

State of Alaska FY2010 Governor's Operating Budget

Office of the Governor Elections RDU/Component Budget Summary

RDU/Component: Elections

(There is only one component in this RDU. To reduce duplicate information, we did not print a separate RDU section.)

Contribution to Department's Mission

To conduct impartial, secure and accurate elections.

Core Services

- Oversee voter registration. Update and maintain voter records and prepare voter rolls for local and statewide elections.
- Plan, prepare and conduct two statewide elections during even numbered years. Conduct Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA) and Coastal Resource Service Area (CRSA) elections yearly. Conduct local liquor option, incorporation, consolidation, dissolution, recall, ASMI, and special elections as required by law.
- Oversee and support the initiative petition process including signature verification and printing and distribution of petition books. Provide training and assist petition sponsors from the time the initiative is proposed through certification for placement on the ballot, or non-certification.
- Increase the efficiency and accessibility of the electoral process
- Replace the Voter Registration and Election Management System (VREMS) with a more stable, efficient, and technologically advanced system.
- Improve accuracy of the voter registration list.
- Plan and prepare for future elections.
- Encourage higher voter participation.
- Continue implementation changes mandated by H.R. 3295 (Help America Vote Act).

FY2010 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2010 Component Budget: \$4,240,300

Personnel:

Full time	37
Part time	0
Total	37

Key Component Challenges

- Voter registration has increased. There are now over 174,770 more registered voters than were registered in 1990. As of 11/19/2008, the Division processed over 162,930 voter registration applications. This does not include the new registrations and registration updates resulting from the 2008 Presidential election. Registration through the Division of Motor Vehicles generates over 36,000 registration forms a year.
- The number of voters voting absentee or early has increased. During the 2008 Presidential election, over 96,000 voters voted either an absentee or early ballot compared to 10 years ago when 35,223 voted absentee. Approximately 30% of voters in the 2008 Presidential election voted an absentee ballot.
- More people are applying for ballots through the mail; the 2008 Presidential election generated over 45,000 absentee by mail ballot applications.
- Absentee by fax voting began in the late 1990's. This process requires that the division fax ballots to voters beginning 15 days prior to the election. This is a very time consuming method of absentee voting and is utilized heavily by Alaska's military personnel and those Alaskans in work camps where this is the voter's only option for casting a ballot. The division processed 2,600 absentee by fax applications for the 2008 primary and Presidential elections.

- During the 2008 Presidential election, over 20,000 voters voted questioned ballots compared to 10 years ago when 16,000 voted questioned ballots.
- In addition to programming the election, the division's workload in preparing for an election has increased due to the maintenance, functional testing, logic and accuracy testing, security, additional training and deployment of over 800 electronic voting units.
- Public notice is now required for each polling place change by sending notice to each affected voter, advertisement in newspapers as well as contact with city/borough entities or community councils.
- The number of signatures filed by initiative petition sponsors has increased from an average of 36,100 signatures per petition to an average of over 40,000 signatures per petition. Additionally, the law requires the division to process signatures within 60 days from the time the petition is filed. Although the amount of signatures filed with a petition has increased, the time allowed for the division to process signatures has not changed.
- In 2005, AS 15.30.036 was enacted to allow for Independent Candidates for President and Vice-President to gain access to Alaska's ballot. The 2008 Presidential election year was the first year for this process. The division received a substantial number of inquiries from people interested in obtaining access to Alaska's ballot as a presidential candidate by using this method. The division processed candidacy paperwork for nine presidential and vice presidential write in candidates.
- Manage, maintain and improved the 20-year old voter registration system (VREMS), which will run side-by-side with the new system through one election to ensure a smooth transition of voter information.
- Continue implementation of a new statewide voter registration and election management system. The system will be in compliance with the new federal election reform laws. The new system has an anticipated "go live" date of June 30, 2009.
- Continue to develop and implement proper procedures for transport and security, additional training of election officials and a public outreach and education campaign necessary to ensure public confidence and approved access to voters.
- Review statutes and regulations to provide more clarity on election procedures and to take into account new voting equipment requirements.
- Continue to work on improvements to the division's language assistance program.
- Respond to the increasing number of inquiries and surveys regarding the election process and the state's ballot tabulation system.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2010

- Continue research and updates to policies and procedures for touch screen voting for future federal elections.
- Transition to a new statewide voter registration and election management system.
- Thoroughly review statutes and regulations to identify areas that require more clarity on election procedure and to take into account new voting equipment requirements.
- Thoroughly review the processes and procedures for absentee by-mail voting to allow for a more streamlined voting experience.
- Improve and enhance language assistance tools translated in Inupiaq and Yup'ik, such as the glossary of election terms and audio translations of election and voter registration information and establish an effective process to verify the accuracy of the translations.
- Preparatory work for the 2009 REAA/CRSA elections, 2010 primary and general elections. This includes review and updating of all forms and handbooks used by the division for the elections.
- Election worker training for boards prior to the 2009 REAA/CRSA elections.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2008

- Conducted a statewide primary and presidential election, 22 REAA/CRSA elections, the Wrangell Incorporation elections and the Kuspuk Regional Educational Attendance Area runoff election.
- Processed a record number of absentee and early votes for the 2008 Presidential election. Performed a duplicate voter check of the 325,000 plus voters from the 2008 Presidential election.
- In accordance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and state law, the Division moved over 14,500 voters to inactive status.
- Processed ten initiative petition applications and verified petition signatures for four initiatives.
- Updated the HAVA State Plan in preparation for the 2008 elections.
- Updated regulations to improve election processes in accordance with State law.
- Partnered with the University of Alaska to conduct a study on election security and provide recommendations to

improve upon the security of election equipment. Implemented the findings from the study in preparation for the 2008 elections.

- Rewrote the division's minority language assistance plan and submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice for preclearance.
- Made improvements to the language assistance program. This included creating a translated glossary of election terms, audio information regarding voter registration and the election process, surveying village councils to determine language assistance needs, new training materials for bilingual election workers, CDs for election worker use with ballot measure translations, Yup'ik sample ballots, publicity in minority languages.
- Partnered with the Institute of Social and Economic Research to provide translators and record audio information regarding voter registration and the election process.
- Hired a full time Yup'ik Language Assistance Coordinator.
- Worked with the Department of Law to prepare and submit reports outlining the Division's language assistance activities 15 days prior and 30 days following each election as mandated by federal courts.
- Implemented toll free numbers for all election offices and for the Yup'ik Language Assistance Coordinator.
- Conducted outreach to villages and native entities on the Division's language assistance program.
- Reorganized the absentee and petition office.
- Moved the touch screen voting units from the Region IV office to the Mat-Su satellite office to increase the speed of shipping and minimize the handling of these voting units

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

42 U.S.C. 15301 to 15545 (Help America Vote Act); 42 U.S.C. 20 Subchapter I-H (National Voter Registration Act); 42 U.S.C. 20 Subchapter I-G (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act); 42 U.S.C. 20 Subchapter I & II (Voting Rights Act); Article V and Article XI (Alaska Constitution); AS 15 Alaska Election Code; AS 14 REAA School Boards; AS 29 Municipal Code; AS 04 Local Liquor Options; AS 46 Coastal Management Program; 6 AAC 01-28 Election Regulations; 6 AAC 101-160 Precinct Descriptions.

Contact Information

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Elections Component Financial Summary

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2008 Actuals	FY2009 Management Plan	FY2010 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	2,368.8	3,594.2	3,252.9
72000 Travel	114.8	88.3	45.9
73000 Services	949.4	3,547.3	881.4
74000 Commodities	69.7	151.2	60.1
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	12.8	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	3,502.7	7,393.8	4,240.3
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	2,914.6	6,821.7	3,642.8
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	588.1	572.1	597.5
9999 No specific fund source	0.0	0.0	0.0
Funding Totals	3,502.7	7,393.8	4,240.3

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2008 Actuals	FY2009 Management Plan	FY2010 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
Unrestricted Fund	68515	21.4	15.6	18.0
Unrestricted Total		21.4	15.6	18.0
Restricted Revenues				
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	588.1	572.1	597.5
Restricted Total		588.1	572.1	597.5
Total Estimated Revenues		609.5	587.7	615.5

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2009 Management Plan to FY2010 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2009 Management Plan	6,821.7	0.0	572.1	7,393.8
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Delete On-Election-Year Funding	-3,670.8	0.0	0.0	-3,670.8
-Delete Fiscal Note Funding HB314	-1.5	0.0	0.0	-1.5
-Transfer to Replace Election Fund Receipts (HAVA) with GF	416.1	0.0	0.0	416.1
-FY2010 Wage and Health Insurance Increases for Bargaining Units with Existing Agreements	77.3	0.0	25.4	102.7
FY2010 Governor	3,642.8	0.0	597.5	4,240.3

**Elections
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2009 Management Plan	FY2010 Governor		
Full-time	37	37	Annual Salaries	2,122,605
Part-time	0	0	COLA	84,644
Nonpermanent	42	13	Premium Pay	21,763
			Annual Benefits	1,086,186
			<i>Less 1.61% Vacancy Factor</i>	(53,330)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	79	50	Total Personal Services	3,261,868

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Absentee & Petition Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Absentee & Petition Manager	1	0	0	0	1
Absentee Clerk, Elections	1	0	0	0	1
Absentee Coordinator, Elections	1	0	0	0	1
Admin Clerk III, Elections	1	0	1	2	4
Admin Supervisor, Elections	0	0	1	0	1
Administrative Asst Supervisor	0	0	1	0	1
Division Director	1	0	0	0	1
Election Admin Assistant I	1	0	0	0	1
Election Admin Assistant II	0	0	1	0	1
Election Assistant	0	0	1	0	1
Election Clerk II	4	3	4	2	13
Election Clerk III	2	1	0	0	3
Election Clerk III, Dir Office	0	0	1	0	1
Election Coordinator	0	0	1	0	1
Election Database/System Admin	0	0	1	0	1
Election Petition Trainer	1	0	0	0	1
Election Supervisor	1	1	1	1	4
Elections Lang Asst Prog Coord	1	0	0	0	1
Elections Program Manager	0	0	1	0	1
Elections Systems Manager	0	1	0	0	1
Hava Program Assistant	0	0	1	0	1
Hava Project Coordinator	0	0	2	0	2
Program Assistant, Elections	0	0	1	0	1
Regional Asst Supervisor	1	1	1	2	5
Totals	17	7	19	7	50