

State of Alaska FY2008 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 19 Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA) and 4 Coastal Resource Service Area (CRSA) elections. 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. Assist petition sponsors from the time the initiative is proposed through certification for placement on the ballot, or non-certification due to lack of signatures.
- Increase the efficiency and accessibility of the electoral process:
 - Replace and upgrade old polling place equipment and supplies;
 - Review all forms, policies, and procedures to streamline and improve the process; and
 - Improve voter understanding of the election process and results through Internet and web access to information.
- Replace the Voter Registration and Election Management System (VREMS) with a more stable, efficient, and technologically advanced system:
 - Incorporate strengths of current system and plan for future needs and enhancements.
- Improve accuracy of the voter registration list:
 - Conduct annual list maintenance and purge procedures;
 - Work with other states to assure that the division is notified when an Alaskan registration is canceled in another state;
 - Coordinate with other agencies to maintain compliance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA);
 - Process paperwork regarding voting rights of convicted felons; and
 - Lower the number of undeliverable mail by performing address "clean up."
- Plan and prepare for future elections:
 - Recruit, train and prepare election workers for the elections;
 - Continue translation of election materials from English to Tagalog for Kodiak precincts and continue to provide verbal language assistance from English to Alaska Native languages in those areas enforced by the Department of Justice.
 - Work with the media and Internet providers to post election results on the Internet and at Election Centrals.
- Encourage higher voter participation:
 - Continue to evaluate and develop voter awareness programs; and
 - Advertise important election information and improve information available on the division's website.
- Continue implementation changes mandated by H.R. 3295 (Help America Vote Act):
 - Research technological enhancements to touch screen equipment for integration into the 2008 election process as required by state law;
 - Study and implement additional improvements to accessibility as required by ADA and HAVA;
 - Request authority to receive federal money and required state match funds related to federal election reform; and
 - Continue improvements to ballot access for military and overseas voters.

FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2008 Component Budget: \$3,237,000

Personnel:

Full time	29
Part time	0
Total	29

Key Component Challenges

- The division implemented Alaska's State Plan in accordance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), to ensure federal funding and grant qualification.
- Managed, maintained, and improved the 20 year-old voter registration system (VREMS).
- Begin testing and implementation of a new statewide voter registration and election management system. The system will be in compliance with the new federal election reform laws.
- Implement the plan for future elections improvements to best serve Alaskans who, in 2006, voted in record numbers by mail, by mail Special Advance, and by fax.
- Integrate touch screen voting equipment and voter verifiable paper receipt printers into the election process throughout the State for the 2006 elections. Full implementation of touch screens in every precinct of the State is required by the Help America Vote Act by 2006. Alaska law requires voter verifiable paper receipt printers for the touch screen units.
- 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 improved access to voters.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

- Continue research and updates to policies and procedures for the implementation of touch screen voting for future elections.
- Implementation of a new statewide voter registration and election management system.
- Overhauling statute and regulations to provide more clarity on election procedure and to take into account new voting equipment requirements.
- Establish absentee and satellite offices utilizing general funds.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2006

- Proposed major election reform legislation that was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.
- The Division successfully completed the RFP process for a new statewide voter registration and election management system. Research and testing of the current system and other available voter registration databases helped to determine the type of system that will best suit the needs of the State while anticipating future needs and growth.
- Conducted 26 REAA/CRSA elections, the Naukati and Ketchikan Incorporation Elections, and the 2006 Primary and General Elections. Following the 2006 Primary Election, the Division conducted a House and Senate District recount and the history-making coin toss determination of a tied House seat.
- In accordance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and state law, the Division moved over 14,500 voters to inactive status.
- Verified signatures for a record number of initiative and recall petitions.
- Made application for and received over \$11.5 million in federal monies under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).
- Established a new by-mail absentee office to improve the speed by which people can receive their absentee ballots.
- Established satellite offices in Kenai and Wasilla to better serve voters in these rapidly growing parts of the State.

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

	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	1,732.0	2,797.9	2,493.4
72000 Travel	27.1	88.3	45.4
73000 Services	960.6	3,388.7	654.4
74000 Commodities	80.8	151.2	43.8
75000 Capital Outlay	25.5	12.8	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	2,826.0	6,438.9	3,237.0
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	2,430.4	3,128.8	2,666.2
1053 Investment Loss Trust Fund	0.0	2,808.1	0.0
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	395.6	502.0	570.8
Funding Totals	2,826.0	6,438.9	3,237.0

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
Unrestricted Fund	68515	23.2	150.6	15.6
Unrestricted Total		23.2	150.6	15.6
Restricted Revenues				
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	395.6	502.0	570.8
Investment Loss Trust Fund	51393	0.0	2,808.1	0.0
Restricted Total		395.6	3,310.1	570.8
Total Estimated Revenues		418.8	3,460.7	586.4

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2007 Management Plan to FY2008 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2007 Management Plan	3,128.8	0.0	3,310.1	6,438.9
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Delete funding for Statewide Primary and General Elections	0.0	0.0	-2,756.5	-2,756.5
-Delete funding for Ketchikan consolidation election	0.0	0.0	-51.6	-51.6
-Delete funding for Initiative/Referendum/Recall Pamphlet	-737.4	0.0	0.0	-737.4
-Delete funding for Primary Election Pamphlet	-1.4	0.0	0.0	-1.4
-FY 08 Health Insurance Increases for Exempt Employees	4.0	0.0	1.5	5.5
Proposed budget increases:				
-Annual Maintenance Cost for Touch Screen Voting Equipment	48.0	0.0	0.0	48.0
-FY 08 Retirement Systems Rate Increases	224.2	0.0	67.3	291.5
FY2008 Governor	2,666.2	0.0	570.8	3,237.0

Elections Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2007</u> <u>Management</u> <u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2008</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	29	29	Annual Salaries	1,490,742
Part-time	0	0	Premium Pay	19,389
Nonpermanent	33	13	Annual Benefits	1,093,319
			<i>Less 4.23% Vacancy Factor</i>	(110,050)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	62	42	Total Personal Services	2,493,400

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Absentee Clerk, Elections	1	0	0	0	1
Absentee Coordinator, Elections	1	0	0	0	1
Admin Clerk III, Elections	1	0	0	1	2
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	1	1	0	0	2
Election Admn Asst II/Regional	0	0	1	2	3
Election Clerk II	4	3	4	2	13
Election Clerk III	2	1	1	1	5
Election Clerk III, Dir Office	0	0	1	0	1
Election Clerk IV	0	0	0	1	1
Election Coordinator	0	0	1	0	1
Election Supervisor	1	1	1	1	4
Elections Program Manager	0	0	1	0	1
Hava Project Coordinator	0	0	1	0	1
Hava Systems Manager	0	0	1	0	1
Program Assistant, Elections	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	13	6	15	8	42