

**State of Alaska
FY2006 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Office of the Governor
Elections
Component Budget Summary**

Component: Elections

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:
 - Initiate RFP process with a plan to "switch over" prior to the 2006 election cycle; and
 - 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
 - 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 2006 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.

FY2006 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2006 Component Budget: \$2,239,000	Personnel:	
	Full time	23
	Part time	0
	Total	23

Key Component Challenges

- Integrate touch screen voting equipment into the election process throughout the State for the 2006 elections. To date, these machines have not been adapted for voter verifiable paper records as required by state law for 2006. In 2006, full implementation of touch screens in every precinct of the State is required by the Help America Vote Act. Developing proper procedures for transport and security, additional training of election officials and a public outreach and education campaign is necessary to ensure public confidence and improved access to voters.
- Develop a plan for the future elections to best serve Alaskans. In 2004, Alaskans voted in record numbers by mail, by mail Special Advance, and by fax.
- In October 2004, seven regional educational attendance area elections were entirely and successfully conducted as by-mail elections. The division remains interested in conducting all annual regional educational attendance area (REAA) and coastal resource service area (CRSA) elections as by-mail elections. By-mail elections ensure that all registered voters in the impacted regions are mailed ballots, encouraging higher participation. By-mail voting allows for an election to be conducted without hiring and training local election boards.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2006

No service changes.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2004

- 2004 General Election saw the highest voter turnout in the last decade. More than 314,000 Alaskans voted in the 2004 election - the largest number of Alaskans voting in the history of our state.
- Conducted the Primary and General Election, 22 REAA/CRSA elections, an ASMI election, the Gustavus borough incorporation election, and the Municipality of Anchorage's bond questions as a separate election in conjunction with the General election.
- Processed over 170,000 voter registration applications applications. Increased voter registration rolls by over 29,000 since list maintenance in February, 2004.
- Mailed over 58,000 absentee by mail ballots - 87% more than in 2000.
- Processed over 3,100 in fax applications and ballots - an increase of over 100% compared to 2000.
- Special Advance ballots were up over 380% compared to 2000.
- Early voting increased almost 50% over 2000.
- Federal Write-in ballots increased from 6 in 2000 to 801 in 2004.
- In accordance with the National Voter Registration Act and state law, the Division moved over 24,000 voters to inactive status.
- Verified over 100,000 signatures for initiative and recall petitions.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

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

	FY2004 Actuals	FY2005 Management Plan	FY2006 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	1,233.0	1,938.2	1,570.4
72000 Travel	22.7	88.3	45.4
73000 Services	634.9	2,430.2	579.4
74000 Commodities	44.1	145.2	43.8
75000 Capital Outlay	17.5	453.8	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	1,952.2	5,055.7	2,239.0
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,952.2	4,429.8	2,135.5
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	0.0	183.1	103.5
1185 Election Fund (HAVA)	0.0	442.8	0.0
Funding Totals	1,952.2	5,055.7	2,239.0

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2004 Actuals	FY2005 Management Plan	FY2006 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
Unrestricted Fund	68515	23.2	10.0	10.0
Unrestricted Total		23.2	10.0	10.0
Restricted Revenues				
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	0.0	183.1	103.5
Election Fund	51482	0.0	442.8	0.0
Restricted Total		0.0	625.9	103.5
Total Estimated Revenues		23.2	635.9	113.5

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2005 Management Plan to FY2006 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2005 Management Plan	4,429.8	0.0	625.9	5,055.7
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Delete On-year Statewide Election Funding	-2,382.6	0.0	0.0	-2,382.6
-Delete One-time Funding LR 48, SLA 2004 (HJR 5)	-1.5	0.0	0.0	-1.5
-Delete One-time Funding Ch 154, SLA2004 (HB459)	0.0	0.0	-442.8	-442.8
-FY06 Cost Increases for Bargaining Units and Non-Covered Employees	18.5	0.0	2.5	21.0
-Adjustments for Personal Services Working Reserve Rates and SBS	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.9
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Reduce CIP Funding	0.0	0.0	-83.0	-83.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-Funds for Increased Lease Costs	71.3	0.0	0.0	71.3
FY2006 Governor	2,135.5	0.0	103.5	2,239.0

**Elections
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs		
<u>FY2005</u>				
<u>Management</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>Governor</u>	
Full-time	23	23	Annual Salaries	1,108,330
Part-time	0	0	Premium Pay	17,943
Nonpermanent	35	13	Annual Benefits	554,722
			<i>Less 3.49% Vacancy Factor</i>	(58,695)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	58	36	Total Personal Services	1,622,300

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Asst Supervisor	0	0	1	0	1
Division Director	0	0	1	0	1
Election Admin Assistant I	1	0	0	0	1
Election Admin Assistant II	1	1	1	0	3
Election Admin Supervisor	0	0	1	0	1
Election Clerk II	5	3	4	2	14
Election Clerk III	2	1	2	0	5
Election Clerk IV	0	0	0	1	1
Election Coordinator	0	0	1	0	1
Election Program Assistant	0	0	1	0	1
Election Supervisor	1	1	1	1	4
Elections Special Assistant	0	0	1	0	1
HAVA Program Assistant	0	0	1	0	1
Hava Project Coordinator	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	10	6	16	4	36