

The Council of the City of New York

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Operations



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Report on the Fiscal Year 2015 Executive Budget for the

Board of Elections

May 30, 2014

Executive Budget Highlights

- **BOE Fiscal 2015 Budget.** The Department's proposed Fiscal 2015 Expense Budget totals \$108.7 million, including \$55.9 million in Personal Services funding to support 346 full-time positions and over 30,000 poll workers. The Board's five-year average spending from Fiscal 2009-2013 totals \$99.5 million. Because the Board's needs vary significantly from year to year, it is common that its budget is modified throughout the year as needs are identified.
- **Fiscal 2015 Additional Funding.** During its Preliminary Budget hearing, the Board itemized a \$55 million budget shortfall for Fiscal 2015. The Executive Plan includes additional funding of \$32.2 million in Fiscal 2015 to address this estimated shortfall. Of that total, \$26.8 million is allocated for Personal Services and is primarily additional funding for poll workers.
- **BOE Contract Budget.** The BOE's contract budget for Fiscal 2015 totals \$22.5 million to support 37 contracts. Because the BOE is responsible for printing all ballots for elections held in the City, printing contracts represent 76 percent of its total contract budget.
- **June Federal Primary New Needs.** The Preliminary Plan included an increase in funding totaling \$7 million in Fiscal 2014 for additional poll worker expenses associated with the federal primary to be held in June. This new funding was based on a re-estimate of expenses after a mid-year evaluation of the Board's current fiscal year budget.

BOE Overview

This report provides an overview of the Board of Elections Fiscal 2015 Budget, a review of the significant initiatives included in the Executive Budget, and a summary of the Department's Capital Budget for Fiscal 2014-2016. Appendices 1 reports the changes made to the Fiscal 2014 and Fiscal 2015 Budget since adoption of the Fiscal 2014 Budget. For additional information on the Department's Budget and its various programs, please refer to the "Fiscal 2015 Preliminary Report" available on the Council's website.

BOE Financial Summary

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	FY12 Actual	FY13 Actual	FY14 Adopted	FY14 as of FY15 Exec. Budget	FY15 Exec. Budget	*Change FY14 - FY15
Spending						
Personal Services	\$57,517	\$52,563	\$63,117	\$70,517	\$55,917	(\$7,200)
Full-Time Salaried – Civilian	15,810	19,035	27,176	27,176	25,076	(2,100)
Other Salaried & Unsalariated	35,793	28,557	34,560	39,460	28,460	(6,100)
Additional Gross Pay	89	89	89	89	89	0
Overtime - Civilian	5,825	4,883	1,292	3,792	2,292	1,000
Other Than Personal Services	\$52,187	\$54,791	\$72,875	\$73,751	\$52,729	(\$20,146)
Supplies and Materials	3,133	5,232	3,783	5,814	3,783	0
Property and Equipment	3,896	1,575	1,359	1,789	800	(559)
Other Services and Charges	21,431	23,785	44,895	22,234	25,726	(19,169)
Contractual Services	23,727	24,188	22,838	43,914	22,420	(418)
Fixed and Misc. Charges	0	10	0	0	0	0
Total	\$109,704	\$107,354	\$135,992	\$144,268	\$108,647	(\$27,346)
Funding						
City Funds			\$133,258	\$141,217	\$108,647	(\$24,611)
State			2,172	2,361	0	(2,172)
Federal - Other			562	690	0	(562)
Total	\$109,704	\$107,354	\$135,992	\$144,268	\$108,647	(\$27,346)
Budgeted Headcount						
Full-Time Positions	340	323	346	346	346	0

*Change from Fiscal 2014 Adopted to Fiscal 2015 Executive Budget.

BOE's Fiscal 2014 Budget

In the Preliminary Plan, the Board's expense budget for Fiscal 2014 totals \$143.3 million, including \$72.8 million in Personal Services funding to support 346 full-time positions and over 36,000 poll workers. This total takes into account additional expenses associated with the current fiscal year's busy election schedule, which included the Mayoral primary and general elections, and the June federal primary election.

BOE's Fiscal 2015 Budget

The Department's proposed Fiscal 2015 Expense Budget totals \$108.7 million, including \$55.9 million in Personal Services funding to support 346 full-time positions and over 30,000 poll workers. Because of the nature of elections, the BOE's budget varies significantly from year-to-year based on several variables, including the type of election (local, statewide, congressional or presidential), implementation of new voter laws, and special elections and other changes in

election scheduling, many of which occur mid-year. While BOE routinely identifies budget shortfalls, funding for any deficits are added to the Board's budget by the fiscal year's end.

Budgeted headcount for Fiscal 2015 totals 346 positions which is an increase when compared to Fiscal 2013. Included in last year's Executive Plan was baseline funding beginning in Fiscal 2014 of \$659,000 for 23 voting machine technicians to address technical issues with the new voting machines.

BOE Contract Budget

The BOE's contract budget for Fiscal 2015 totals \$22.5 million to support 37 contracts. Because the BOE is responsible for printing all ballots for elections held in the City, printing contracts represent 76 percent of its total contract budget.

BOE Capital Program

Included in the Capital Plan for 2014-2016 are planned commitments totaling \$9.9 million for BOE equipment and infrastructure. BOE capital projects in the Capital Plan include purchasing voter machines, call center upgrades, relocation of offices and additional warehouse space.

BOE Historical Spending

The Board's Fiscal 2014 total is substantially higher than any of the Board's previous five-year actual expenditures, which peaked at \$109.8 million in Fiscal 2012, leaving the potential for a year-end budget surplus. The Board's five-year average spending from Fiscal 2009-2013 totals \$99.5 million.

BOE Five Year Actual Expenditures

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Year				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Personal Services	\$25,976	\$26,951	\$48,487	\$57,651	\$52,682
Other Than Personal Services	55,079	68,755	54,387	52,187	54,791
Agency Total	\$81,054	\$95,706	\$102,874	\$109,839	\$107,473

Note: Funding for poll workers shifted from OTPS to the PS beginning in Fiscal 2011 due to an Internal Revenue Service ruling that said they should be considered New York City employees and not consultants.

Appendix 1: BOE Budget Actions since Fiscal 2014 Adoption

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	FY 2014			FY 2015		
	City	Non-City	Total	City	Non-City	Total
BOE Budget as of FY 2014 Adopted Plan	\$133,258	\$2,734	\$135,992	\$76,486	\$0	\$76,486
New Needs						
June Federal Election	7,000		7,000			0
FY 15 Election Initiatives			0	3,000		3,000
Election Support	250		250	4,256		4,256
PS Funding			0	23,800		23,800
Additional Telecom Funding	629		629	590		590
TOTAL New Needs	\$7,879	\$0	\$7,879	\$31,646	\$0	\$31,646
Other Adjustments						
Heat, Light and Power Adjustment	79		79	(4)		(4)
Lease Adjustment			0	518		518
Federal Funding		128	128			0
State Grants		189	189			0
TOTAL Other Adjustments	\$79	\$317	\$396	\$514	\$0	\$514
TOTAL All Changes	\$7,958	\$317	\$8,275	\$32,160	\$0	\$32,160
BOE Budget as of FY 2015 Exec Plan	\$141,216	\$3,051	\$144,267	\$108,646	\$0	\$108,646