

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Memorandum

To: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
House Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee

From: Linda H. Lamone
State Administrator

Date: February 13, 2022

Subject: Response to Department of Legislative Services' FY 2023 Budget Analysis

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Department of Legislative Services' (DLS) analysis of the State Board of Elections' (SBE) Fiscal Year 2023 budget. Before providing the requested comment and recommendation, I would like to highlight two items in the analysis.

First, the analysis includes a thorough discussion of the project to replace the current electronic pollbooks with a new system. The decision to defer the implementation of the new system - used by election judges to check in voters and facilitate the same day registration and address change process - until the 2024 elections was not taken lightly and was the unanimous recommendation of the evaluation committee. As each vendors' solution was thoroughly reviewed as part of the technical evaluation, it became clear that all of the proposed solutions required a significant amount of development to meet Maryland's centralized election administration structure, same day registration requirements, and identified nonvisual access issues. This decision to implement for the 2024 elections:

1. Reduces the amount of risk for the 2022 Primary and General Elections;
2. Allows the selected vendor to fully develop and implement Maryland's requirements;
3. Gives State and local election officials time to thoroughly test and perform a statewide mock election before the solution's use in an election; and
4. Allows State and local election officials to devote more resources to the implementation of the current and upcoming redistricting and reapportionment efforts.

Second, the analysis accurately describes the challenges the delayed redistricting process introduces to the 2022 Primary Election and recognizes that, while election day is June 28, 2022, the election actually starts on May 14, 2022, the federal deadline to send ballots to requesting military and overseas voters.

February 14, 2022

SBE should indicate whether the position's duties are currently being carried out and when it expects to fill the vacancy. (page 12)

We are in the final stages of the recruitment process. On June 30, 2021, we submitted a request to reclassify the position, and the request was approved on December 6, 2021. We started the recruitment process on December 9, 2021, and have interviews scheduled the weeks of February 21 and 28.

Some of the technical writing duties of this position are being performed by project support and internal resources. The remaining duties will be assigned as other work is completed.

DLS recommends "continuing to track Pollbook Project development activities and expenditures through quarterly reports" and adopting a narrative requiring quarterly reports for the Pollbook MITDP. (pages 15-16)

I concur with these recommendations.