

Program #90010C - Election Access & Education

7/24/2020

Department:Community ServicesProgram Contact:Tim ScottProgram Offer Type:Existing Operating ProgramProgram Offer Stage:As Adopted

Related Programs: 90010A

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

This program offer will restore funding for the ballot tracking and voter messaging service and the November 2020 general election voters' pamphlet. These two programs were cut to cover the Elections Division's 2% general fund budget constraint.

Program Summary

Due to the anticipated volume of the November 2020 Presidential election, the Elections Division focused its constrained program offer 90010A on statutorily mandated functions like voter registration, printing, mailing and processing ballots and was unable to fund the ballot tracking and voter communication program or the November 2020 voters' pamphlet. Neither of these items are statutorily mandated but they are key components to voter engagement, education and access. Program offer 90010C is an offer to restore the 2% general fund budget constraint requested for FY 2021 and thereby restoring these two popular programs.

The ballot tracking program called BallotTrax was introduced in 2015 as a way to provide voters more information about the location and status of their ballot throughout the election cycle. Voters can sign up to receive messages delivered by text, email or phone that tell them when their ballot will be delivered, when it has been received, when it is accepted for counting or if there is a problem that requires follow up. BallotTrax provides transparency that helps voters feel confident that the election process is working.

The County voters' pamphlet is the Elections Division's most broadly distributed education and outreach tool. It is mailed to every household and contains basic information about voter registration and voting in the County's six most commonly spoken languages. It is also an inexpensive advertising option for candidates who may not otherwise be able to afford the kind of reach that the voters' pamphlet delivers. In the County voters' pamphlet candidates from all jurisdictions can file a statement for between \$50 and \$300 and any measure, with arguments, can be printed. If the County doesn't produce a pamphlet, candidates for only some offices have the option to file statements in the State voters' pamphlet but it is twice as costly, and not all measures for all jurisdictions can be printed in the State voters' pamphlet.

Performance Measures									
Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budgeted	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Offer				
Output	Percentage of voters using ballot tracking	10%	11%	11%	12%				
Outcome	Number of candidates filed in County voters' pamphlet	N/A	N/A	N/A	20				

Performance Measures Descriptions

Percent of voters using ballot tracking is percent of voters using BallotTrax to track and receive messages about ballot status. Number of candidates filed in County voters' pamphlet measures the number of candidates that will be able to file if this restoration offer is purchased that would not be able to file in the State Pamphlet.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Multnomah County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5, 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. Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapters 246 through 260, provide legal authority for 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

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	
Program Expenses	2020	2020	2021	2021	
Personnel	\$45,226	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Contractual Services	\$60,024	\$0	\$102,178	\$0	
Total GF/non-GF	\$105,250	\$0	\$102,178	\$0	
Program Total:	\$105,250		\$102,178		
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 associated with this program.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2020: 91010C-20 Elections Restoration - Sept 2019, Nov 2019 and Mar 2020 Elections

This program offer will restore reductions made in the Elections main program offer, 90010A. In anticipation of unprecedented interest in and turnout for the November 2020 Presidential general election, the Elections Division prioritized statutorily mandated functions like voter registration and printing, mailing and processing ballots. To cover the reduction, Elections was unable to fund the ballot tracking and voter communication program or the November 2020 voters' pamphlet. Neither of these items are statutorily mandated but they are key components to voter engagement, education and access. This program offer, 90010C, has been submitted to request restoration of those two popular programs.