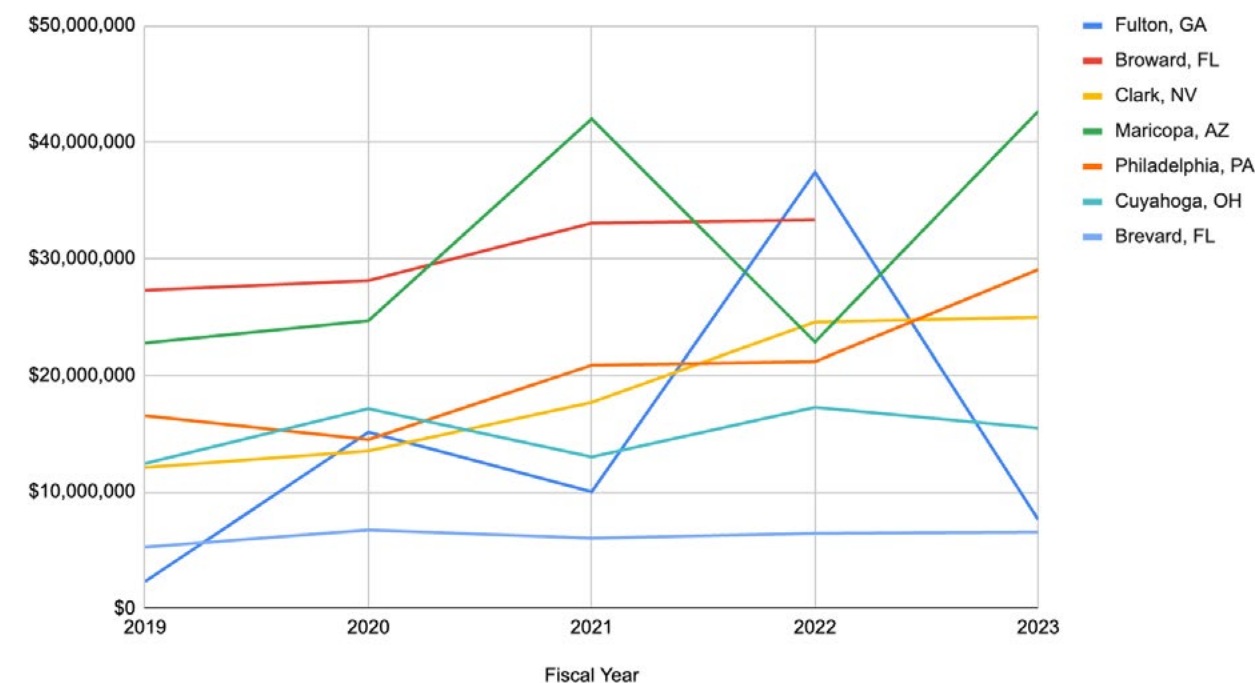
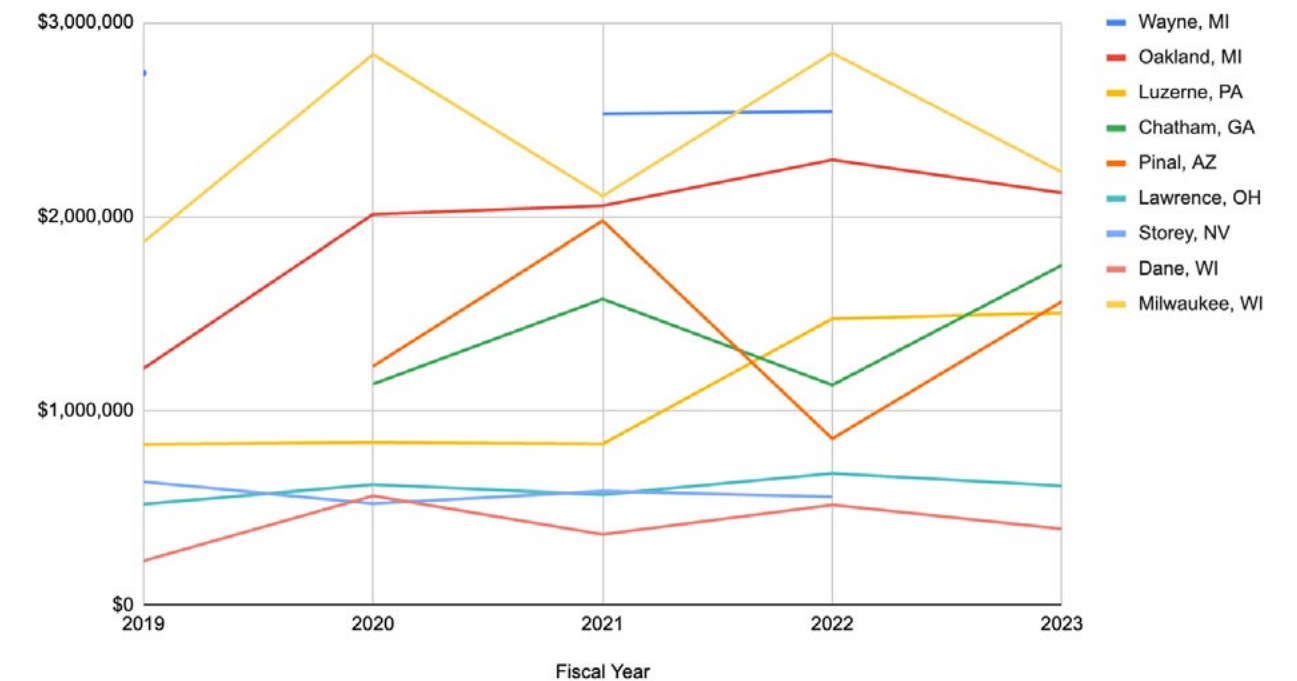


Chart 3: AVL Local Election Budget (<\$10M) Trends 2019-2023



04 As Populations Increase, Per Capita Funding Shrinks

Given the complexity of running elections in large jurisdictions, it would be reasonable to expect that as population size increases, per capita funding for election administration would increase as well. That is not the case in this sample of 24 jurisdictions. The red trendline suggests the opposite: As population increases, per capita funding shrinks. This is not statistically powerful but suggests more research is needed to add to this sample to explore the motivations behind per capita election budgeting at all levels of government.

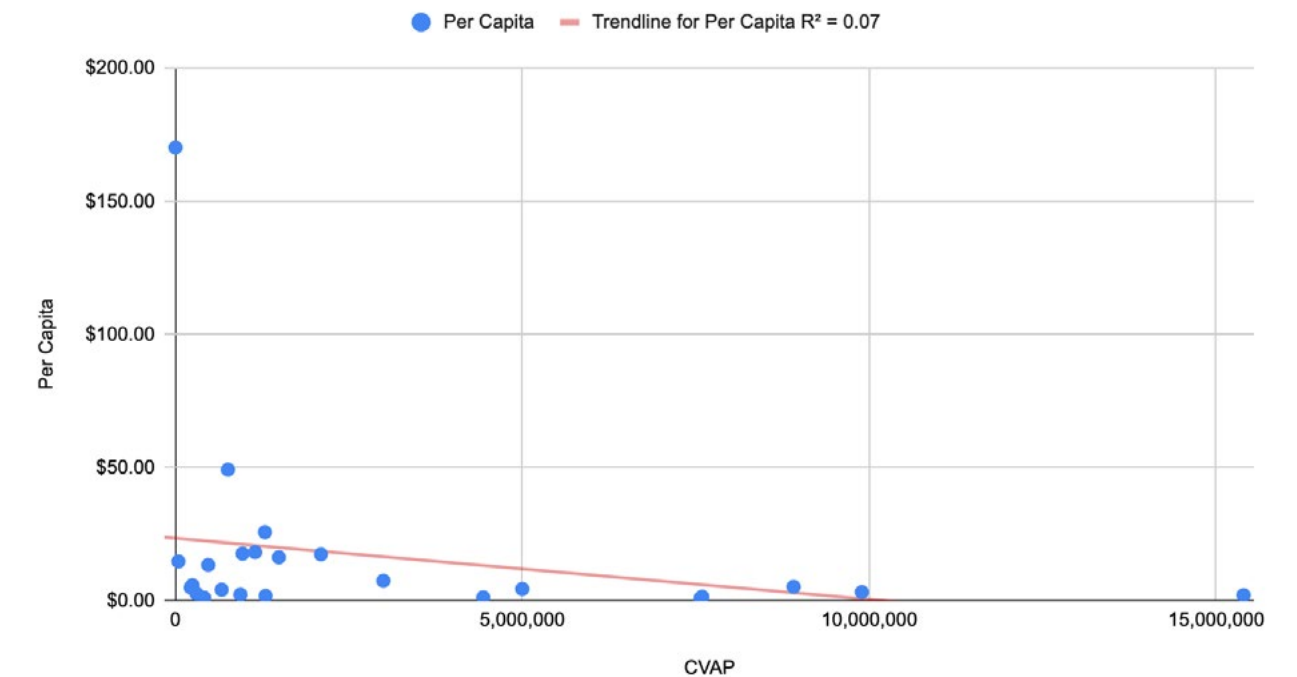
Figure 3: All Jurisdiction Per Capita Comparison

JURISDICTION	CVAP	PER CAPITA	JURISDICTION	CVAP	PER CAPITA
Storey, NV	3,280	\$170.19	Chatham, GA	223,240	\$5.07
Fulton, GA	758,910	\$49.30	Arizona	5,000,090	\$4.55
Broward, FL	1,291,460	\$25.81	Milwaukee, WI	668,020	\$4.26
Philadelphia, PA	1,150,785	\$18.40	Pennsylvania	9,893,015	\$3.36
Cuyahoga, OH	968,395	\$17.82	Pinal, AZ	305,975	\$2.80
Nevada	2,099,150	\$17.57	Oakland, MI	938,195	\$2.44
Clark, NV	1,493,190	\$16.45	Florida	15,394,170	\$2.22
Lawrence, OH	45,460	\$14.90	Wayne, MI	1,300,665	\$1.95
Brevard, FL	474,525	\$13.57	Michigan	7,592,235	\$1.64
Maricopa, AZ	2,998,590	\$7.62	Wisconsin	4,437,215	\$1.38
Luzerne, PA	247,440	\$5.96	Dane, WI	416,410	\$1.24
Ohio	8,909,350	\$5.37	Georgia	7,568,140	\$0.99



Chart 4 – which illustrates the data listed in Figure 3 – shows the per capita funding (y-axis) as a function of CVAP population (x-axis). Most jurisdictions are clustered in the bottom left corner, small populations and small allocations. There is a ceiling at \$50 per voter, with only one jurisdiction, Storey, NV, acting as an outlier. Given the complexity of running elections in large jurisdictions, it would be reasonable to expect that as population size increases, per capita funding for election administration would increase as well. That is not the case in this sample of 24 jurisdictions. The red trendline suggests the opposite: As population increases, per capita funding shrinks. This is not statistically powerful but suggests more research is needed to add to this sample to explore the motivations behind per capita election budgeting at all levels of government.

Chart 4: All Jurisdictions Per Capita Comparison



05 Election Officials Aren't Getting the Funds They Need

In this research, examining budget systems and processes revealed a tension between what elections officials are telling their executive and legislative branches that they need to conduct a healthy election and the response that many seem to receive from budget decision-makers. In many cases, the budget decision-makers are some of the same people who decried the results of the 2020 election and accused elections officials of fraud and deceit. Funding requests from secretaries of state or a county elections clerk, where available, gave this research important information about the

difference between what an elections official believes they need to conduct a healthy election and how that request is met when it reaches a governor's presentation or a legislature's budget committee. Election officials are also dealing with the burden of unfunded mandates. Officials repeatedly mentioned new laws that were passing in the state legislatures that required significant resources from them to comply with. Election Officials have also had to increase their budget and staffing to deal with an increase in litigation and recounts.

06 Most Elections Departments Were Not in a Strong State Prior to 2020

Elections officials, the people who run elections at the state and local level, are responsible to the voters by facilitating access to the ballot while safeguarding the security of the voting process. Unlike other revenue-generating departments — such as the tax collector, police, or building — elections are a cost center. There is no way to charge for elections; that would be unconstitutional. Any dollar spent on an election can never be recovered. Election offices were already facing difficulty in terms of hiring and retaining quality employees. An analysis from Luzerne County, PA, commented that “Inexperience and staff turnover led to Luzerne County's 2022 election debacle.” ([Spotlight PA](#)) One county mentioned that they were

competing with local restaurants for employees. An [analysis](#) from the Brennan Center, “Poll of Election Officials Shows High Turnover Amid Safety Threats and Political Interference,” from April 2023, states, “Our survey shows that election officials are unable to adopt basic physical and cybersecurity measures because they do not have the funds to do so.” [In Nevada, “ten of the state's 17 counties have changed top election officials since 2020. Several left in the months leading up to the pivotal 2022 midterms.”](#) Many elections departments face outdated systems, and the cost to bring even internal computer systems to a reasonable level of security is daunting.

07 Private Donations Make Up a Significant Portion of Election Budgets

With this research, we can see the role that private donations played in bolstering the capacity of elections offices across the country in the 2020 election. For example, in Fulton County, Georgia, in the 2020 election, the difference in what the county budgeted for and what they ended up having to pay to finish the election was more than \$29 million. It looks like a lot of the unplanned cost was covered by COVID funds and unspecified grants—nearly \$15 million. But they also accepted NGO grants of more than \$6 million from pro-democracy non-profit organizations. Since then, Georgia has prohibited the use of private NGO funds for elections.

It is clear, when looking at some of the budgets that share more information about the budget process, that this emergency funding was incorporated into budgets sometimes at the very last minute, because the 2020 projections don't have the funding reflected, but when the actuals are published, a late entry from emergency funding appears.

Unfortunately, state legislatures have reacted negatively, in retrospect, to outside group assistance. Of the eight states in this report, five of them have restricted private dollars from funding elections since 2021. Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania now have prohibitions in place, while Michigan, Nevada, and Wisconsin have not enacted prohibitions. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, since the 2020 election, [nearly half of the states](#) have moved to prohibit or restrict private donations to election systems. Proponents say that accepting private donations could unduly influence an election or let private organizations pick and choose which system they want to function better than others. And, NCSL continues, “Opponents, however, say that elections are chronically underfunded and that such bans may prohibit election offices from using donated resources they have long relied on, such as cybersecurity tools and the use of polling places.”



FURTHER QUESTIONS

As with any research, the more answers that are uncovered, twice as many questions are revealed. This data is ripe for further exploration and a further look could help us understand questions like these:

- Is overall voter turnout higher in places where the elections system is better funded?
- Does a significant amount of funding from the state level, and then allocated to counties, make a better election system? Or does robust county funding, with very light state funding, create a better system?

ABOUT THE DATA

Due to the extensive primary material that was sourced for this report, where possible, sources are linked in the text of the document. Where possible, line-item budgets were examined to determine expenditures on programs and items that directly impact access to voters, such as voting machines, cyber security, and staffing. When individuals or philanthropies donated to support election costs, it is also noted, as well as federal or HAVA funding.

Many elections officials have additional duties or multiple roles they play at the state and county levels. For example, in Arizona the secretary of state is the archival authority and designated repository for historical records. Many county elections officials also record

- Does a lack of state-level funding cause a poor election system? Or can counties find a way to conduct a healthy election without heavy involvement from a secretary of state? If so, what are the factors involved?
- If we identified some key factors that we think would improve the funding of elections—such as a nonpartisan election board that creates the budget—would we see better-functioning elections?

In other words: Which election funding systems make for better-functioning elections?

marriage, death, and birth certificates. This report isolates the budgeting for elections where possible, but in a few states the duties of the office are co-mingled, making a distinction between them impossible without asking the office to prepare separate budget documents. This issue is noted in the data.

This report did not look at city elections, but in many places, the county will manage the election for a city and be reimbursed by the city. Elections at the state, county, and city levels all interact and are funded differently. The only way to know the true cost of elections in an entire state would be to add up the funding up at every level and divide it by the population.

ABOUT THE BUDGET PROCESS

The National Association of State Budget Officers has compiled a [list of budget summaries](#) and important budget dates for state legislatures. While the budget process in a state government is generally clearly laid out and is subject to extensive state laws, county budgets are not typically subject to the same level of regulation and explicit processes, and that can make the county budget process obscure.

Part of this is because counties don't contain two legislative bodies like most legislatures, which adds a degree of healthy debate, and counties aren't generally subject to legislative session laws that exist in many states and require them to begin and end the budget process on a very specific (sometimes down to the hour) timeline.

Whether this is beneficial or not, it can mean that if counties do not have an ordinance requiring a certain process for the budget, they can move timelines and meetings typically as long as they notify the public. They can also change their processes as they see fit. Any engagement with the budget process at a county level should be initiated early, and keeping a close eye on meeting agendas is recommended.

Additionally, when considering where to engage in an election budget process, understanding whether a governor has line-item veto power on the budget should be a factor in the decision-making process.



The budget process in Arizona is very transparent and well documented. A clear record of budget requests from the secretary of state and subsequent funding decisions from the legislature give a clear view into the operation of the election system. Having a former secretary of state now in the governor's office may have resulted in an increase of \$11 million to the secretary of state's budget for FY 2024.

Going back to 2019, Arizona has made several investments in its election systems.

In 2023, they established a Governor's Bipartisan Elections Task Force, and for the 2023 budget they made decisions based on a five-year strategic plan. They also have some history of funding from the federal government, for example the Coronavirus Relief Fund allocated \$6 million to the secretary of state and counties for Coronavirus (COVID-19) response efforts and early voting opportunities for the 2020 elections. But other federal funding has reverted to the federal government. In March 2020, the CARES Act allocated \$7,842,100 for election security grants but ultimately, these CARES Act funds were not appropriated by the legislature and reverted back to the U.S. Treasury due to the federal legislation requiring the monies to be spent before December 3, 2020. In 2021, the state invested in an election systems improvement fund.

Arizona Secretary of State Budget for FY 2019-2024

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$28,631,900	\$23,229,000	\$22,582,500	\$22,748,000	\$32,187,500	N/A
CVAP 5,000,090		PER CAPITA \$4.55			

FY 2024 Requested

General Fund	\$ 31,809,600
Other Appropriated Funds	\$ 3,723,300
Non-Appropriated Funds	\$ 7,027,600
Agency Total	\$42,560,500

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FY 2024 NOTABLE ITEMS

The Executive Budget includes an increase in one-time funding of \$11 million in FY 2024, and an advance appropriation of \$6 million in FY 2025, to address the objectives outlined by the Governor's Bipartisan Elections Task Force to promote transparency in the electoral process and strengthen election laws, policies, and procedures. The Task Force is a bipartisan, collaborative effort among State and local election administrators, election security experts, and voting rights advocates to improve election accessibility, accuracy, and security. The Task Force is chaired by the Governor, and the Secretary of State is a member. This funding comes from the reallocation of the three-year spending plan, which contemplated allocating

\$11 million in FY 2024 and \$6 million in FY 2025 to the Treasurer's Office for election items. This funding has been reallocated to the Secretary of State for the Governor's Bipartisan Elections Task Force.

The Executive Budget includes an increase in one-time funding of \$477,500 in FY 2024, and an advance appropriation of \$477,500 in FY 2025, from the Election Systems Improvement Fund to cover ongoing costs associated with the State's Access Voter Information Database (AVID). The total annual cost is \$955,000. The State is responsible for half of that amount, while the counties collectively are responsible for the remaining half.

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The Executive Budget includes an increase in one-time funding to fulfill statutory responsibilities associated with the Presidential Preference Election (PPE). The statutory responsibilities include county reimbursement, logic and accuracy testing, and petition processing. A.R.S. § 16-250 requires the State to reimburse counties for the cost of executing the PPE at the rate of \$1.25 per active registered voter in the county as of January 2 of the year of the election. Using the average of the historical change in active registered voters and the change during the most recent election cycle, the projected number of active registered voters on January 2, 2024, is approximately 4,628,953. Based on the voter projection and statutory reimbursement rate, the cost associated with reimbursing counties is expected to be approximately \$5.8 million. The reimbursement rate may change if the Secretary of State determines

that the reimbursement rate prescribed by statute would jeopardize the ability of counties to properly execute the PPE. This funding also provides \$40,000 to cover internal costs incurred by the Secretary of State related to logic and accuracy testing. In addition, \$100,000 of this appropriation provides temporary security for the Secretary of State during the election period of the PPE. The Executive Budget contemplates \$4 million in one-time funding in FY 2025 for costs associated with the national and state election."

The Executive Budget includes an increase in one-time funding of \$11 million in FY 2024, and an advance appropriation of \$6 million in FY 2025, to address the objectives outlined by the Governor's Bipartisan Elections Task Force to promote transparency in the electoral process and strengthen election laws, policies, and procedures.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM GOVERNOR KATIE HOBBS FY 2024 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PRESENTATION

Ensuring Fair and Secure Elections

- \$5.9M for the 2024 Presidential Preference Election
- \$1.5M to support the Independent Redistricting Commission’s voter protected duties
- \$2.4M to continue leveraging HAVA funding
 - \$1.9M to provide county subgrants, maintain election security, update infrastructure and equipment, and improve voter education by utilizing the State’s HAVA Election Security Grant award.
 - \$477,500 for the Access Voter Information Database (AVID) for maintenance and operations
- \$11.0M is moved from the Treasurer’s Office to the Secretary of State to address the objectives outlined by the Governor’s Bipartisan Elections Task Force and enhance the accessibility, accuracy, and security of elections.

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FY 2023 Requested

General Fund	\$ 18,603,900
Other Appropriated Funds	\$ 1,770,300
Non-Appropriated Funds	\$ 4,426,000
Agency Total	\$24,800,200

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FY 2023 Enacted

General Fund	\$ 22,237,100
OTHER APPROPRIATED FUNDS	
Election Systems Improvement Fund	\$ 483,500
Records Services Fund	\$ 1,334,900
Other Appropriated Funds	\$ 1,818,400
Appropriated Funds	\$24,055,500
Other Non-Appropriated Funds	\$ 1,992,400
Federal Funds	\$ 6,139,600
Total	\$32,187,500

FTE: 143.1

[Page 378 in pdf/324 in doc](#)

FY 2023 NOTABLE ITEMS

An interesting document that lays out a five-year strategic plan for the secretary of state’s office is [available here](#), page 748. This document details 12 ways that the office intends to improve, which are summarized here:

1. Ensure safe and secure elections.
2. Resolve an issue created when the state legislature allowed the SOS office to have access to legal counsel but did not allocate resources to pay for the position.
3. Upgrade and enhance the IT systems for the secretary of state’s office.
4. Meet current statutory obligations of administering statewide elections.
5. Conduct outreach to communities that have historically low rates of voter registration and/or voting.
6. Archives and records management.
7. Build additional improvements in meeting our business services mandates.
8. Access & Inclusion.
9. Resource development.
10. Preservation of permanent records (related to state library services).
11. There continues to be a low number of participants in the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) from traditionally marginalized and underserved communities. There are not enough Application Assistants within these communities.
12. The Address Confidentiality Program has limited resources available for its program.

FY 2023 APPROPRIATIONS REPORT

Of the amount appropriated to the election security grants line item, the department shall distribute: 1. A total of \$1,000,000 to one or more county recorders to test ballot paper in tabulation systems with specific security features, including watermarks or unique ballot identifiers, or both. The security features shall be used to authenticate the ballot as an official ballot, but may not make the ballot identifiable to a particular elector. The testing shall allow for different sized ballots. Not later than May 1, 2023, the department shall compile a report from the selected counties on recommended ballot security features and submit the report to the president of the senate, speaker of the house of representatives and secretary of state.

[Page 4 in budget units section/
page 58 in combined pdf](#)



ELECTRONIC RECORD STORAGE STUDY

The budget includes \$300,000 from the Secretary of State APF Subaccount in FY 2023 for an electronic record storage feasibility study. FY 2023 adjustments are as follows:

- One-Time Funding
- The budget includes an increase of \$300,000 from the Secretary of State APF Subaccount in FY 2023 for a one-time electronic record storage feasibility study.
- The funding will be used to conduct a feasibility study on how the Secretary of State shall preserve electronic records on behalf of the state in a self-sustaining manner similar to physical record storage.
- The FY 2023 appropriation will be financed from a transfer from the Records Services Fund.

[Page 503 in doc/page 554 in pdf](#)

MAJOR FOOTNOTE CHANGES

Adds footnote specifying \$1,000,000 of the Election Security Grants line item shall be distributed to county recorders to test ballot paper in tabulation systems with specific security features including watermarks and/or a unique ballot identifier. The testing cannot make the ballot identifiable to a particular elector. The department shall distribute funding such that ballot security features and paper shall be tested in at least one county for each ballot tabulation company currently used in the state of Arizona. The department shall report the recommended ballot security features shall be submitted to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and Secretary of State no later than May 1, 2023.

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FY 2022 Requested

General Fund	\$ 13,163,600
Other Appropriated Funds	\$ 1,479,300
Non-Appropriated Funds	\$ 5,304,500
Total	\$19,947,400

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FY 2022 Enacted

General Fund	\$ 12,907,700
OTHER APPROPRIATED FUNDS	
Election Systems Improvement Fund	\$ 192,500
Records Services Fund	\$ 1,296,800
Other Appropriated Funds	\$ 1,479,300
Appropriated Funds	\$ 14,387,000
Other Non-Appropriated Funds	\$ 1,487,900
Federal Funds	\$ 6,873,100
Total	\$22,748,000

FTE: 143.1

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FY 2022 NOTABLE ITEMS

In FY 2022, the Coronavirus Relief Fund allocated “\$6 million to the Secretary of State and counties for COVID-19 response efforts and early voting opportunities for the 2020 elections.”

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The auditor general shall conduct a special audit of financial and related information of any private, nongovernmental grant monies used for this state’s 2020 elections and Maricopa county’s procurement of voting systems. On or before March 31, 2022, the auditor general shall submit a report to the governor, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives on all of the following:

1. Private, non governmental grant monies received and expended by the secretary of state’s office for the 2020 elections and any balance remaining unexpended on June 30, 2021, for the following: (a) Educating voters how to sign up for the permanent early voting list or how to request an early ballot. The report shall include the type of information provided and where the information was provided. (b) Recruiting poll workers. The report shall include where the recruitment was targeted and advertised and the FY 2022 Appropriations Report 267 Legislature – Auditor General requirements for poll worker selection. (c) Combating misinformation and disinformation about the 2020 elections. The report shall include the methods used, the type of information provided and where the information was provided. (d) Personnel and employee-related expenses. The report shall include an analysis of why the monies were used for these specific purposes.

2. Private, nongovernmental grant monies received and expended by Maricopa county on programs and processes for the 2020 elections, including the purpose of the expenditures, the amount spent for personnel and employee-related expenses and any balance remaining unexpended on June 30, 2021. 3. Private, nongovernmental grant monies received and expended by Pima county on programs and processes for the 2020 elections, including the purpose of the expenditures, the amount spent for personnel and employee-related expenses and any balance remaining unexpended on June 30, 2021. 4. Maricopa county’s process to acquire Dominion Voting Systems, including information regarding: (a) Compliance with the county’s procurement code. (b) Agreement terms, including acquisition costs, time frames and machine maintenance and security. (c) The Maricopa county board of supervisors meetings to discuss the acquisition, including any public comment. (d) The security and technical analysis that occurred before the acquisition.

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COVID-19 FEDERAL LEGISLATION – ELECTION FUNDING

In March 2020, the CARES Act allocated \$7,842,100 in election security grants to Arizona for the purpose of preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19 in the FY 2020 federal election cycle. After the technical reallocation of funding by the federal Election Assistance Commission (EAC), Arizona’s final allocation from the CARES Act HAVA grant was \$7,874,800. EAC indicated these funds require a 20% state match. Under the standard HAVA guidelines, this match can be fulfilled through a direct appropriation to SOS or through eligible

in-kind contributions at the state or county level. Ultimately, these CARES Act funds were not appropriated by the Legislature and reverted back to the U.S. Treasury due to the federal legislation requiring the monies to be spent before December 3, 2020. SOS was also allocated monies from the Coronavirus Relief Fund by the Executive in July 2020 (see the Coronavirus Relief Fund – SOS Allocation section below).

[Page 344/page 440 in pdf](#)

FY 2021 Requested

General Fund	\$ 18,236,100
Other Appropriated Funds	\$ 1,210,000
Non-Appropriated Funds	\$ 4,319,700
Total	\$23,765,800

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FY 2021 Enacted

General Fund	\$ 17,263,600
OTHER APPROPRIATED FUNDS	
Election Systems Improvement Fund	\$ 0
Records Services Fund	\$ 744,800
Other Appropriated Funds	\$ 744,800
Appropriated Funds	\$ 18,008,400
Other Non-Appropriated Funds	\$ 1,103,700
Federal Funds	\$ 3,470,400
Total	\$ 22,582,500

FTE: 143.1

[Page 332 in pdf/288 in doc](#)

FY 2021 NOTABLE ITEMS

4/The sum of \$6,690,300 is appropriated from the election systems improvement fund established by section 41-129, Arizona Revised Statutes, in fiscal year 2019-2020 to the secretary of state to be allocated as follows:

- \$5,352,200 shall be distributed to the counties for election systems improvements. Each county shall receive \$50,000 and the remainder of the monies allocated shall be distributed to each county based on the county’s population according to the 2010 United States decennial census.
- \$1,338,100 shall be used by the secretary of state for election systems improvements. Before spending the monies, the secretary of state shall submit an expenditure plan for review by the joint legislative budget committee.

The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating to lapsing of appropriations, until June 30, 2022. (General Appropriation Act footnote)

5/In addition to monies appropriated pursuant to Laws 2019, chapter 263, section 87, the sum of 52,616,900 is appropriated from the state general fund in fiscal year 2019-2020 to the secretary of state to reimburse expenses incurred by counties to administer the 2020 presidential preference election. (General Appropriation Act footnote)

6/The secretary of state shall reimburse counties based on the number of active registered voters in that county on January 2, 2020 as follows:

- For counties with an official active voter registration total of five hundred thousand persons or more, in the amount of the

actual expenses incurred or \$14 for each active registered voter in the county, whichever is less,

- For counties with an official active voter registration total of two hundred thousand persons or more and less than five hundred thousand persons, in the amount of the actual expenses incurred or \$10 for each active registered voter in the county, whichever is less.
- For counties with an official active voter registration total of one hundred thousand persons or more and less than two hundred thousand persons, in the amount of the actual expenses incurred or \$10 for each active registered voter in the county, whichever is less.
- For counties with an official active voter registration total of fifty thousand persons or more and less than one hundred thousand persons, in the amount of the actual expenses incurred or \$2.00 for each active registered voter in the county, whichever is less.
- For counties with an official active voter registration total of twelve thousand persons or more and less than fifty thousand persons, in the amount of the actual expenses incurred or \$2.10 for each active registered voter in the county, whichever is less.
- For counties with an official active voter registration total of less than twelve thousand persons, in the amount of the actual expenses incurred or \$2.40 for each active registered voter in the county, whichever is less.

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OTHER HAVA PROJECTS

The budget includes no funding from the Election Systems Improvement Fund in FY 2021 for this line item. This amount is unchanged from FY 2020.

HAVA is federal election reform legislation from 2002 that imposes several requirements on the states with respect to the conduct of federal elections. Arizona received \$7,463,700 from a new allocation from the federal government in FY 2018 to fulfill projects that further the goals of HAVA or improve election security. Of the \$7,463,700, the FY 2019 budget allocated \$5,400,400 to this line item. The other \$2,063,300 from the allocation is discussed in the next line item.

An FY 2019 General Appropriation Act footnote required SOS to submit an expenditure plan for review by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) for the monies in this line item. On June 18, 2019, JLBC reviewed a revised version of the expenditure plan. The revised expenditure plan included \$2,735,000 for county grants, \$935,800 for voter registration system development costs, and \$211,600 for voter registration database maintenance costs in FY 2020.

Because this appropriation was scheduled to lapse at the end of FY 2020, the budget includes a new footnote extending the lapse date for Other HAVA Projects monies until June 30, 2022, which follows the standard 2-year appropriation schedule for prior HAVA funding.

On June 24, 2020, JLBC reviewed the FY 2021 expenditure plan for these monies, which included voter registration database development costs and county subgrants that had been delayed from FY 2020. In addition, funding was allocated to maintenance costs for the voter registration database and IT security enhancements. This line item only contains funding from the March 2018 HAVA allocation from the federal government and does not include any additional HAVA monies from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 (December 2019 allocation) or the recent March 2020 federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act COVID-19 relief legislation. (For discussion of the 2020 HAVA Supplemental, please see the Other issues section.)

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FY 2020 Requested	
General Fund	\$ 16,892,400
Other Appropriated Funds	\$ 744,400
Non-Appropriated Funds	\$ 4,503,700
Total	\$22,140,500

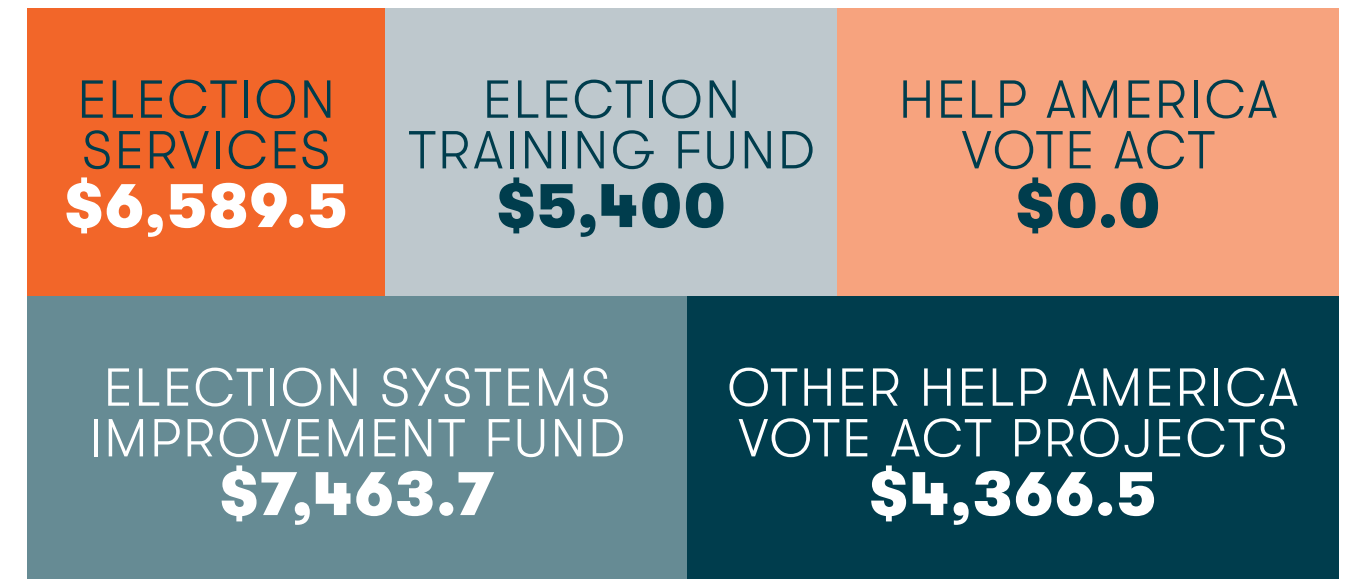
[Page 321](#)

FY 2020 Enacted	
Appropriated General and Other Funds	\$ 18,110,700
Non-Appropriated, Federal, and Other Funds	\$ 5,118,300
Total	\$23,229,000

FTE: 143.1

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FY 2020 NOTABLE ITEMS



REQUEST OF \$300,000

Enhanced Operational Support The Executive Budget includes an increase in funding for three FTE positions in the Secretary of State's Office: one Southern Arizona Director, one Rural Outreach Director, and one Tribal Liaison. The Secretary of State's Office does not have Director-level positions outside of Maricopa County. Expanding the staff to include a Southern Arizona Director and a Rural Outreach Director would allow the office to be more efficient and proactive in working with county and city officials, businesses, and consumers in areas of Arizona outside of Maricopa County. The Southern Arizona Director would be responsible for Tucson and the surrounding areas, while the Rural Outreach Director would be responsible for the northern portion of the state outside of Maricopa County. During elections, these directors would be responsible for working with city and county elections officials to ensure that all issues have been resolved by Election Day. These FTE positions would also be responsible for meeting with the chambers of commerce and business

communities to learn what issues they face in interacting with the Secretary of State's Business Services Division. The Secretary of State's Office has not created a position or designated an employee in the office to consult and work with the tribal nations on areas such as cybersecurity, voting opportunities, and business services. The Tribal Liaison will work with the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations to create partnerships in all divisions of the Secretary of State's Office.

THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND

\$9 million has been allocated to the Secretary of State for COVID-19 response efforts and early voting opportunities for the upcoming elections.

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VOTER FRAUD UNIT

The budget includes \$530,000 and 4 FTE Positions from the CPCF Revolving Fund in FY 2021 for the Voter Fraud Unit. These amounts are unchanged from FY 2020. This line item provides funding for the development of a public complaint process for allegations of voter fraud and for the investigation of those allegations by the Attorney General’s office.

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DIRECTS FUNDING TO COUNTIES FOR ELECTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The sum of \$6,690,300 is appropriated from the election systems improvement fund established by section 4t-129, Arizona Revised Statutes, in fiscal year 2019-2020 to the secretary of state to be allocated as follows:

1. \$5,352,200 shall be distributed to the counties for election systems improvements. Each county shall receive \$50,000 and the remainder of the monies allocated shall be distributed to each county based on the county’s population according to the 2010 United States decennial census.
2. \$1,338,100 shall be used by the secretary of state for election systems improvements. Before spending the monies, the secretary of state shall submit an expenditure plan for review by the joint legislative budget committee.

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FY 2019 Requested

General Fund	\$ 17,028,400
Other Appropriated Funds	\$ 4,295,500
Non-Appropriated Funds	\$ 4,371,500
Total	\$25,695,400

[Page 351](#)

FY 2019 Enacted

Appropriated General and Other Funds	\$ 24,392,400
Non-Appropriated, Federal, and Other Funds	\$ 4,239,500
Total	\$28,631,900

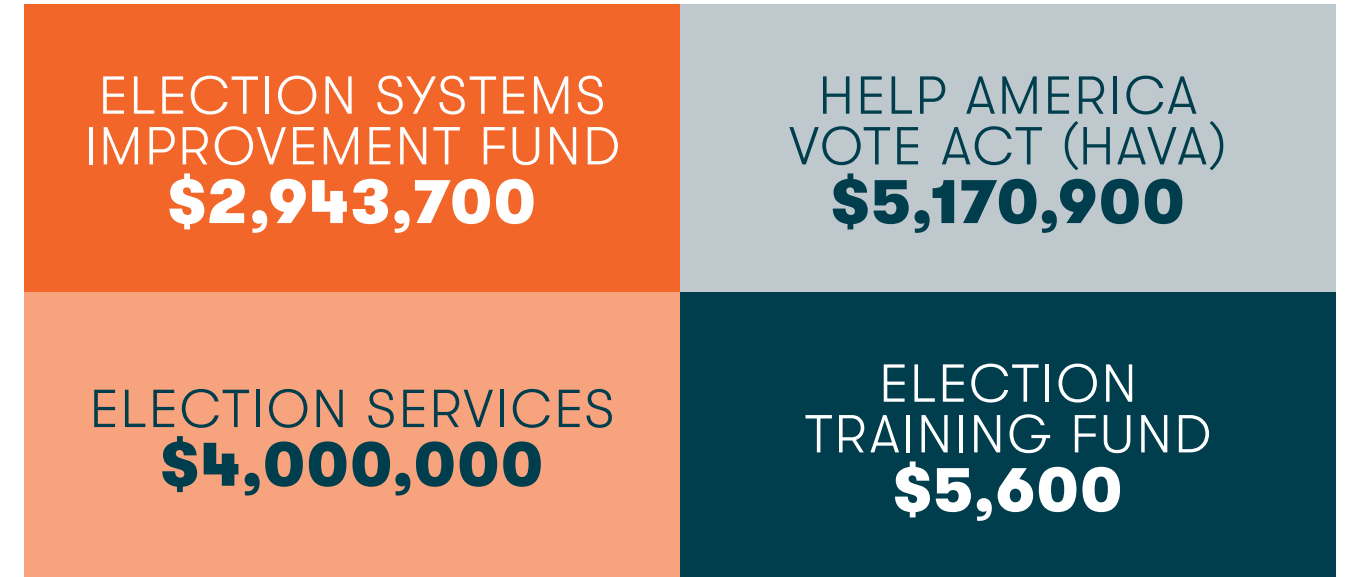
FTE: 141.1

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FY 2019 NOTABLE ITEMS

In the Arizona [FY 2019 Agency Detail Book](#), the secretary of state outlined their agency operating detail beginning on page 351. Under “Major Executive Budget Initiatives and Funding,” they outlined the need for increased funding for the state’s new voter registration database. The report details pain points, including insufficient integration with other registration sources such as Maricopa and Pima counties.

Other notable items in the agency detail book for FY 2019:



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

What kind of problems could a Democratic secretary of state face when asking a Republican governor’s office for increased funding for election?

Does the current budget system have appropriate controls in place to reduce partisanship around voter system budget decisions?

Does having a former secretary of state in the governor’s seat change anything about the budget?

The Arizona secretary of state has an expansive role when compared to some other secretaries of state in other states. An excerpt from the FY 2019 State Agency Budget: “The Department of State is headed by a publicly elected Secretary of State, who serves as Acting Governor in the absence of the Governor and succeeds the Governor should a vacancy occur.” Does this structure affect the budget process in any way?

MARICOPA COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

The Maricopa County budget process is opaque, and budget documents are just topline, with little narrative detail. It is promising that the county set aside \$9 million to replace the faulty printers that failed during the 2022 election, and they do have a pattern of accessing grants.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$22,760,161	\$24,668,318	\$42,001,290	\$22,847,644	\$42,662,599	\$28,729,363
CVAP 2,998,590			PER CAPITA \$7.62		

FY 2024 adopted

GENERAL	
Elections Equipment	\$ 0
Elections Equipment – Operating	\$ 2,500,000
Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 235,000
Operating	\$ 13,311,920
Pri Gen Elec Cycle Spending	\$ 10,069,822
All Appropriations	\$ 26,116,742
ELECTIONS GRANTS	
Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 2,612,621
All Appropriations	\$ 2,612,621
COVID-19 FISCAL RECOVERY	
Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 0
All Appropriations	\$ 0
Total	\$28,729,363

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And to prepare for the 2024 election, supervisors set aside \$10.1 million for the upcoming primary and general elections, as well as the Presidential Preference Election. There's also \$9 million earmarked to replace faulty ballot on-demand printers that failed at voting centers during the 2022 election.

[KJZZ 91.5](#)

FY 2023 revised

GENERAL	
Elections Equipment	\$ 989,785
Elections Equipment – Operating	\$ 2,500,000
Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 250,670
Operating	\$ 12,247,169
Pri Gen Elec Cycle Spending	\$ 23,458,167
All Appropriations	\$ 39,445,791
ELECTIONS GRANTS	
Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 2,760,654
All Appropriations	\$ 2,760,654
COVID-19 FISCAL RECOVERY	
Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 456,154
All Appropriations	\$ 456,154
Total	\$42,662,599

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FY 2022 Revised

GENERAL	
Elections Equipment	\$ 1,979,570
Elections Equipment – Operating	\$ 0
Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 4,801,070
Operating	\$ 11,276,163
Pri Gen Elec Cycle Spending	\$ 1,863,000
All Appropriations	\$ 19,919,803
ELECTIONS GRANTS	
Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 2,927,841
All Appropriations	\$ 2,927,841
Total	\$ 22,847,644

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FY 2021 Revised

GENERAL	
Elections Equipment	\$ 2,261,377
Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 1,345,458
Operating	\$ 9,669,734
Pri Gen Elec Cycle Spending	\$ 17,150,218
All Appropriations	\$ 30,426,787
CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND	
Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 3,319,294
All Appropriations	\$ 3,319,294
ELECTIONS GRANTS	
Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 8,255,209
All Appropriations	\$ 8,255,209
Total	\$42,001,290

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FY 2020 adopted

GENERAL	
Elections Equipment	\$ 2,530,000
Elections IT Equipment	\$ 604,737
Elections IT Financing	\$ 100,622
Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 2,582,614
Operating	\$ 9,801,951
Pri Gen Elec Cycle Spending	\$ 6,051,841
All Appropriations	\$ 21,671,765
ELECTIONS GRANTS	
Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 2,996,553
All Appropriations	\$ 2,996,553
Total	\$ 24,668,318

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Plus additional Elections Equipment – \$4,070,000, page 17

FY 2019 Revised

Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 432,978
Operating	\$ 6,598,805
Pri Gen Elec Cycle Spending	\$ 15,728,378
All Appropriations	\$ 22,760,161

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PINAL COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

This county has had recurring changes in leadership in its elections department. Details about decisions or budget allocations proved difficult to find. Although the recorder position has remained consistently occupied, the elections director role has not. [Turnover is very high](#), with five election directors since 2017, [several resigning under a cloud of controversy](#). They do consistently access HAVA grants.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$1,229,739	\$1,979,005	\$856,436	\$1,563,670	\$2,550,381	\$28,729,363
		CVAP 305,975	PER CAPITA \$2.80		

FY 2024 budgeted

General fund	\$ 2,504,881
HAVA	\$ 45,500
Total	\$2,550,381

[Page 30](#)

FY 2023

General fund	\$ 1,359,584
HAVA	\$ 204,086
Total	\$1,563,670

[Page 28](#)

FY 2022

General fund	\$ 840,936
HAVA	\$ 15,500
Total	\$856,436

[Page 28](#)

FY 2021

General fund	\$ 1,532,694
Misc grants	\$ 166,023
HAVA	\$ 280,287
Total	\$1,979,005

[Page 28](#)

FY 2019/2020

Total grant expenditures (HAVA)	\$ 51,645
Total non-grant expenditures	\$ 1,178,094
Total expenditures	\$1,229,739

[Due to significant issues with management of this elections office, these budgets could be inaccurate.](#)

FLORIDA BUDGET PROCESS | TRANSPARENCY FLORIDA

Two consistent themes in Florida’s elections budget are unfunded mandates and unfilled positions.

Elections in Florida are funded at a state and county level, with the cost of elections largely falling on local property tax payers. Local elections are funded by property tax and revenue from development fees. The state reimburses counties for special elections, but the cost of elections in Florida largely rests on the counties. This puts counties that collect less property tax at a disadvantage when funding state-mandated services, like elections. Furthermore, it appears that cities reimburse counties¹ for managing their municipal elections (see Broward), so there is also some resource allocation from municipalities in Florida as well.

Florida elections are administered by a locally elected supervisor of elections in each county. Their budget requests are submitted to the board of county commissioners and go through a local budget hearing process.

More research is needed to understand the effect of the very low investment in elections from the Department of State, elections division. Because counties have to allocate resources to offset the lack of statewide investment, it would be interesting to look at any disparate effects. This article, published in 2022, [Serving Democracy: Evidence of Voting Resource Disparity in Florida](#), may have more information.

In 2022, the state established an [Office of Elections Crimes and Security](#) which released a [254-page security report](#) in January 2023.

Florida Secretary of State Budget² for FY 2019-2024

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$13,444,018	\$29,675,648	\$15,605,642	\$34,191,782	\$13,640,717	N/A
		CVAP 15,394,170	PER CAPITA \$2.22		

¹ [For future research, this site has links to every county’s website.](#)

² [Elections budgets found here: www.transparencyflorida.gov. Path to find is: General Public > Agency > State, Department of > Elections > Select year](#)

FY 2023-2024

Lease Or Lease-Purchase Of Equipment	\$	29,669
Election Fraud Prevention	\$	446,526
Total		\$13,640,717

FTE: 73.0
Office of Elections Crimes and Security FTE: 16.0
[Transparency Florida Budget](#)

 Submitted for consideration 3/23/23,
 final vote [5/5/23, SB 2500](#).


A [254-page security report](#) from the Florida Department of State Office of Election Crimes and Security published in January 2023 indicates extensive funds spent on investigating election crimes and then tracking data and reporting on it.

While the state lists the FTEs they are funding for, every year, the actual filled positions are stagnant, indicating they are not raising wages in the elections department appropriately. From 2019 to 2023, the department gained only one filled full-time position:

ELECTIONS DEPT.	ESTABLISHED	FILLED	VACANT
2019-2020	56.0	47.0	9.0
2020-2021	52.0	41.0	11.0
2021-2022	52.0	38.0	14.0
2022-2023	67.0	47.0	20.0
2023-2024	73.0	46.0	27.0

And the newly established Office of Elections Crimes and Security shows only half of FTEs are filled:

OFFICE OF ELECTION CRIMES AND SECURITY	ESTABLISHED	FILLED	VACANT
2022-2023	15.00	10.00	5.00
2023-2024	16.0	8.0	8.0

FY 2022-2023

Hava – 2020 Election Security Grant	\$	1,013,388
Grants and Aids – Election Security Grants	\$	6,986,612
Election Fraud Prevention	\$	317,359
Total		\$34,191,782

FTE: 67.00
Office of Elections Crimes and Security FTE: 15.00
[Transparency Florida Budget](#)

FY 2021-2022

HAVA – 2020 Election Security Grant	\$	1,274,969
Grants and Aids – Election Security Grants	\$	3,109,229
Statewide Voter Registration System – HAVA	\$	1,858,598
Total		\$15,605,642

FTE: 52.0
[Transparency Florida Budget](#)


FY 2020-2021

COVID-19 – Public Assistance – State Operations	\$	553,000
Election Fraud Prevention	\$	284,905
Grants and Aids – COVID-19 – State and Local Governments	\$	17,425,795
HAVA – 2020 Election Security Grant	\$	1,859,276
Statewide Voter Registration System – HAVA		
Total		\$ 27,816,372

FTE: 52.00
[Transparency Florida Budget](#)

FY 2019-2020

Voting System Assistance	\$	513,385
Grants and Aids – Election Security Grants	\$	2,493,669
HAVA	\$	2,403,387
Total		\$ 13,444,018

FTE: 56.0
[Transparency Florida Budget](#)
UNFUNDED MANDATES

Despite conducting a seemingly flawless presidential election last year, the law known as Senate Bill 90 changes how elections in Florida will be handled, including controversial changes involving ballot drop-off boxes and vote-by-mail ballots.

In a survey of supervisors of elections offices across Florida, a dozen respondents confirmed they expected to spend a combined total of \$164,390 more next year to meet the new law's requirements.

[New Election Law Adds New Financial Costs for Some Florida Counties, WUSF, October 15, 2021.](#)

BROWARD COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

This is a relatively opaque budget. Typically when in a budget process at least some documents are available but they have not approved the 2023-2024 budget and so would not release it.

When compared to other counties, this is a high allocation per capita, which demonstrates how much the county is making up for the very low investment from the state. But even with the state of Florida investing only \$2.22 in the same population it is still a high number compared to other counties and states.

The county is also reimbursed for the cost of administering municipal elections. There is no indication they have accessed any HAVA funds, or CARES funds in 2020.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$27,286,611	\$28,112,787	\$33,048,487	\$33,327,539	N/A	\$28,729,363
		CVAP 1,291,460	PER CAPITA \$25.81		

FY 2023-2024

Broward County did not release a report even after a PRR, because the budget has not been approved.

FY 2022-2023

Capital Special Projects	\$ 972,217
November 2022 General Election	\$ 12,697,700
March 2023 Municipal Election	\$ 500,900
Expenses	\$ 19,156,722
Total	\$33,327,539

The [2022-2023 Proposed Budget Presentation](#) from the supervisor of elections, dated May 10, 2022, has several items of note:

1. Voter List Maintenance: \$800,000
2. Capital Equipment: \$5,002,700
3. According to page 6 in this presentation, when cities in Broward County hold their municipal elections, the county administers the elections, and the county is reimbursed 100% by the cities.
4. Adopted budget for 2018 gubernatorial November general election was \$9.3 million; actual expenses were \$10.6 million, which includes recount expenses.
5. \$5,002,700 to replace 735 DS200. This represents Year 1 of a 2-year capital replacement plan of 1,500 machines (estimated \$10 million total).

FY 2021-2022

Capital/special projects	\$ 3,033,629
November 2021 Special Primary Election	\$ 4,415,600
January 2022 Special General Election	\$ 4,415,600
March 2022 Municipal Election	\$ 313,900
August 2022 Primary Election	\$ 7,218,300
Expenses	\$ 13,651,456
Total	\$33,048,486

FY 2020-2021

Capital/Special Projects	\$ 1,859,467
November 2020 General Election	\$ 14,668,699
March 2021 Municipal	\$ 375,300
Expenses	\$ 11,209,319
Total	\$ 28,112,786

FY 2019-2020

Capital/Special Projects	\$ 4,038,431
March 2020 PPP Election	\$ 6,494,000
March 2020 Municipal	\$ 66,000
August 2020 Primary Election	\$ 7,435,000
Expenses	\$ 9,253,180
Total	\$27,286,611



BREVARD COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

Between 2019 and 2023, the budget for elections was relatively flat. The FY 2023-2024 budget request is nearly \$1.3 million more than what was allocated in the previous year. The supervisor listed several reasons for this in his request, including a 21% increase in early voting, and continued litigation requiring recounts. The elections supervisor also argued for additional funding due to unfunded mandates from the Florida Legislature, in addition to the cost of recounts. HAVA funding is indicated in the 2019-2020 cycle only.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$5,261,298	\$6,726,631	\$6,022,787	\$6,441,087	\$6,549,448	\$7,820,283
		CVAP 474,525	PER CAPITA \$13.57		

FY 2023-2024

Total **\$ 7,820,283**

[Supervisor of Elections Budget, under Charter Officers on the county website'](#)

FY 2022-2023 Adopted

Total **\$ 6,549,448**

[FY 2022-2023 Budget](#)

In 2023, the Brevard County Elections Supervisor, Tim Bobanic, who was appointed by Governor DeSantis and is currently running for election to keep his seat in 2024, is working to increase the elections budget but is facing accusations of lack of transparency.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PROPOSED BREVARD COUNTY BUDGET FOR FY 2023-2024

Overview:

- The budget request for FY 2023-2024 is for \$7,820,283 representing a 19.40% increase, or \$1,270,835 over the current year's budget.
- Ever-increasing legislative and judicial unfunded mandates, costs associated with increased cybersecurity measures, Florida Retirement System increases, USPS postal rate increases, combined with continued growth in Brevard's voter rolls continue to adversely impact the budget.

Legislative Unfunded Mandates:

- 96-page election reform bill, signed into law on May 24, 2023 — unfunded legislative mandate



HIGHLIGHTS FROM PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2023-2024 SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

- Early voting increased 21% in the last two general election cycles.
- Adding two polling places due to election day voting trends.
- Continued litigation that requires recounts and contested elections that increase litigation costs.
- Implementation of SB90 that requires secure ballot intake stations at all branch offices and early voting sites be monitored by an employee of the Supervisor's office when available to the public.
- Due to the 2023 Election Reform Bill (they don't mention a bill number), elections staff must provide information weekly to supervisors (of elections?) on voters who may have become ineligible to vote, based on several criteria, including felony convictions, committed to Florida Commission on Offender Review custody, deceased persons, persons deemed mentally incompetent, removed from the FL driver's license database, etc. This appears to be an unfunded mandate requiring an additional position.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

Significant unfunded mandates from both the legislature and judicial branch have negatively impacted both the budget and space needs of this office. Supply chain issues associated with the national paper shortage (expected to last through 2024) have driven up paper costs exponentially. Employee shortages, including temporary, permanent, and poll worker, have prompted the need to adjust pay rates commensurate with county and federal wage and labor minimums. And USPS increases, combined with continued growth in Brevard's voter rolls, all negatively impact this budget.

Budget Considerations — Legislative & Judicial Unfunded Mandates:

- 288-page federal court order, signed on March 31, containing statewide unfunded judicial mandates.
- Implementation of election reform legislation, signed into law on April 25, 2022, containing numerous and costly unfunded legislative mandates.

- Statewide Litigation Settlement with the Florida Council of the Blind, Inc., requiring the purchase and operation of an ADA Accessible Vote-by-Mail System

Additional Budget Considerations:

- 79% increase in early voting since 2018 (prompting the need for additional equipment/poll workers).
- 63% increase in vote-by-mail since 2018 (prompting the dire need for larger administrative space due to the purchase of additional equipment necessary to meet this increase, the additional permanent/temporary labor needed to facilitate the increase, and space needed to provide the public with transparency to the process, as required by state law).
- Ever-increasing voter rolls (7% increase since 2018).

[FY 2022-2023](#)

FY 2021-2022 Adopted

Total **\$ 6,441,087**

[FY 2021-2022 Budget](#)

FY 2021-2022

- Written budget request not available for 2021-2022
- No CARES Act, no HAVA indicated

[FY 2021-2022 Budget](#)

FY 2020-2021 Adopted

Total **\$ 6,022,787**

[FY 2020-2021 Budget](#)

FY 2020-2021

- Written budget request not available for 2021-2022
- Indicates no HAVA funds in 2021-2022
- \$322,378 from CARES Act

[FY 2020-2021 Budget](#)

FY 2019-2020 Adopted

- Original adopted budget shows expenditures of \$6,616,358 and no HAVA
 - But the 2020-2021 budget document shows this for 2019-2020:
- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| HAVA grant | \$ 75,060 |
| Total | \$ 6,726,630 |

[FY 2019-2020 Budget](#)

No HAVA or other grants noted after this 2019-2020 budget cycle.

FY 2018-2019 Adopted

Total **\$ 5,261,298**

[FY 2018-2019 Budget](#)

For a state budget, the information available about the budget is sparse.

The governor can line-item veto the budget and recently removed \$575,000.00 in appropriations to the secretary of state that the legislature sent to his desk for passage. In the 2024 budget, they allocated \$513,018 to establish the State Election Board as a budget program.

Georgia has a very small allocation of funding per voting-age person at only \$.99.

It appears the state does access some federal funds for elections.

Georgia Secretary of State Budget for FY 2019-2024:

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$6,079,975	\$6,118,907	\$6,046,849	\$7,528,161	\$7,816,652	\$8,470,966
CVAP 7,568,140			PER CAPITA \$0.99		

* [Georgia budgets are found here: Budget In Briefs](#)

FY 2024

State General Funds	\$ 7,870,966
Federal Funds Not Specifically Identified	\$ 550,000
Other Funds	\$ 50,000
Total	\$ 8,470,966

[FY 2024 Budget in Briefs report, page 359](#)

VETOES BY THE GOVERNOR HB 19 — FY 2024 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

These portions of the budget was vetoed by the governor:

Section 43, pertaining to the Secretary of State, page 211, line 316.6:

The General Assembly seeks to appropriate \$550,000 in state general funds to the Secretary of State for the Elections program for one-time funding for on-boarding local election entities to a data plan contract.

Funding for data plan contracts for elections equipment is the responsibility of local governments. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 316.6.

Section 43, pertaining to the Secretary of State, page 214, line 321.4:

The General Assembly seeks to appropriate \$25,000 in state general funds to the Secretary of State for the State Elections Board program to design a website and for ancillary services. SB 222 established the State Elections Board, and the Board should utilize other funding provided for ongoing expenses and evaluate one-time funding after determining operational needs. Therefore, the agency is directed to disregard the language included in line 321.4.

[FY 2024 Budget in Brief, page 23, referring to FY 2023](#)



Despite a 21.8% increase in the number of registered voters from 2008 to 2019, the full-time headcount of my office is a 9% decrease from FY 2008-2009 and a payroll/benefits budget decrease of 4.8%. During this time, Early Voting hours were expanded, the number of Early Voting sites doubled, and voters taking advantage of voting by mail grew by 66%.

A recent federal judicial order requires all 67 Florida Supervisors of Elections to provide Spanish language official ballots and voting materials.

The FY 2019-2020 budget is \$6,705,701, a \$961,877 (16.75%) increase over FY 2018-2019.

The capital budget includes the purchase of 10 additional ballot-on-demand printers necessary due to the increasing number of early voters.

[FY 2019-2020 Budget](#)

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Under Secretary of State, Elections, Recommended Changes:

Increase funds to provide a \$2,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees effective July 1, 2023 to address agency recruitment and retention needs. (page 330)

\$513,018

to establish the State Election Board as a budget program (page 32 in doc/40 in pdf)

FY 2022, page 302: Reflect the continued use of \$10,826,464 in federal funds for election security grants as authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

FY 2023

State General Funds	\$ 7,216,652
Federal Funds Not Specifically Identified	\$ 550,000
Other Funds	\$ 50,000
Total	\$ 7,816,652

FY 2023 Budget in Briefs report, page 370

FY 2022

State General Funds	\$ 6,928,161
Federal Funds Not Specifically Identified	\$ 550,000
Other Funds	\$ 50,000
Total	\$ 7,528,161

FY 2022 Budget in Briefs report, page 305

FY 2021 Amended

State General Funds	\$ 5,446,849
Federal Funds Not Specifically Identified	\$ 550,000
Other Funds	\$ 50,000
Total	\$6,046,849

FY 2022 Budget in Briefs report, page 305

FY 2020

State General Funds	\$ 5,518,907
Federal Funds Not Specifically Identified	\$ 550,000
Other Funds	\$ 50,000
Total	\$ 6,118,907

FY 2020 Budget in Briefs report, page 330

FY 2019 Amended

State General Funds	\$ 5,479,975
Federal Funds Not Specifically Identified	\$ 550,000
Other Funds	\$ 50,000
Total	\$ 6,079,975

FY 2020 Budget in Briefs report, page 330

FULTON COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

The budget documents for this county are very opaque, except for the year 2022. Typical line items are not found in most of the budgets.

It does seem that elected county officials are responding to future needs and put \$15 million in reserve for elections, but they note that \$15 million will not be enough to cover the 2024 elections.

The 2023 budget mentions the need for additional funding to comply with new legislation.

Disparities found in what the county budgeted for and what occurred in 2020 are very extreme — over \$29 million in difference. It looks like a lot of the unplanned cost was covered by COVID

funds and unspecified grants — nearly \$15 million.

In 2020, they accepted NGO grants, including \$85 thousand from the Southern Poverty Law Center and more than \$6 million from the Center for Tech and Civic Life. Since then, the state has prohibited the use of private NGO funds for elections.

Unique to any budgets seen in this report, in 2020 they documented Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the performance of the elections office. Performance on resolution of phone calls from voters and speed of processing voter registrations were tracked.

Fulton County Elections Budget

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$2,307,401	\$15,126,010	\$10,009,766	\$37,417,753	\$7,603,767	\$8,470,966
CVAP 758,910			PER CAPITA \$49.30		

Budget — Fulton County



FY 2023

FINAL ADOPTED BUDGET BOOKLET

~\$1.1 million in election-related software and hardware. Detailed list on page 93/94.

(It is unclear if this \$1.1 million is paid out of a separate fund.)

Total: \$7,603,767 (page 45)

ELECTIONS: ADDITIONAL \$15 MILLION

The County will reserve \$15 million in Non-Agency for the Registration and Elections Department. This is a decrease of \$18 million dollars [sic] from 2022 because 2023 is a non-general election year. It is important to note that \$15 million dollars [sic] will be insufficient to fund the 2024 election cycle. For the 2023 year, the available resources will be used primarily to fund only one special called countywide election, if necessary, equipment licenses, warranties and associated expenditures as required. All costs associated with conducting municipal elections will be at cost and billed to the associated municipality, if requested.

A resolution will be submitted for legislative action by the Board of Commissioners. In an effort to standardize the Registration and Elections operations and activities, a thorough review and analysis is being performed utilizing full cycle data of polling locations, staffing, and utilization to determine adjustments as needed and compliance with SB202. The purpose is to provide a crisp budget of required resources for the current and future years. Additional resources are allocated to complete the progress of the Warehouse Consolidation initiative utilized partially by Registration and Elections. (page 8)

REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS: \$552,198

An increase of \$400 (recurring) in the budget for required membership fees for managers.

An increase of \$35,000 (non-recurring) in the budget for required training certifications for Election managers.

An increase of \$516,798 (recurring) to cover ongoing extended warranty costs for Dominion equipment. (page 15)

CARRYFORWARD EXPENDITURES FOR INVOICES NOT PAID IN 2022

1. Increase in the budget for the Department of Registration and Elections by \$2,600,000 (non-recurring)

Action Required: Request is being made to the Board of Commissioners to increase the budget of the Registration and Elections Department by \$2,600,000. This funding will provide additional resources to pay for contractual obligations including invoices and poll worker payments not paid by the end of the year.

FY 2022

Administration	\$ 4,686,225*
Primary	\$ 10,475,096
Primary Runoff General Runoff	\$ 9,852,568
Gubernatorial Election	\$ 12,403,864

Total \$ 37,417,753

*This information is taken from a budget that was requested by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners and has significantly more detail than typically seen.

FY 2020-2023 (JANUARY)

ELECTION CYCLE REPORT

In January 2022, the board of commissioners asked for a full accounting of the 2020 election cycle costs. This report reveals some very large disparities (more than \$29 million) between what was in the FY 2020 budget book as reported above.

FY 2020-2021 (January) Election Cycle

DESCRIPTION OF COSTS CENTER	GENERAL FUND	CARE	GRANT	CAPITAL	GRAND TOTAL
Administration 2020	\$3,323,441	\$1,487,342	-	-	\$4,810,783
June 2020	\$4,675,199	-	-	-	4,675,199
August 2020	\$4,421,738	\$212,002	\$26,471	-	\$4,660,211
September 2020	\$981,077	-	313,048	-	\$1,294,125
November 2020 (Some costs paid in 2021)	\$6,140,024	-	\$3,914,429	-	\$10,054,453
December 2020 (Some costs paid in 2021)	\$1,417,177	\$356,857	\$1,000,400	-	\$2,774,434
Audit 2020 (Some costs paid in 2021)	\$719,030	\$188,438	-	-	\$907,468
January 2021 (Cost paid in 2021)	\$3,449,051	-	\$3,624,225	-	\$7,073,277
Capital Investment	-	\$3,561,743	-	\$4,460,223	\$8,021,966
GRAND TOTAL	\$25,126,736*	\$5,806,382	\$ 8,878,573	\$4,460,223	\$44,271,915

*Includes 2020 and 2021 expenses for the January 5, 2021, election.



\$18.4 MILLION
GENERAL FUND
FY 2020 COSTS

\$6.7 MILLION
GENERAL FUND FY 2021
COSTS — JANUARY 5

2022

In a document titled “Budget Information 2022 — Registration and Elections,” the elections department was asked to provide extensive budget details to the board of commissioners.

This 17-page document has very detailed information that is rarely seen in county budgets. While it’s not the most recent information on the budget, it contains information about rental equipment and staffing salaries, and it appears the county requests \$300,000 for every election mentioned in this document to conduct a “Risk Limiting Audit” that includes staff for a hand count and a recount.

FY 2021

\$6,309,436

Grant from Center for Tech and Civic Life — Safe Election Administration (page 211)

\$85,000

Grant from Southern Poverty Law Center — 2020 Election (page 211)

\$10,009,766

Total

* Adopted budget book, page 145.

** This budget has no additional line-item information.

2021

Operational Stability — Approximately \$46 million was used to purchase personal protective equipment, to deploy resources for a virtual workforce, mitigate risks and needs for residents during the elections season and other response related programs.” (page 39)

During 2020 the Fulton County Registrations and Elections department experienced one of the most active election seasons on record. The department was responsible for running five elections, including a presidential primary election in June and the presidential general election in November. The results of the

November election triggered a recount and a runoff in January 2021. During the November election, the County experienced one of the highest records of voter engagement with voter turnout reaching approximately 65% (votes), despite the ongoing pandemic and the need to manage and train workers on new voting equipment.” (page 41)

The County allocated an additional \$6.5 million (in recurring and non-recurring funds) to the Registration and Elections Department in preparation for the January 2021 US Senate runoff election.” (page 48)

FY 2020 (ADOPTED BUDGET BOOK)

Report narrates ~\$12 million allocated for the presidential election, ~\$4 million for “peripheral voting equipment,” and \$800,000 for enhancing manpower geared toward voter outreach efforts in fall of 2019. (page 47)

Total: \$15,126,010

2020 FINAL BUDGET BOOK

During 2019, our Registrations and Elections department was closely involved in conversations with the State regarding the replacement of all electronic voting machines. The Department will take ownership of the machines in December. Additionally, the County dedicated \$4 million in funding to purchase equipment to supplement the Registrations and Elections operation. This equipment is expected to enhance overall security and improve the Department’s community outreach efforts. Also, in preparation for a busy presidential election cycle, the Department was provided

with additional positions to assist with voter registration, field operations, and community outreach functions.

In anticipation of a busy presidential election season, the Department of Registrations and Elections will receive an additional allocation of \$12 million to ensure the successful deployment, operation, and oversight of the electoral process. (page 41)

This budget document also has documented KPIs for the performance of the elections office. Performance on resolution of phone calls from voters and speed of processing voter registrations are tracked. (page 468)

FY 2019

This report details ~\$275,000 in spending on election IT systems.

Total: \$2,307,401

CHATHAM COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

The budget documents that were requested from Chatham County had several vague line items such as “professional services” with significant expenditures. The budgets from this county are rudimentary, but they did include the source of over \$1.1 million in grants in 2021 to Chatham County. This is one of the only budgets that mentioned private NGO funders by name, Fulton County, GA, also mentions grantors. Since then, the state has prohibited the use of private NGO funds for elections.

In 2019, 2020 and 2021, Chatham County was spending \$200-250K on temporary employees, and then in 2022, the budget reflects a significant shift over to regular employees and poll workers.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
N/A	\$1,137,702	\$1,576,403	\$1,132,849	\$1,750,962	\$1,961,836
		CVAP 223,240	PER CAPITA \$5.07		

FY 2023

Regular Employees	\$ 536,930
Temporary Employees	\$ 0
Temporary Employees – Poll Workers	\$ 307,768
Education and Training	\$ 4427
Internal SVC – Safety	\$ 1,350
Total	\$ 1,961,836

\$0 was budgeted, and \$0 was spent

FY 2022

Regular Employees	\$ 276,727
Temporary Employees	\$ 0
Temporary Employees – Poll Workers	\$ 509,548
Education and Training	\$ 5,170
Internal SVC – Safety	\$ 1,800
Total	\$1,750,962

FY 2021

Regular Employees	\$ 255,969
Temporary Employees	\$ 1,370
Temporary Employees – Poll Workers	\$ 520,231
Education and Training	\$ 500
Internal SVC – Safety	\$ 88,160
Total	\$1,576,403

Three grants are listed in a separate document for 2021:

FY 2021 Grants

CENTER FOR TECH AND CIVIC LIFE (two different, unidentified projects)	\$ 572,264
	\$ 458,522
USC SCHWARZENEGGER INSTITUTE	\$ 100,000
Secure the Vote	\$ 2,063
Total	\$ 1,132,849

FY 2020

Regular Employees	\$ 231,243
Temporary Employees	\$ 136,250
Temporary Employees – Poll Workers	\$ 346,282
Education and Training	\$ 5,060
Internal SVC – Safety	\$ 1,800
Total	\$1,137,702

This budget document is just 47 line-item expenditures on two pages with nothing totaled or subtotaled at the bottom. A few salient data points were pulled:

FY 2019

Regular Employees	\$ 217,979
Temporary Employees	\$ 82,708
Temporary Employees – Poll Workers	\$ 272,287
Education and Training	\$ 3,110
Internal SVC – Safety	\$ 1,800



The Michigan Department of States functions include the supervision of statewide elections and the administration of state election laws. It also includes administering Michigan’s motor vehicle programs across the state. Key services include vehicle registration and titling, and operator licensing.

Because the Department of State manages the election process as well as the motor vehicle functions, and the budget does not delineate the funding to election services (except in 2019), this budget data should be assessed with that in mind.

The state made big investments in their elections system in 2020, which might account for the big increase in funding that year.

The state also accessed CARES and HAVA funding in 2020.

Michigan Secretary of State Budget for FY 2019-2024:

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$7,063,400	\$22,967,500	\$19,087,200	\$12,435,600	\$13,746,600	N/A
		CVAP 7,592,235	PER CAPITA \$1.64		

<u>2023 Total</u>	<u>2022 Total</u>	<u>2021 Total</u>
\$13,746,600	\$12,435,600	\$19,087,200

2021

Michigan has not prohibited or limited NGO donations to election offices, but in 2021, a bill that would have prohibited it was passed by the legislature and later vetoed.

2020 Executive Budget

\$7.8 MILLION

for Election Services to provide assistance at the county level, affecting 5,000 precincts statewide and over 7.5 million registered voters in Michigan.

\$4,616.6

Implementation of Proposal 2 – Redistricting Commission

\$200.00

Elections Compliance Core Systems Contract Increase

\$7.8 MILLION

for Election Services to provide assistance at the county level, affecting 5,000 precincts statewide and over 7.5 million registered voters in Michigan.” [\(page B-644\)](#)

\$5 MILLION

The governor’s recommended budget includes funding to implement constitutional changes approved by Michigan’s voters in November 2018:

\$5 million to begin implementation of Proposals 2018-2 and 2018-3 (general fund). These funds are recommended as a fiscal year 2019 supplemental appropriation. Proposal 2018-2 established an independent citizens commission to draw legislative and congressional maps. Proposal 2018-3 added voting rights provisions to the Michigan constitution, including same-day registration, no-excuse absentee voting, and straight party voting. [\(page B-63\)](#)

FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING

ELECTION SECURITY

Federal	\$ 12,053,705
State Match	\$ 2,410,741

CARES

Federal	\$ 11,299,561
State Match	\$ 2,259,912

FY 2020 TOTAL

\$22,967,500

2019 Executive Budget

The governor’s recommendation includes a fiscal year 2018 supplemental request of \$4 million in interest earnings on previously appropriated federal funds. These resources will be used for the purchase and replacement of uniform voting equipment statewide.

The secretary of state convened an [Election Security Advisory Commission](#).

WAYNE COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

This county has a low per capita amount and doesn't appear to have accessed any grants, except in 2019-2020. The "State Grants and Contracts" in 2019-2020 for \$550,000 is described as a "State Grant Award for Presidential Election" expenses. It's unclear if this is a HAVA grant or a grant from a private entity. Could also just be an allocation from the state level.

According to [NCSL](#), Michigan is not one of the states that recently passed laws prohibiting the use of granted funds to help conduct elections, but a bill to prohibit did move through the legislature. The NCSL report links to the bill that was vetoed in 2021 in [Michigan](#) that would have prevented use of philanthropic funds.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$2,739,135	N/A	\$2,530,563	\$2,541,446	N/A	N/A
		CVAP 1,300,665	PER CAPITA \$1.95		

[Projected Budget for County Elections 2022-2023](#) (found in the 2021-2022 budget doc, page 155 in pdf)

Revenue	
State Grants and Contracts	\$ 0
Charges, Fees, and Fines	\$ 99,496
Total	\$ 99,496
Expenditures	
Personnel	\$ 648,548
Fringe Benefits	\$ 157,630
Pension	\$ 110,741
Materials and Supplies	\$ 765,800
Services and Contractual Services	\$ 738,435
Travel	\$ 2,188
Operating Expenses	\$ 22,410
Rentals	\$ 53,394
Other Charges	\$ 6,000
Non Capital Assets	\$ 36,300
Total	\$2,541,446

[Adopted Budget for County Elections 2021-2022](#) (page 155)

Revenues	
State Grants and Contracts	\$ 0
Charges, Fees, and Fines	\$ 96,028
Total	\$ 96,028
Expenditures	
Personnel	\$ 648,548
Fringe Benefits	\$ 149,950
Pension	\$ 108,008
Materials and Supplies	\$ 765,800
Services and Contractual Services	\$ 739,658
Travel	\$ 2,188
Operating Expenses	\$ 20,947
Rentals	\$ 53,394
Other Charges	\$ 5,770
Non Capital Assets	\$ 36,300
Total	\$2,530,563

NOTES ON ADOPTED FY 2020-2021 (PAGE 154)

The County Clerk has just selected a new county-wide elections system – the Dominion Voting System. The Clerk's Election Division administered the Nov. 7th 2017 Consolidated Election as well as the May 8th, Special and the August 7th Primary Elections successfully and efficiently. All related jurisdictional reimbursements to the County, for the administration, canvassing and recounts related to the November Elections expenses have been made to the County, while that of the May Special and August Primary will be paid in due course.

A new state of the art Campaign Finance Reporting and Disclosure System has now been deployed and is being used for the County's Campaign Finance operations. The system has just been updated to accommodate many recent changes in the State's Campaign Finance Law. A new provision has been made by the County Clerk's Office, for the provision of Custom Voter Reports to customers who need the product.

[Adopted Budget for County Elections 2019-2020](#) (page 166)

Revenues	
State Grants and Contracts	\$ 550,000
Charges, Fees, and Fines	\$ 156,170
Total	\$ 706,170
Expenditures	
Personnel	\$ 631,915
Fringe Benefits	\$ 122,517
Pension	\$ 103,851
Materials and Supplies	\$ 1,164,283
Services and Contractual Services	\$ 583,620
Travel	\$ 16,188
Operating Expenses	\$ 17,650
Rentals	\$ 62,041
Other Charges	\$ 5,770
Non Capital Assets	\$ 31,300
Total	\$2,739,135

Notes on Adopted budget for 2019-2020 (page 165)

Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Accomplishments and Highlights

The County Clerk has just selected a new county-wide elections system – the Dominion Voting System. [...]

The Clerk's Operation has been adversely impacted by the many unfilled positions which as a result of the prevailing Executive Order, freezing departmental expenditures, could not be filled. These unfilled vacancies are causing backlogs and failure to meet deadlines and thereby, negatively impacting the Clerk's ability to provide the mandate services at the levels mandated.



OAKLAND COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

Budget documents from the Elections Division do not include a narrative portion, so any stress on the election system due to low per capita investment isn't apparent.

The budget does not indicate any grant monies, and since 2020, the budget has been almost the same.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$1,217,886	\$2,011,864	\$2,055,951	\$2,292,684	\$2,122,307	\$2,372,954
CVAP 938,195		PER CAPITA \$2.44			

BUDGETS – TOTAL EXPENDITURES

<u>2025 Adopted</u> \$2,150,254	<u>2021 Actual</u> \$2,055,951
<u>2024 Adopted</u> \$2,372,954	<u>2020 Actual</u> \$2,011,864
<u>2023 Adopted</u> \$2,122,307	<u>2019 Actual</u> \$1,217,886
<u>2022 Adopted</u> \$2,292,684	

No grants to elections were found in these budgets.

NEVADA BUDGET PROCESS

In March 2023, Secretary of State Cisco Aguila made a budget request of more than \$45 million to the legislature. The request included funding for updates to voter registration and elections and business licensing.

Nevada does consistently access HAVA funding; in fact, their budget documents have an entire section dedicated to tracking HAVA funds. Instead of leaving the counties to fund the majority of the work like some states, budget documents indicate they are partners and share the workload — elections offices in some counties have their own line item within the secretary of state's budget.

Private grants to elections offices are not prohibited in Nevada, but it doesn't appear they have accepted any private grants.

Nevada Secretary of State Budget for FY 2019-2024

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$22,066,093	\$20,542,996	N/A	N/A	\$36,883,711	\$33,492,189
CVAP 2,099,150		PER CAPITA \$17.57			

Fiscal Budgets

2024-2025

Legislatively Approved SOS Budget 2024-2025 (page 534)

Total SOS **\$ 26,145,413**

FTE: 140.00

2024-2025 HAVA Election Reform Budget (page 548)

Personnel Services	\$ 400,099
Operating	\$ 2,170
Voting Machine Replacement	\$ 828,554
Homeland Security Grant	\$ 128,160
Statewide Voter Registration	\$ 0
Administration of Elections	\$ 40,863
HAVA Cares Act Grant	\$ 0
Information Services	\$ 3,750
HAVA Title I Reserve	\$ 5,942,574
Purchasing Assessment	\$ 606
Total Budget Expenditures	\$ 7,346,776

FTE: 4.0

TOTAL 2024-2025 HAVA & SOS
\$33,492,189

MARCH 2023

Secretary of State makes more than \$45 million in budget requests to legislature

The budget submitted Monday by the Secretary of State's office to the Nevada Legislature includes \$45 million for updates to two major systems affecting voter registration and elections and business licensing. The two projects are just part of a total two-year budget request put forth by Secretary of State Cisco Aguilar and his executive team.

2023-2025 Agency Request Budget – Detailed Report (pages 181-208)

This document has 27 pages of line items detailing the budget request from the Nevada secretary of state.

Cross referencing page 511 and 512 in the legislative budget with page 188 in the agency request seems to indicate that the secretary of state was involved in recounts for 10 counties, but more information is needed to verify exactly what these sections mean.

2023-2024

Legislatively Approved SOS Budget 2023-2024 (page 534)

Total SOS **\$ 29,555,931**

FTE: 140.00

2023-2024 HAVA Election Reform Budget (page 548)

Personnel Services	\$ 389,033
Operating	\$ 2,169
Voting Machine Replacement	\$ 828,554
Homeland Security Grant	\$ 128,160
Statewide Voter Registration	\$ 0
Administration Of Elections	\$ 40,863
HAVA Cares Act Grant	\$ 0
Information Services	\$ 3,753
HAVA Title I Reserve	\$ 5,934,642
Purchasing Assessment	\$ 606

Total Budget Expenditures **\$ 7,327,780**

FTE: 4.0

TOTAL 2023-2024 HAVA & SOS
\$36,883,711

2022-2023

Located in the 2023-2023 Legislatively Approved Budget under Work Program (page 535)

FTE: 137.00

TOTAL SOS
\$27,162,078

2022-2023 HAVA Election Reform Budget (page 548)

Personnel Services	\$ 374,775
Operating	\$ 1,144
Voting Machine Replacement	\$ 805,543
Homeland Security Grant	\$ 128,160
Statewide Voter Registration:	\$ 214,375
Administration Of Elections	\$ 310,729
Hava Cares Act Grant	\$ 0
Information Services	\$ 1,635
HAVA Title I Reserve	\$ 5,926,710
Purchasing Assessment	\$ 295

Total Budget Expenditures **\$ 7,763,366**

FTE: 4.0

TOTAL 2022-2023 HAVA & SOS
\$34,925,444

2021-2022 ACTUAL

Located in the 2023-2023 Legislatively Approved Budget under Actual (page 535)

FTE: 137.00

TOTAL SOS
\$23,604,869

2021-2022 HAVA Election Reform Budget (page 548)

Personnel Services	\$ 447,415
Operating	\$ 414
Voting Machine Replacement	\$ 760,003
Homeland Security Grant	\$ 60,520
Statewide Voter Registration	\$ 0
Administration of Elections	\$ 523,526
Hava Cares Act Grant	\$ 15,449
Information Services	\$ 1,645
HAVA Title I Reserve	\$ 0
Purchasing Assessment	\$ 78

Total Budget Expenditures **\$ 1,809,050**

FTE: 4.0

TOTAL 2021-2022 HAVA & SOS
\$25,413,919

2020-2021

2020-2021 Legislatively Approved SOS Budget (page 440)

FTE: 134.0

TOTAL SOS (PAGE 466)
\$8,544,691

2020-2021 HAVA Election Reform Budget (page 480)*

Personnel Services	\$ 390,494
Operating	\$ 67,749
EQUIPMENT	
Voting Machine Replacement	\$ 780,000
Homeland Security Grant	\$ 0
Statewide Voter Registration	\$ 0
Administration of Elections	\$ 191,752
One-Shot Voting Machines	\$ 0
Information Services	\$ 2,567
HAVA Title I Reserve	\$ 565,720
Purchasing Assessment	\$ 23
Reserve for Reversion to General Fund	\$ 0
Total Budget Expenditures	\$ 1,998,305

FTE: 4.0

TOTAL 2020-2021 HAVA & SOS
\$20,542,996

*These HAVA numbers are different from the budget listed below.

2019-2020

2019-2020 Legislatively Approved SOS Budget (page 440)

FTE: 134.0

TOTAL SOS (PAGE 466)
\$17,612,957

2019-2020 HAVA Election Reform Budget (page 480)

Personnel Services	\$ 379,120
Operating	\$ 22,214
EQUIPMENT	
Voting Machine Replacement	\$ 780,000
Homeland Security Grant	\$ 0
Statewide Voter Registration	\$ 0
Administration of Elections	\$ 2,316,242
One-Shot Voting Machines	\$ 0
Information Services	\$ 2,576
HAVA Title I Reserve	\$ 952,965
Purchasing Assessment	\$ 19
Reserve For Reversion To General Fund	\$ 0
Total Budget Expenditures	\$ 4,453,136

FTE: 4.0

TOTAL 2019-2020 HAVA & SOS
\$22,066,093

Data from United States Election Assistance Commission:

Nevada

YEAR/GRANT	FEDERAL FUNDING	REQUIRED STATE MATCH
2018 Election Security	\$4,277,723	\$213,886
2020 Election Security	\$4,805,564	\$961,113
2020 CARES	\$4,496,720	\$899,344

CLARK COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

Clark County typically has very delayed election results, and while these budget documents are somewhat sparse and don't have details about the specific requests from the county elections office, the 2022-2025 budgets increase quite a bit, from \$17,686,962 in 2022 to \$24,969,755 in 2024.

The county has a new Registrar of Voters. She was appointed in March 2023 and replaced a registrar who had been in that position for nine years. There is no indication the county accesses HAVA grants. Private grants to elections offices are not prohibited in Nevada.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$12,096,651	\$13,513,773	\$17,686,962	\$24,562,244	\$24,969,755	\$24,969,755
CVAP 1,493,190			PER CAPITA \$16.45		



ELECTION BUDGETS

FY 2023-2024

Salaries and wages	\$ 11,192,705
Employee Benefits	\$ 2,202,789
Services and Supplies	\$ 11,574,261
Capital Outlay	\$ 0
Total	\$ 24,969,755

FY 2022- 2023 (page 17)

Salaries and wages	\$ 11,075,972
Employee Benefits	\$ 1,912,011
Services and Supplies	\$ 11,574,261
Capital Outlay	\$ 0
Total	\$ 24,562,244

FY 2021-2022 (page 17)

Salaries and wages	\$ 7,662,639
Employee Benefits	\$ 1,885,011
Services and Supplies	\$ 8,139,312
Capital Outlay	\$ 0
Total	\$ 17,686,962

FY 2020-2021 (page 17)

Salaries and wages	\$ 6,694,936
Employee Benefits	\$ 1,495,721
Services and Supplies	\$ 5,323,116
Capital Outlay	\$ 0
Total	\$ 13,513,773

FY 2019-2020 (page 17)

Salaries and wages	\$ 5,426,356
Employee Benefits	\$ 1,347,179
Services and Supplies	\$ 5,323,116
Capital Outlay	\$ 0
Total	\$ 12,096,651

STOREY COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

The clerk and treasurer of Storey County is a combined role. Because this office is a combined role, it is not clear which portions of the budget are for elections and which portion is for treasurer duties. This likely makes the per capita amount far higher than what is actually used on elections expenses.

An article from April 2023 indicates this budget could be under threat in the future: Storey County could lose 80 percent of Tesla tax windfall under legislation.

It doesn't appear this county accesses grants or HAVA funds. Nevada does not restrict donations of private funds for election operations.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$634,265	\$523,305	\$586,307	\$558,215	N/A	N/A
CVAP 3,280			PER CAPITA \$170.19		

ELECTION BUDGETS

2022-2023 Budget (page 12)

CLERK AND TREASURER

Salaries and Wages	\$ 223,038
Employee Benefits	\$ 138,875
Service and Supplies	\$ 196,302
Capital Outlay	\$ 0
Dept Subtotal	\$ 558,215

2021-2022 Budget (page 12)

CLERK AND TREASURER

Salaries and Wages	\$ 244,215
Employee Benefits	\$ 161,927
Service and Supplies	\$ 180,165
Capital Outlay	\$ 0
Dept Subtotal	\$ 586,307

2020-2021 Budget (page 12)

CLERK AND TREASURER

Salaries and Wages	\$ 249,302
Employee Benefits	\$ 140,851
Service and Supplies	\$ 133,152
Capital Outlay	\$ 0
Dept Subtotal	\$ 523,305

2019-2020 Budget (page 15)

CLERK AND TREASURER

Salaries and Wages	\$ 233,976
Employee Benefits	\$ 131,189
Service and Supplies	\$ 269,100
Capital Outlay	\$ 0
Dept Subtotal	\$ 634,265

Strategic planning documents in the budget indicate robust investment in equipment and partnership-style relationships with counties, with a strong investment in voting equipment as well as cyber and physical security. The secretary of state created a national model for security and has a 31-point checklist that all 88 counties are required to audit every election.

Unlike some states that leave the funding of elections almost entirely to counties, Ohio coordinates extensive support and training. The 2022-2023 budget documents mention the secretary of state's office worked with local county officials to train 56,000 poll workers and that their budget will continue to support county boards of elections. This state also consistently accesses HAVA funds.

Ohio Secretary of State Budget for FY 2019-2024:

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$33,995,072	\$40,582,341	\$50,783,972	\$47,810,880	\$56,768,852	\$64,587,537
		CVAP 8,909,350	PER CAPITA \$5.37		

2024-2025

Agency Budget Highlights With more than 35,000 poll workers necessary to run the 2022 election, the budget will continue to support county boards of election in recruitment and training efforts. The Office created a national model for election security by implementing multiple Security Directives that continue to set new standards for cyber and physical security. The budget will continue the work of upgrading Ohio's cyberdefense through technology and the Secretary of State will work with all 88 counties to continue to improve election security infrastructure.

Secretary LaRose implemented Security Directive 3.0, delivered to County Boards of Elections on June 28, 2022, requiring a 31-point checklist that establishes new security standards for vendors, strengthens physical security

requirements, prevents purchasing of equipment from dangerous foreign entities, and modernizes cybersecurity capabilities. Secretary LaRose requires all county boards of elections to audit every single election. Since then, Ohio has maintained a 99.9 percent accuracy rate.

The Secretary of State will strengthen the capabilities of the new Public Integrity Division to allow the Office's current investigative functions, including campaign finance reporting, voting system certification, voter registration integrity, election law violations, data retention and transparency, and cybersecurity protocols to work together to be both more efficient and effective.

2022-2023

The 2020 election cycle set a record for highest voter turnout in state history, both by percent of registered voters and total votes counted. The Office and local election officials established a new record for new poll workers, helping to recruit and train approximately 56,000. The budget will continue to support county boards of election in recruitment and training efforts. (page D-372)

ELECTION BUDGETS

2025 Recommended (page 538)

HAVA	\$ 1,500,000
County Voting Systems Lease Rental Payments	\$ 12,200,000
SOS Total	\$ 45,270,278

2024 Recommended (page 538)

HAVA	\$ 1,500,000
County Voting Systems Lease Rental Payments	\$ 12,200,000
SOS Total	\$ 64,587,537

2023 Estimated (page 538)

HAVA	\$ 12,762,601
County Voting Systems Lease Rental Payments	\$ 12,500,000
SOS Total	\$ 56,768,852

IN 2021, OHIO BANNED GRANTS FROM NGOS

No public official that is responsible for administering or conducting an election in this state shall collaborate with, or accept or expend any money from, a nongovernmental person or entity for any costs or activities related to voter registration, voter education, voter identification, get-out-the-vote, absent voting, election official recruitment or training or any other election-related purpose.

2022 Actual (page 538)

HAVA	\$ 3,910,020
County Voting Systems Lease Rental Payments	\$ 9,675,838
SOS Total	\$ 47,810,880

2021 Actual (page 538)

HAVA	\$ 16,655,300
County Voting Systems Lease Rental Payments	\$ 9,104,824
SOS Total	\$ 50,783,972

*In fiscal year 2021, the SOS distributed the majority of over \$26.5 million it received from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission in CARES Act funding and Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Grants to counties for the administration of the November election. (page D-377)

THE EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION WILL FUND THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

- Upgrade Ohio’s cyber-defense through technology and create a Chief Information Security Officer position that will work with all 88 counties to improve election security.
 - Provide oversight and direction in the administration of Ohio elections by working with the 88 county boards of election to make it easy to vote and hard to cheat, and ensuring all voters vote by the same rules no matter where they live.
 - Maintain and improve accuracy of the statewide database of over 7.9 million registered voters through sharing data with other agencies and states. Support the online change of address system, voter lookup, and polling place locator tools, and implement the newly authorized online voter registration system.
 - Support county boards of election in the training and recruitment of more than 35,000 precinct election officials needed
- for Election Day and continue to address the unique challenges in providing voting access for both uniformed and overseas voters and individuals with disabilities. Executive Budget for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 D-471 State of Ohio Secretary of State
 - Build upon successes in modernizing business filings by reducing the time, ease, and cost to start a business through Ohio Business Central, a new online business filing system. Most filings can now be done online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and online offerings will continue to be expanded.
 - Promote transparency in campaign finance filings; efficient operation of the UCC section; administration of ministers’ licenses, notary public commissions and authentication of documents for use overseas; maintenance of historical records; and implementation of the address confidentiality program.

In fiscal year 2021, the SOS distributed the majority of more than \$26.5 million it received from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission in CARES Act funding and Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Grants to counties for the administration of the November election. (page D-377)

ELECTION BUDGETS
2020 Actual (page D-377)

HAVA	\$ 9,331,607
County Voting Systems Lease Rental Payments	\$ 10,100,217
SOS Total	\$ 40,582,341

 From **United States Election Assistance Commission**
2020
ELECTION SECURITY GRANT

Federal Funding	\$ 13,721,112
State Match	\$ 2,744,222

CARES GRANT

Federal Funding	\$ 12,861,311
State Match	\$ 2,572,262

2019 Actual (page D-377)

HAVA	\$ 2,719,128
Voting Equipment	\$ 9,455,153
County Voting Systems Lease Rental Payments	\$ 0
SOS Total	\$ 33,995,072

 From **United States Election Assistance Commission**
2018
ELECTION SECURITY GRANT

Federal Funding	\$ 12,186,021
State Match	\$ 609,301

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

This county is budgeting for increased costs for new voter equipment and rising wages, including an increased poll worker stipend.

In 2021, they received \$3.5 million in grants, and the county flagged the possible loss of grant funding and that it would require the county to finance more of their operations out of the general fund.

FROM 2023

Possible restrictions proposed by the Ohio General Assembly on county election boards acceptance of grants and funding from external partners may cause increased need and reliance of the County General Fund.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$12,437,725	\$17,142,688	\$13,000,695	\$17,261,400	\$15,477,154	N/A
		CVAP 968,395	PER CAPITA \$17.82		

2022-2023

Presentation to the Cuyahoga County Council from the Director of Elections Anthony Perlatti on October 25, 2021.

Excerpts from presentation

Overview

- The Board of Elections budget fluctuates.
- The \$17.3 million budgeted for 2022 will cover costs for the two known elections.
- The \$15.5 million budgeted for 2023 will cover costs for the three known elections in that year.
- Necessary to increase to seasonal temporary staff wages from the current \$11.50 to \$15 per hour.
- The stipend for election day poll workers has been recommended at \$250, which matches what we were able to pay in 2020 utilizing grant funds.

The 2020 Presidential Elections were like no other elections the CCBOE has ever administered. The CCBOE was fortunate in being awarded approximately \$3.5 million grant dollars in 2021, from various sources, to assist with the unexpected and voluminous expenses, workload, and challenges associated with executing large elections during a pandemic. The CCBOE utilized grant dollars to primarily purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), but also to acquire election-related automation hardware and software to enhance how we conduct elections. Some of the investments in hardware and software come with ongoing annual maintenance costs that require budgetary allocations. These maintenance costs are incorporated into the budget recommendation, and with time we will see some of the maintenance costs offset with reductions in seasonal temporary employee staffing levels.

2023 Executive Recommended

Personnel	\$ 7,395,687
Other Expenditures	\$ 5,228,433

Total \$ 15,477,154

Staff count: 91

*Links to three budget years here, but all information is taken from 2022-2023 document due to completeness of data. 2018-2019, 2020- 2021, 2022-2023

NEW INITIATIVES/INCREASED EXPENDITURES

- The Board is currently in the process of selecting new voting equipment (precinct ballot scanners, vote-by-mail ballot scanners and supporting technical equipment).
- In 2018, Senate Bill 135 made \$10.4 million available to Cuyahoga County to acquire the new equipment.
- Increase pay for all employees.
- Maintain new equipment purchased with grants in 2020.
- Increase cybersecurity.

2022-2023 BUDGET OVERVIEW

The Board of Elections-passed recommended budget is increased significantly to \$17 million in 2022 and \$15 million in 2023.

- The Board of Elections is continuously implementing new and more secure system safeguards to ensure election results are complete and accurate. New equipment was acquired through grants during the 2020 election cycle.
- The Board is recommending increasing wages to address staffing shortages and difficulty attracting temporary staff and election day poll workers. An increase to temporary staff wages to \$15 per hour would be a competitive rate and attract and retain seasonal employees. Difficulties recruiting election day poll workers and support staff is addressed with an increased election day stipend of \$250.
- Vendor selection for new voting equipment is expected during 2022 with implementation in 2023. Cuyahoga County Board of Elections was awarded \$10.4 million through Ohio Senate Bill 135 passed in 2018. The State of Ohio pays the acquisition costs directly with the County responsible for ancillary costs.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE 2022-2023 BUDGET

Major capital projects to repair buildings occupied by the Board of Elections are overdue and highly needed. Replacement and upgrades to the Hughes Building include auxiliary power sources, window and carpeting replacement, repair and remediation of mold affected areas.

Possible restrictions proposed by the Ohio General Assembly on county election boards acceptance of grants and funding from external partners may cause increased need and reliance of the County General Fund.*

* In 2021, Ohio banned grants from NGOs:
 No public official that is responsible for administering or conducting an election in this state shall collaborate with, or accept or expend any money from, a nongovernmental person or entity for any costs or activities related to voter registration, voter education, voter identification, get-out-the-vote, absent voting, election official recruitment or training or any other election-related purpose.

ELECTION BUDGETS

2022 Executive Recommended

Personnel	\$ 7,278,079
Other Expenditures	\$ 5,228,433
Total	\$ 17,261,400

Staff count: 91

2021 approved

Personnel	\$ 7,772,262
Other Expenditures	\$ 5,228,433
Total	\$ 13,000,695

Staff count: 91

2020

Personnel	\$ 9,288,270
Other Expenditures	\$ 7,854,418
Total	\$ 17,142,688

Staff count: 92

2019

Personnel	\$ 7,288,309
Other Expenditures	\$ 5,149,416
Total	\$ 12,437,725

Staff count: 90

LAWRENCE COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

This county has a high allocation of funds per voting age person but seems to be struggling to administer some basic functions. In August 2023 during a special election, they had only three polling places for 84 precincts,¹ and voters waited in lines for hours. The voting machines had issues with activation cards getting jammed in one location. Another troubling factor is the lack of functionality with basic things like public notices and websites where citizens can find the information they need.

It was nearly impossible to find information on how this county conducts its business. It was extremely difficult to complete this report or gain information about public budget hearings.

There is little reporting about county budget hearings in Lawrence County news media, in addition to the county's inaccessible digital infrastructure. There are no public meeting calendars available to the public online.

Election funding has gone virtually unchanged since 2020, the only fluctuation being years with a midterm or presidential election.

Lawrence Board of Elections maintains a staff that has gone virtually unchanged since 2019, with a 6-7% salary increase year after year.

Lawrence County is currently using touch-screen ballot voting & tabulation from ES&S ExpressVote w/tabulator (ADA).

In 2021, Ohio prohibited private donation to election administration: "No public official that is responsible for administering or conducting an election in this state shall collaborate with, or accept or expend any money from, a non-governmental person or entity for any costs or activities related to voter registration, voter education, voter identification, get-out-the-vote, absent voting, election official recruitment or training or any other election-related purpose.

1 Precinct and Polling Locations – Lawrence

Each county has a director and deputy director (who are appointed by the secretary of state) and a small staff of 3-5 depending on the cycle. [County Board of Elections Directory](#)

There is an exterior 24-hour [drop box in every county](#) located at the Board of Elections office in each county.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$520,114	\$619,853	\$568,580	\$677,170	\$613,283	N/A
CVAP 45,460 PER CAPITA \$14.90					

This county budget is unlike any seen in this report. Yearly totals had to be re-created from the auditor's monthly reports, and this data should be treated as incomplete at best.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS BUDGET

<u>2023</u>	\$613,283.37
<u>2022</u>	\$677,169.64
<u>2021</u>	\$568,579.64
<u>2020</u>	\$619,853.19
<u>2019</u>	\$520,113.63

PENNSYLVANIA BUDGET PROCESS

Funding for Pennsylvania’s elections infrastructure is appropriated mostly through the State Department. A \$3.36 allocation per voting-age person is very low compared to other states, especially considering the state is partially reimbursing counties for costs of elections out of their funds.

The election system faces conspiracy theories and accusations of fraud. Several counties have had issues in the past few years with [voting machines](#), [mistakes on ballots](#), [inexperienced staff](#), and [running out of paper](#).

Only 19 of 67 counties have voting machines.¹ The majority of the state’s counties rely on paper ballots and hand counts.

Pennsylvania Secretary of State Budget for FY 2019-2024:

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$14,107,000	\$27,467,000	\$35,428,000	\$33,276,000	\$33,533,000	N/A
		CVAP 9,893,015	PER CAPITA \$3.36		

FY 2024

DEPT. OF STATE

Total **\$33,533,000**

FY 2022-2023

DEPT. OF STATE

Total **\$33,276,000**

In 2022, [Pennsylvania passed a bill restricting private donations for administering elections](#).

The cost and expense to State and local governments relating to the registration of voters and the preparation, administration and conduct of elections in this Commonwealth shall be funded only upon lawful appropriation of the Federal, State and local governments...

State and local governments, including their public officers, public officials, employees and agents, acting in their official capacity, may not solicit, apply for, enter into a contract for or receive or expend gifts, donations, grants or funding from any individual, business, organization, trust, foundation, or any non-governmental entity for the registration of voters or the preparation, administration or conducting of an election in this Commonwealth.

¹ [Voting Systems](#)

FY 2021-2022 (page 9)

DEPT. OF STATE

Total **\$35,428,000**

FY 2020-2021 (page 9)

DEPT. OF STATE

Total **\$ 27,467,000**

FY 2019-2020

DEPT. OF STATE

Total **\$ 14,107,000**

From [United States Election Assistance Commission](#), “Grants in Pennsylvania”:

2020

ELECTION SECURITY

Federal Funding \$ 15,175,567

State Match \$ 3,035,114

CARES

Federal Funding \$14,223,603

State Match \$ 2,844,721

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA' BUDGET PROCESS

This budget has very little information about work of the Office of City Commissioners, but the allocation is quite high. It’s unclear if they receive any HAVA funds except those mentioned in 2019.

In 2025, the commission wants to double the amount of budget they had in 2019.

Elections in Philadelphia fall under the Office of City Commissioners. The Philadelphia City Commissioners are a three-member bipartisan board of elected officials in charge of elections and voter registration for the City of Philadelphia. Each Commissioner is elected to serve a four-year term that coincides with the municipal election cycle for mayor and city council.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$16,540,396	\$14,487,943	\$20,871,241	\$21,169,560	\$29,061,492	\$28,220,035
		CVAP 1,150,785	PER CAPITA \$18.40		

¹ [The county offices were merged with the city government in 1952, effectively eliminating the county as a government. Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania - Wikipedia.](#)

BUDGET FOR OFFICE OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

FY 2027 Estimate
\$28,220,035

FY 2026 Estimate
\$28,220,035

FY 2025 Estimate
\$31,966,865

FY 2024 Estimate (Total)
\$28,220,035

FY 2023 Proposed (Total)
\$29,061,492

Some additional voting machine reporting requirements were put in place in 2023 after some possibly faulty machines were believed to cause a miscount.

FY 2022 (Total)
\$21,169,560

FY 2021 Actual (Total)
\$20,871,241

FY 2020 Actual (Total)
\$14,487,943

In 2022, Pennsylvania passed prohibitions on accepting any donations for elections-related expenses. In 2020, Pennsylvania accepted \$15,175,567 and \$14,223,603 in CARES money for elections.

FY 2019 actual

HAVA grant (page 4)	\$ 25,000
Total	\$ 16,540,396

LUZERNE COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

This budget is light on details, and a significant portion goes to “Other Contractual Services” which could cover almost anything. They have had an issue with staff turnover and inexperienced staff that led to a judicial intervention during the 2022 election. No state grants found.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$827,222	\$836,432	\$829,071	\$1,474,815	\$1,505,186	N/A
CVAP 247,440			PER CAPITA \$5.96		

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS BUDGET

FY 2023 (Page 40)
\$1,505,186.00

FY 2022 (Page 40)
\$1,474,815.00

This is a 78% increase, and a majority of the budget is allocated to a single line item: “Other Contractual Services” (page 39).

The Bureau of Elections office faced issues in the 2022 election when they ran out of paper and had less-experienced staff dealing with issues that required a judge to intervene and keep polls open later.

A deeper dive into the 2022 line item “Other Contractual Services” would reveal more about the priorities of the election office. In 2022, Pennsylvania passed prohibitions on accepting any donations for elections-related expenses.

FY 2021 (page 37)
\$829,071.00

FY 2020 (page 43)
\$836,432.00

FY 2019 (page 35)
\$827,222.00



Wisconsin accesses HAVA funds and also grants funds to local governments for election security, absentee ballots and voting equipment.

The governor has called for several new initiatives that include creating an “Office of Election Transparency and Compliance,” automatic voter registration, providing funding for grants to municipalities interested in obtaining “Badger Book” electronic poll books, and voter registration in high schools.

Wisconsin Secretary of State Budget for FY 2019-2024:

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$5,343,500	\$5,670,600	\$5,701,700	\$6,133,900	\$6,078,700	\$7,843,400
CVAP 4,437,215 PER CAPITA \$1.38					

WISCONSIN ELECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED BY THE WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) was established in 2016 by the Wisconsin Legislature to carry out a wide range of functions related to statewide elections administration.

Elections in Wisconsin are conducted by more than 1,800 local clerks at the town, village, city, and county levels, creating one of the most decentralized election systems in the nation.

The WEC serves as a resource for local clerks by providing them with education, training, and support materials. The agency also fulfills several statewide election responsibilities, such as helping ensure compliance with federal and state election laws, ensuring election accuracy, and maintaining the statewide voter registration database.

The WEC is governed by six Commissioners, with three Commissioners representing the Democratic Party and three representing the Republican Party. Two of the Democrats and two of the Republicans are selected by their respective Legislative leadership. One Democrat and one Republican must be former municipal or county clerks and are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission currently has three grants available on its website:

1. [2023 Absentee Ballot Envelopes, 3/3/2023 - 6/30/2024](#)
2. [2023 HAVA Election Security .gov Email Domain, 8/24/2021 - 1/31/2024](#)
3. [2023 Accessible Voting Equipment, 5/9/2023 - 6/30/2024](#)

Previous grant information:

On July 22, 2022, the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) approved the renewal of the 2019/2020 Election Security Subgrant for Municipalities program. Each jurisdiction may receive up to \$1,200 under this subgrant.

This budget amount is very low, but the governor’s recommendations in the executive budget, along with a higher allocation of resources, are promising. If necessary, the state could apply for private grant money, but that could come with downsides.

FY 2025 Recommended

Total **\$7,443,500**

2023-2025

Pages 7-9 detail:

Governor’s recommendations such as:

- creating an Office of Election Transparency and Compliance
- automatic voter registration
- providing funding for grants to municipalities interested in obtaining “Badger Book” electronic poll books.
- Voter registration in high schools

The Governor recommends creating a new agency equity officer position within the Office of the Secretary. The agency equity officer will collaborate with the Chief Equity Officer within the Department of Administration and agency equity officers within other agencies to identify opportunities to advance equity in government operations, including determining how current government practices and policies impact communities of color and individuals with disabilities. ([page 236](#))

ELECTIONS COMMISSION (PAGE 183)

The commission administers and enforces Wisconsin law pertaining to elections (Chapters 5 to 10 and 12 of Wisconsin Statutes). The commission is comprised of six members, who serve for five-year terms. One member is appointed by the Senate majority leader, one is appointed by the Senate minority leader, one is appointed by the speaker of the Assembly, one is appointed by the Assembly minority leader, and two are members who formerly served as county or municipal clerks and who are nominated by the governor with the advice and consent of a majority of the members of the Senate. The transition plan from the Government Accountability Board to the commission put forth by the Department of Administration established a rotational term schedule of the commissioners. The commission elects a chair and vice-chair from its members by a majority vote. The administrator serves as the agency head and the chief election officer of the state. The commission staff is required to be nonpartisan. Commission activities fit into four general functions: general administration; education, training and assistance to local election officials, candidates, and officeholders; voter education and outreach; and complaint resolution. Within these functional areas, the commission implements legislative changes and initiatives; develops policy; issues formal opinions and guidance; promulgates administrative rules; prescribes procedures and forms; carries out investigations; responds to inquiries from local election officials, candidates, and the public; and completes other related activities.

The state of Wisconsin has no restrictions on accepting private grant money, but a bill did pass the legislature to add restrictions and was vetoed by the governor.

FY 2024 Recommended (Total)

\$7,843,400

FY 2023 Adjusted (Total)

\$6,078,700

FY 2022 Recommended (Total)

\$6,133,900

FY 2021 Adjusted (Total)

\$5,701,700

FY 2020 Recommended (Total)

\$5,670,600

NOTABLE ITEMS

The United States Election Assistance Commission has these grants listed on its website for Wisconsin:

2020

ELECTION SECURITY

Federal Funding	\$	7,850,124
State Match		\$ 1,570,025

CARES

Federal Funding	\$	7,362,345
State Match		\$ 1,472,469

FY 2019 Adjusted

Total \$5,343,500

MILWAUKEE COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

Two items of note: Milwaukee County uses a Racial Equity Budget tool to make some budget decisions, and this appears to have led to an investment in promoting voter awareness and participation, especially focusing on areas where voter participation was lowest.

In 2024, they allocated \$100,000 for election and voting awareness, including use of an opt-in program that uses texting and emails.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$1,867,615	\$2,836,485	\$2,105,944	\$2,843,450	\$2,228,909	N/A
CVAP 668,020			PER CAPITA \$4.26		

2024
2024 Requested Budget:¹
\$2,216,694

Budget hasn't been adopted as of August 2023.

STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION

An amount of \$100,000 is appropriated for the Election Commission for Voter Education and Outreach to increase voter awareness, educate residents on the voting process, and empower citizens to vote. We will continue to use an opt-in program that will notify citizens, through text-messaging and/or e-mail, of upcoming elections and associated deadlines. Additionally, the Election Commission intends to continue its relationship with Charter Communications and Vector Media to inform the public about the 2024 Presidential Election through digital and print advertising and media.

Expenses increase in the Election Commission budget due to four planned elections in 2024, including the Presidential Election in November. In odd numbered years, there are two regularly scheduled elections. Our expenses vary every year to account for the number of regularly scheduled elections.

The scheduled 2024 elections include:

- Spring Primary - February 20, 2024
- Spring & Presidential Preference - April 2, 2023
- Partisan Primary - August 13, 2024
- General Election - November 5, 2024

¹ Budget Archive

Milwaukee County uses a [Racial Equity Budget tool](#). Under page 7 in the document for 2024, they describe their activities:

Most of the services that the County Clerk's Office provides are State and County mandated services. This leaves little room for discretionary prioritizing of one area over the other. One exception to that is advertising funds that promote voter awareness and participation. Using voter and demographic data, we identified areas where voter participation is the lowest and impediment to voting is the greatest. We concentrated funds to those areas to increase voter participation and inform future voters of all the necessary steps to register and ultimately vote (e.g. what kind of ID is necessary to cast the ballot on election day). The Clerk's Office and the Election Commission conducted a robust Voter Education and Outreach Campaign leading up to the 2020 Presidential Election, 2022 Mid-term Election and intends to continue to conduct similar campaigns in the future and especially during the 2024 Presidential Election.

2023

[FY 2023 Elections Commission Expenditures](#) (page 107): \$600,953

[FY 2023 Adopted County Budget, Office of the County Clerk](#) (page 103): \$1,627,956

[FY 2023 Racial Equity Budget Tool](#)

Combined totals: \$2,228,909

2022

[FY 2022 Elections Commission Expenditures](#) (page 107): \$907,915

[FY 2022 Adopted County Budget, Office of the County Clerk](#) (page 103): \$1,935,535

Combined totals: \$2,843,450

2022

Election Commission expenditures increase by \$332,513 due to an increase in the number of elections to be held in 2022. The expenditures for the Office of the County Clerk increase by \$72,480 (or 7.5%). This is largely due to annualized pay increases for its 15 budgeted staff members.

2021

[FY 2021 Elections Commission Expenditures](#) (page 107): \$575,402

[FY 2021 Adopted County Budget, Office of the County Clerk](#) (page 103): \$1,530,542

[FY 2021 Racial Equity Budget Tool](#)

Combined totals: \$2,105,944

2021

Expenses decrease in the County Clerk's budget due to moving funding for the Wisconsin Counties Association membership to Government Affairs. Expenses are reduced in the Election Commission budget due to fewer elections planned for 2021.

An amount of \$15,000 is appropriated for the Election Commission to continue with the opt-in program that will notify citizens, through text-messaging and/or e-mail, of upcoming elections.

Election Commission expenditures decrease by \$392,244 (or 40.5 percent) due to a decrease in the number of elections to be held in 2021.

The expenditures for the Office of the County Clerk decrease by \$49,055 (or 5.4 percent). This is largely due to movement of the funding for the Wisconsin Counties Association membership to the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

2020

[FY 2020 Elections Commission Expenditures](#) (page 113): \$967,646

[FY 2020 Adopted County Budget; Office of the County Clerk](#) (page 109): \$1,868,839

Combined totals: \$2,836,485

2019

[FY 2019 Elections Commission Expenditures](#) (page 111): \$496,257

[FY 2019 Adopted County Budget; Office of the County Clerk](#) (page): \$1,371,358

Combined totals: \$1,867,615

DANE COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS

A \$16 million investment in an elections security upgrade and relocation project in the 2023 budget was brought on by multiple threats to election workers "The current facilities are inadequate to properly protect staff and election equipment and materials due to ongoing threats to staff and elections in general."

In an article published in August 2022 in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [Clerks here do not feel safe: Security task force says election workers require protection from violence](#), states that "A report compiled by the Dane County Election Security Task Force concludes election workers and voting machines are not sufficiently protected from threats or acts of political violence in Dane County." [...]

"According to the task force, Madison City Clerk Maribeth Witzel-Behl was subjected to multiple death threats following spurious accusations alleging she counted fake ballots. Experiences such as Witzel-Behl's have fueled a growing sense of fear among election officials countywide."

The Dane County Elections budget is sparse on details, and it does not appear they access any federal or state grants for election security.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$227,600	\$563,200	\$364,200	\$516,300	\$392,500	N/A
		CVAP 416,410	PER CAPITA \$1.24		

2023 Adopted Budget (page 161)

Personnel Costs	\$ 118,300
Operating Expenses	\$ 201,700
Contractual Services	\$ 72,500
Operating Capital	\$ 0
Total	\$392,500

2023

Adjust personnel costs to reflect a 9% cost of living increase for County employees in 2023. Also, adjust personnel costs to reflect changes in retirement (WRS) rates in 2023. (page 163)

CAPITAL PROJECT DETAIL SHEET

Election Security Upgrade & Relocation Project

The current facilities are inadequate to properly protect staff and election equipment and materials due to ongoing threats to staff and elections in general. Project will include co-location space for all municipalities for equipment and ballot storage. Project components: site acquisition planning & design furniture/equipment.

Cost: \$16,000,000 (page 762)

2022 Adopted Budget (page 157)

Personnel Costs	\$ 107,100
Operating Expenses	\$ 341,700
Contractual Services	\$ 67,500
Operating Capital	\$ 0
Total	\$516,300

2022

Adjust personnel costs to reflect a 3% cost of living increase beginning of year and another 3% mid-year for County employees in 2022. Also, adjust personnel costs to reflect changes in retirement (WRS) rates in 2022. (page 158)

2021 Adopted Budget (page 147)

Personnel Costs	\$ 89,500
Operating Expenses	\$ 207,200
Contractual Services	\$ 67,500
Operating Capital	\$ 0
Total	\$364,200

2020 Adopted Budget (page 162)

Personnel Costs	\$ 92,700
Operating Expenses	\$ 390,000
Contractual Services	\$ 80,500
Operating Capital	\$ 0
Total	\$563,200

2020

Adjust personnel costs to reflect a 3% cost of living increase for County employees and changes in retirement (WRS) rates in 2020. (page 163)

2019 Adopted Budget (page 169)

Personnel Costs	\$ 62,100
Operating Expenses	\$ 115,000
Contractual Services	\$ 50,500
Operating Capital	\$ 0
Total	\$227,600

2019

Approved as recommended. Also, increase expenditures by \$10,000 to prepare for there to be Spanish language ballots for the April 2019 elections. (page 169)

Increase expenditures by \$8,000 to limited term employees to hold regular voter registration drives education regarding the absentee ballot process at the Dane County Jail, the Beacon, and area high schools; and should the Dane County Jail be a future early voting site, work with the Sheriff to identify eligible voters and assist with the early voting process. (page 171)





APPENDIX

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This report covers how states and local governments choose to fund their elections, the role of private and public grants, and the differences between states and some of their counties. The function of a system and the funding of that system are closely linked. When a county cannot hire or retain employees and positions go unfilled for years, this can cause a lack of experienced staff and is felt on the front lines of an election — the polling booths.

ABOUT THE BUDGET PROCESS

The National Association of State Budget Officers has compiled a [list of budget summaries](#) and important budget dates for state legislatures. While the budget process in a state government is generally clearly laid out and is subject to extensive state laws, county budgets are not typically subject to the same level of regulation and explicit processes, and that can make the county budget process obscure.

Part of this is because counties don't contain two legislative bodies like most legislatures (which adds a degree of healthy debate), and counties aren't generally subject to legislative session laws that exist in many states and require them to begin and end the budget process on a very specific (sometimes down to the hour) timeline.

Whether this is beneficial or not, it can mean that if the county does not have an ordinance requiring a certain process for the budget, they can move timelines and meetings, typically as long as they notify the public. They can

also change their processes as they see fit. Any engagement with the budget process at a county level should be initiated early, and keeping a close eye on meeting agendas is recommended.

Additionally, when considering where to engage in an election budget process, understanding whether a governor has line-item veto power on the budget should be a factor in the decision-making process.

While not possible with every state we examined, we looked at both the requested amount for election funding and the enacted amounts in order to see what differences, if any, exist between them.

ARIZONA

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	No official deadline, whenever the governor signs the budget. In 2023, the governor signed the budget in May.
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	The governor submits the budget in January five days after the legislature convenes, and hearings are held in January and February .
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	The Joint Legislative Budget Committee , both chambers of the legislature, and the governor.

BUDGET TIMELINE

September 1: One year and 10 months before the fiscal year in question, state agencies submit their budget requests to the governor.

January: Eighteen months before the fiscal year in question, the governor publishes and submits the budget to the legislature.

January–June (18-12 months before the fiscal year begins): State legislature in session. Budget is voted on by the legislature. This process is managed by the [Joint Legislative Budget Committee](#), and monitoring this committee’s daily agenda during the session is advised in order to find entry points to engage with the budget process.

The legislature typically meets January through June, but this can change from year to year. [Session dates can be found here.](#)

July 1 of the following year: Fiscal year begins. The fiscal year is named according to the calendar year of its last month.

The Arizona Secretary of State office works on their budget request for the following fiscal year with the [Governor’s Office of Strategic Planning & Budgeting](#). The results of these

requests are published in January of the previous year. For example, State Agency Budgets for FY 2020 are published by the governor’s office in January 2019.

[According to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee](#), “State agencies prepare budget requests within the guidelines set by the Governor and submit their requests to the Governor’s Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) by September 1 for the following fiscal year. For example, agency requests for FY 2019 are due by September 1, 2017.”

Many people are involved in making decisions about the budget through a rigorous process. The first step is the secretary of state’s office submits a budget request to the governor’s office, but this request must fit into guidelines set by the governor’s office.

Then, the governor’s office publishes the budget, and it starts the process to pass the legislature, first in the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, then in both chambers, and then to the governor’s desk, where it can be signed, allowed to go into effect without signing, vetoed, or line-item vetoed. The legislature can override a veto

before they adjourn with a two-thirds vote in each chamber. In each of these steps, elected officials are typically guided by professional, nonpartisan staff with extensive experience in the state budget.

More information on the budget process can be [found here](#).

MARICOPA COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	In 2023, the budget was enacted in June.
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	In 2023, the tentative budget hearings were held in May . FY 2024 budget approved on June 26, 2023 . The county does not appear to have a budget process outlined on its website, so these dates could change.
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

This document outlines the [Board of Supervisors Meetings in 2023](#). General information on their meetings, and notices for the meetings, are found [here](#).

[The 2024 fiscal year budget was voted on and passed in June, 2023.](#)

[5-6 weeks prior to that, the County Board of Supervisors voted on a tentative budget.](#)

[All budget documents.](#)

PINAL COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	June
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	In 2023, the county held final budget hearings in July.
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	The Pinal County Board of Supervisors

[From the Pinal County Office of Budget and Finance:](#) The Pinal County Adopted Budget is produced and published by the Pinal County Budget Department after the adoption of the Budget, in June each year, by the Pinal County Board of Supervisors.

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	This depends on the timing of the legislature, how long it takes two chambers to agree on the budget, and whether the governor uses any vetoes on the budget. In odd-numbered years, the timing should be around May or June when the budget is enacted; in even-numbered years the timing should be March or April. In odd-numbered years, the legislature meets for 60 days in March and April. In even-numbered years, the legislature meets for 60 days in January and February.
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	It appears hearings regarding the budget are held year-round. The Joint Legislative Budget Commission has current committee meeting notices, and when the legislature is in session, this committee will have updated agendas for their budget hearings. But because Florida has a process where the chambers make budget decisions separately, and then they are negotiated in the Joint Conference Budget Committees, it is also important to monitor all budget hearings in both chambers.
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Both chambers of the legislature and the governor.

FLORIDA BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Florida Constitution requires the Florida Legislature to develop and pass a balanced state budget each year. This is the only bill that legislators are required to pass each year. Unlike the federal budget, the state budget — formally known as the General Appropriations Act (GAA) — must be balanced. While it may seem that all of the budget development work occurs during the legislative session, this is actually a year-round project that involves several steps.

Step 1: Agency Instructions

In July of each year, the governor and legislative leadership provide written instructions to state agencies to develop their budget requests. These guidelines may request that some or all state agencies submit budget requests reflecting a specific budget reduction percentage.

Step 2: Revenue Projections

In August and September, a Long-Range Financial Outlook Report must be developed that compares projections of state revenue, with the cost of major programs in the annual budget. State law dictates that the report provide a three-year picture of Florida’s fiscal strategy. Much of the work to develop the report is carried out by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR).

Step 3: Agency Planning

Once the Outlook is produced, state agencies and the judicial branch create their own Long-Range Program Plan (LRPP). The plans outline the next five years of priority programs, project needs, and agency implementation goals. LRPP’s are due annually by the end of September.

Step 4: Budget Requests

During October through January, state agencies and the judicial branch use their LRPP and the Long-Range Financial Outlook to shape their annual Legislative Budget Requests (LBRs) that provide a breakdown of the amount of money each agency needs to perform the functions authorized and required by law. LBRs are due from each agency by October 15 of each year. The agencies then explain their budget requests to the various legislative appropriations committees during Interim Legislative Committee meetings held prior to the opening of the legislative session.

Step 5: Governor’s Budget Recommendation

The governor uses the LBRs to make a budget recommendation. State law requires the governor to submit the budget recommendation at least 30 days before the beginning of the legislative session. In accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution, the legislative session convenes on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year, and on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each even-numbered year. As a result, in even-numbered years, the governor’s budget recommendation must be released no later than December and, in odd-numbered years, no later than February.

Step 6: House and Senate Appropriations

The Florida House and Senate begin to craft what will become the state’s budget during the legislative session, and they turn to the governor’s recommendations and the Legislative Budget Requests as resources. Using revised figures provided by a conference of state economists and information gathered during appropriations committee meetings, the legislative leadership decides how much each subject area — such as education — has to spend. The various appropriation committees create their chamber’s version of the budget.

The appropriation bills are filed, open to amendment by all members, and passed by each chamber.

Step 7: Budget Conference

Near the end of each legislative session, Joint Budget Conference Committees are formed to negotiate over differences between the House and Senate budget bills. Issues that cannot be agreed upon by each chamber’s subject-area committees are “bumped” to the House and Senate Appropriation Committee chairs, who continue negotiations. If differences still remain, the issues are bumped to the president of the Senate and speaker of the House, who eliminate any outstanding differences between the two budgets. The result of these budget negotiations is filed as the Conference Committee Report. In accordance with Article III, Section 19, there must be a 72-hour “cooling off” period after the Conference Committee Report is released to allow for review before either chamber may vote on approval of the report. The Conference Report may not be amended and must be approved in its entirety. If a chamber fails to adopt the Conference Report, the conference process must begin again in the same session (if time permits) or in an extended or special session.

Step 8: Governor’s Approval and Veto Power

The budget is then delivered to the governor for review and approval. The governor has the option to use a line-item veto, which allows him or her to cancel specific appropriations. A two-thirds majority vote is needed to overturn any budget item vetoed by the governor.

For future research, this [site has links to every county’s website](#).

BROWARD COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	No later than September 30.
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	These are scheduled by the county commissioners, and they should occur sometime between May 1 and September 30.
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Broward County Commissioners.

Fiscal year: First of October, ending September 30 of the following year.

Reference: [Broward County Administrative Code](#)

The Office of Management & Budget transmits to all departments, divisions and agencies of county government a timetable to submit budget proposals.

On or before May 1 of each year, the Sheriff for Broward County, the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Broward County, and the Supervisor of Elections for Broward County shall each submit to the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida, a tentative Budget for their respective offices for the ensuing fiscal year.

The county commission then schedules and publicly notices the public budget hearings.

After conclusion of the public hearings, the Commission shall adopt and approve the budget submitted to it, with such changes as the Commission may deem appropriate in accordance with any requirements of law relating thereto. The Commission may increase or decrease the appropriation requested by any independent agency or special taxing district.

Budget and millage ordinances or resolutions shall be prepared and finally adopted by the Commission, no later than September 30, of that year.

BREVARD COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	September
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	Two hearings in September.
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Board of County Commissioners.

Page 39 of [this document](#) has an extensive explanation of the budget process.

BUDGET OFFICE PROCESS TIMELINE

TIMELINE	KEY ACTIVITIES PERFORMED
October 1st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin New Fiscal Year • Implementation and execution of the adopted budget • Continue monitoring activity from previous fiscal year
December–January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Office begins to review current and future state revenue projections • Budget Office reviews and distributes 5 year historical revenue and expenditure activity • Begin reviewing and understanding legislative impacts • Budget Office to begin compiling pertinent issues that may impact the budget process
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget kickoff with Departments and Charter Offices is conducted • Targets and projections are developed • County Manager’s goals, objectives and initiatives are released to Departments and Charter Offices • Budget guidelines are released to Departments and Charter Offices • Revenue projections are developed and reviewed • Board of County Commissioner Budget Workshop and Goal Setting
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) documents are submitted to the Budget Office

TIMELINE	KEY ACTIVITIES PERFORMED
April–May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New or modified fee changes are submitted to the Budget Office for review Cost Allocation Plan results are released to Departments for inclusion in the budget All Board Departments submit budgets to include performance management information to the Budget Office Supervisor of Elections submits budget to the Budget Office Budget Office reviews budget for completeness and adherence to the County Manager’s goals, objectives, initiatives and guidelines Budget Office review revenue projections provided in budget documents Budget information is submitted to County Manager and Assistant County Managers
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary certified tax roll is received from Property Appraiser Property Appraiser and Sheriff’s Office submit budgets County Manager and Assistant County Managers review budget submissions Budget review sessions with Board Departments and Charter Officers are conducted
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified tax roll from Property Appraiser is received
July–August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget worksessions with the Board of County Commissioners are conducted Board of County Commissioners certifies proposed millage rates Tax Collector submits budget Notice of proposed taxes (TRIM) notice mailed to taxpayers
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First public hearing on the budget is conducted (Adoption of Tentative Budget and Millage Rates) Second public hearing is conducted for Final Adopted of the Budget Budget Office send millage resolutions to Property Appraiser, Tax Collector and Florida Department of Revenue

GEORGIA

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	This depends on the timing of the legislative session. According to the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budgeting , “Once the same version of the bill has passed both the House and Senate, it is sent to the Governor, who has 40 days to sign it before it automatically becomes law.”
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	Depends on when the bill moves in the House and then the Senate during the legislative session. Session dates can be found here . In 2023, the session dates were January 9-March 29.
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Both chambers of the legislature and the governor.

Fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30.

Each year, two appropriations bills are passed through the General Assembly and then signed by the Governor. The first to be passed is the budget for the Amended Fiscal Year (AFY). This adjusts the current fiscal year’s budget, accounting for changes in school enrollment and other unanticipated needs. The other appropriations bill is the budget for the upcoming fiscal year (FY), which begins on July 1 and ends June 30 of the next calendar year.

A [storied history](#) has transformed Georgia’s budget process over the years. Today, the development of the state budget occurs in several distinct and cyclical phases each year.

Phase One: All state agencies are required to submit their budget requests to the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) in September of each year using [guidelines](#) issued by the Governor earlier in the year. These requests contain the funding needs of agencies, such as salaries of employees, operational costs, technologies, and rent for office space, among other things. Agencies are also required to submit strategic plans alongside their budget request. These

plans detail how the agencies will use their funds to improve services, increase employee retention, and enhance overall efficiency.

Phase Two: At the beginning of the budget process, the Governor sets the revenue estimate, which projects how much revenue the state will accrue during that fiscal year, subsequently determining how much money the state can spend. Once the revenue estimate is set, OPB then carefully analyzes all agency budget requests to ensure that they further the state’s policy goals in a cost-effective manner.

Phase Three: After reviewing all agency budget requests, OPB analysts meet with the Governor and his staff to brief him on the requests and also offer preliminary recommendations based on their in-depth analyses. The Governor then uses this information to formulate his own formal recommendations for the General Assembly, which are published in the [Governor’s Budget Report](#).

Phase Four: The General Assembly must have the Governor’s budget report within five days of convening in January. After receiving the

report, the legislature reviews the Governor’s recommendations and develops an appropriations bill. The bill must begin in the House of Representatives and it specifies how much money will be appropriated to each agency at a program-level. Once the bill passes in the House, it is then transmitted to the Senate.

The Senate reviews the bill and adopts a substitute, which is then sent back to the House for acceptance or rejection. More often than not, the two chambers will not be able to agree on one version of the bill. As a result, a conference committee is convened, which is made up of members from both chambers. The conference committee eventually comes to a compromise on appropriations, and the newest version of the bill is sent to both chambers for a vote.

Phase Five: Once the same version of the bill has passed both the House and Senate, it is sent to the Governor, who has 40 days to sign it before it automatically becomes law. The

Governor maintains the constitutional right to strike out portions of the bill with his line-item veto.

An example of a signed appropriations bill can be [found here](#). Once the bill is signed into law, OPB then works to compile a document that summarizes all budgetary changes, known as the [Budget in Brief](#). This document contains financial summaries and budget highlights.

Phase Six: Once the bill becomes law, OPB works to ensure that each agency’s spending does not exceed the amount appropriated for each of its programs. OPB does this by reviewing and authorizing annual operating budgets, as well as monthly allotments, and projecting and analyzing agency expenditures.

Phase Seven: Once the fiscal year ends on June 30, the State Auditor is responsible for auditing the expenditures of each state agency. This includes all departments, colleges and universities, authorities, and school districts.

FULTON COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	1st or 2nd meeting in January : Board of commissioners approve the final budget.
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	November 15 : The proposed budget is presented to the board of commissioners. 2nd BOC meeting in December : Required Public Budget Hearing
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Fulton County operates on a calendar year budget. The budget website is [available here](#).

CHATHAM COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	In 2023, the county commissioners passed the FY 2024 budget on June 23, 2023. No mandated or suggested date for enactment found.
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	In 2023, the county held a series of hearings on the FY 2024 budget in June . In 2022, the county also held its budget hearings in June .
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Chatham County Board of Commissioners

The ACCG, a nonprofit organization that is made up of Georgia’s 159 counties, has an [operations budget guide](#) published on their website. State law does not require the county budget process to follow any specific dates, but they must publish a public notice of the budget hearings.

The county is livestreaming and broadcasting their budget hearings on YouTube. Follow the [channel here](#) and [view the 2024 budget hearings here](#).



MICHIGAN

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	June/July
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	Governor presents the budget in February. Hearings are held February through May.
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Michigan has a large number of appropriation subcommittees where the details are decided. Budget is returned to Senate and House Appropriation Committees, then floor votes. If needed, conference committees reconcile Senate/House bills. Then it goes to the governor’s desk.

Two charts ([chart #1](#), [chart #2](#)) are useful for understanding the budget process in Michigan.

BUDGETS

The Michigan Department of State’s functions include the supervision of statewide elections and the administration of state election laws. It also includes administering Michigan’s motor vehicle programs across the state. Key services include vehicle registration, titling, and operator licensing.

This budget is allocated with the motor vehicle program. Only the 2019 budget delineates election services clearly. Unfortunately, this budget has so little detail and mention of election funding that this data can’t be considered comparable to any other similar data.

WAYNE COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	September 1
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	Between June 18 and July 13
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	The Wayne County Commission

[Budget Process](#) (page 24 of the 2021-2022 adopted budget)

Article V in the Wayne County Charter establishes dates for budget preparation, transmission, adoption and implementation.

January 1: The County Executive transmits the budget policy statement, including revenue estimates, to all departments and agencies.

April 1: All departments and agencies submit their budget requests and other required information to the County Executive.

June 3: The County Executive transmits the proposed budget to the County Commission.

June 18: The County Commission introduces the proposed Appropriation Ordinance.

July 13: The County Commission completes hearings on the budget.

July 18: The County Commission holds at least two public hearings to receive citizen testimony on the budget.

September 1: The County Commission adopts the appropriations ordinance.

October 1: The County Executive establishes a schedule of periodic allotments for the fiscal year.

OAKLAND COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	The county commission approved the triennial county budget for fiscal years 2023-2025 on September 29, 2022.
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	In 2023, the Finance Committee held hearings for the 2024-2026 budget during the first part of August.
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	The Finance Committee of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners prepares a final recommendation of the annual county budget (page 16) and transmits it to the board of commissioners. The budget is prepared in a collaborative effort with the county executive. The board of commissioners has final approval authority.

NEVADA

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	June
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	February-May in odd-numbered years
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Both chambers of the legislature, then the governor

The State’s budget process begins with the establishment of the Governor’s Executive Budget, which is a cooperative effort between State agencies and the Governor through the Budget Division. The State of Nevada operates on a biennial budget cycle, meaning once every two years lawmakers are required to enact a new operating budget that will fund the State for the next two fiscal years. The State’s fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

CLARK COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	Third Monday in May
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	Between April 15 and the third Monday in May
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Board of County Commissioners

From Clark County: “Although the budget is adopted by the Board of County Commissioners each year on the third Monday in May and filed with the State on or before June 1, the actual budget process begins at least nine months prior to the final filing. Generally, preparation of the annual budget begins in September of each year with the distribution of operating and capital budget request materials and instructions to the various County departments and agencies. The completed request materials are returned to the Department of Finance in November (Capital) and January (Operating).

Concurrent to the departmental request preparation, the Finance Department updates current year projections of revenue, expenditures and fund balances. The initial estimates of revenues for the budget year are also made at this time. Upon receipt of the budget requests in January, financial analysts review the requests to ensure compliance with instructions. During the months of February and March, both revenue and expenditure information are refined, culminating in the filing of a tentative budget on or before April 15 as mandated by Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS).”

STOREY COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	The local government’s budget must be adopted no later than June 1 of each year. On May 16, 2023, the 2023-2024 Storey County Final Budget was approved .
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	Hearings for the fiscal year budget happen 13 months in advance; for example, according to the 2022-2023 budget, public hearings on the FY 2023 budget that ended in June of 2023 occurred in May of 2022.
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	The Storey County Board of Commissioners , which consists of three elected members



OHIO

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	June
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	February through May
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	The legislature and the governor

BUDGET CYCLE – BIENNIAL

Governor submits budget in February (four weeks after legislature convenes).

Fiscal year begins on July 1.

Operating Budget: [The budget established](#) for the operation of a state agency or program, typically based on legislative appropriation and completed in a two-year period beginning with even-numbered fiscal years.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	Approximately the first week of December, the council votes on adopting the budget.
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	The process for the FY 2024-25 budget began in August 2023 For the 2022-2023 budget process, the county executive recommended a budget to the county council in late September/early October 2021, and hearings happened all through October and November.
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Cuyahoga County Council, and the finance and budgeting committee is part of the process and implements the budget.

[* Village and township budget commission procedures preparing the budget \(2019\) handout #2](#)

The most recent budget process is [charted here](#). It's important to note that if the county doesn't have an ordinance requiring a certain process for the budget, they can typically move timelines and meetings, as long as they notify the public.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	This year, it's scheduled for a vote on September 27, 2023.
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	The Lawrence County Auditor tries to schedule all Budget Commission hearings either by late August or early September. A public hearing for this budget took place September 6, 2023, and adoption by county commissioners is scheduled for September 27, 2023. There was no public input during the county budget hearing in 2023.
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Funding for elections in Lawrence County is established and requested by the Board of Elections (BOE), which is appointed by the Ohio secretary of state. The Lawrence County BOE then submits their budget request to the Budget Commission led by the county auditor. Funding for elections in Lawrence County comes from the county treasury and the Board of Elections, which is partially supported by the secretary of state.

[* Village and township budget commission procedures preparing the budget \(2019\) handout #2](#)



PENNSYLVANIA

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	By June 30
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	Governor submits budget in February, hearings last 3-4 weeks (March-April).
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Governor submits, Senate and House Appropriations hold hearings, pass parallel budgets for floor votes. But final budget negotiations take place outside the committee system by Senate and House leadership and governor up until signature.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	June
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	Mayor presents a budget in March , city council passes a budget in June
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	City council

LUZERNE COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	First council meeting in December
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	October and November
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	City council

The budget process is laid out starting on page 35 in the [Budget and Finance Standard Operating Procedures manual](#). In August before the next fiscal year, county employees begin to compile the budget requests. In October, a budget book is printed, internal and external meetings begin, and the budget is voted and approved in December.

WISCONSIN

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	Early July
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	The governor presents in February. Hearings are held March-June.
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Joint Committee on Finance, then approval by both chambers and the governor.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	Mid-November
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	Between August 15 and October 1, then again no later than the first Monday in November.
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors , after it is prepared and submitted by the county executive.

Each department is required to submit requested operating and capital (as part of a five-year capital plan) budgets to the Director of Administrative Services in June. On or before August 15, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) is required to submit a summary of the requests to the County Executive and County Board. The County Executive is required to hold public hearings on the requests.

The resulting County Executive’s budget is then presented to the County Board on or before October 1. The Board then considers and may adopt amendments to the County Executive’s Budget, and must hold a public hearing on the budget no later than the first Monday in November. After adopting amendments and

holding the public hearing, the Committee submits the amended budget to the County Board, which adopts the final budget in mid-November. After the budget has been adopted and a detailed summary of appropriations is provided to county departments, DAS-SPB and the Comptroller’s Office monitor the budget during the fiscal year. This monitoring involves periodic checks of expenditures against appropriations, reviewing actual revenue compared to budgeted revenue and reviewing requests for transfer of appropriations. This completes the budget process.”

Page 104 of the [2023 budget](#) lays out the duties of the Office of the County Clerk and explains the relationship between the county clerk and the Elections Commissions. While the clerk has many responsibilities, they also serve as the executive director of the Milwaukee County Election Commission and provide support services to the Election Commission. The Milwaukee County Election Commission administers elections under the direction and guidance of the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

There's only a small allocation per voting-age person, making this another county where they don't appear to be taking advantage of any grants, public or private. [Wisconsin does not prohibit private donations to fund elections.](#)

DANE COUNTY

BUDGET PROCESS

WHEN IS THE BUDGET ENACTED?	Sometime between late November and early January. "The Budget Appropriations Resolutions are then adopted in mid to late November, based on the results of deliberations. Following Board adoption, the County Executive has until the next Board meeting that is at least six days, excluding Sundays, after Board adoption of the budget to submit vetoes. The Board meets to review vetoes, if any, and may override them with a two-thirds majority vote." (page 64 of the 2023 Adopted Budget)
WHEN ARE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD?	September and October. (page 62 of the 2023 Adopted Budget)
WHO DECIDES THE BUDGET?	The county's legislative body, the Dane County Board of Supervisors. (page 37)

BUDGET TIMELINE

March, April, May: Executive Develops Budget Guidelines & Materials

June, July: Departments Prepare Budget Requests

July, August: Administration Reviews Department Requests

First part of September: Joint Executive & County Board Public Hearings

September: Executive Develops Recommended Budget

October: County Board Standing Committee Review

Late October: County Board Public Hearing

November: County Board Deliberations

Late November/Early December: County Executive Vetoes

December and January: Budget Document Preparation



ELECTION BUDGETING

**A DEEPER DIVE INTO
THE COST OF STATE
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