

Department:

Program #91010B - Elections Strategic Plan

Program Contact: Tim Scott

Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program Program Offer Stage: As Requested

Related Programs: 91010A

Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request, Out of Target

Community Services

Executive Summary

Through population growth and implementation of automatic voter registration, the county's active registered voter count has increased by more than 100,000 voters since 2015 and is expected to continue climbing. It is critical that the Elections Division develop a strategic plan that will guide the growth of the program while reducing risk and supporting its mission to provide transparent, accurate, accessible and accountable elections to county voters. Program offer 91010B-20 provides funding to engage a consultant to assist Elections Division staff in developing a strategic plan.

Program Summary

The strategic planning process will address several key areas:

- Staffing Levels The population that Elections serves has grown steadily over the last six years, but the Division's FTE count has remained flat. Elections utilizes up to 260 on-call workers to augment its 12 FTE, and the ratio of experienced leaders to on-call staff creates challenges. The planning process will analyze current staffing levels and organizational structure and recommend possible improvements to gain efficiencies.
- Facilities The iconic Duniway Lovejoy Election Building has served the voters of Multnomah County for nearly 70 years. The 1925 building has been remodeled many times to create a secure and accessible building located near the heart of downtown Portland. However, as the neighborhood changes, Multnomah County's population grows and the number of ballots received increases, the building is straining to accommodate more than 260 employees and voters during large elections. The plan will examine space utilization and possible alternatives.
- Voter Education and Outreach (VEO) The VEO program is now in its fourth year and is well established in providing equitable education, engagement and outreach services. The program is in high demand. Each year, more organizations ask Elections to table at community events, speak to classes (including middle and high school school students and adults), take part in presentations and collaborate with organizations, community groups and other jurisdictions to provide needed resources to voters. The plan will examine the best way to meet community needs in the future.
- Ballot Drop Sites Drop sites expand access to voting, and each new site that opens is welcomed and well-used by the surrounding community. In the last year we have received many requests for additional drop sites but are unable to fulfill these requests because of the significant time and coordination that is required to locate, contract, implement and support each new site. The planning process will develop equitable siting criteria and a plan for sustainable growth.
- Vote Centers The Voting Center Express (VCE) in Gresham provides more than 165,000 East County voters with a more accessible location to get a replacement ballot, get help voting or vote in person. The success of the VCE led almost immediately to questions from the community about where the next vote center should be located. As with the ballot drop sites, it is critical to create an equitable plan for expanding this popular service.

Performa	Performance Measures								
Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY18 Actual	FY19 Purchased	FY19 Estimate	FY20 Offer				
Output	The strategic planning process will produce a report identifying opportunities for growth.	New	New	New	Report Complete				
Outcome	Following the strategic planning process a plan for implementation will be produced.	New	New	New	Plan Completed				

Performance Measures Descriptions

The strategic planning process will produce a report identifying strategies and opportunities for growth to support a growing county population. Following the strategic planning process, an implementation plan will be created to address recommendations from the strategic plan.

2/20/2019

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Multnomah County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5, Elections, describes the process for county initiative/referendum petitions and how to fill vacancies in county elective offices. Multnomah County Administrative Rules, Multnomah County Language and Effective Communication Policy, Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 165, addresses state-wide uniformity in the conduct of elections by county. Rules deal with issues such as county voters' pamphlets and voting by mail. Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapters 246 through 260, provide the legal authority for all aspects of conducting elections in Oregon. Federal mandates (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, The Voting Rights Act, The National Voter Registration Act, The Help America Vote Act and the Military and Overseas Empowerment Act) establish election administration standards.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2019	2019	2020	2020
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$150,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues					
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	

Explanation of Revenues

There are no revenues currently associated with this program.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was:

The number of registered voters in Multnomah County is growing significantly with more than 100,000 new voters added since 2015. At the same time, turnout is setting records in high-interest elections like the November 2016 and 2018 elections and the upcoming 2020 presidential primary and general elections. It is critical for Elections to create a thoughtful plan for meeting the demands of this growth. This program offer will provide funding to engage a consultant to assist Elections Division staff in developing a strategic plan to meet the growing need of the population they serve.