

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Speaker of the Council
Christine C. Quinn



Hon. Gale Brewer, Chair, Governmental
Operations Committee

Hearing on the Mayor's Fiscal 2013 Preliminary Budget

Board of Elections

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Agency Overview

The Board of Elections (The Board or BOE) conducts, as specified by State Law, all elections within the City of New York. The Board has a central office and five borough offices. The Board receives and examines candidates' petitions, registers voters either by mail or on specified registration days, and keeps current the City's voter registration lists. The Board staff holds and keeps minutes of all of the Commissioners' meetings.

BOE Financial Summary

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	2011 Actual	2012 Adopted	2012 Feb. Plan	2013 Feb. Plan	*Difference 2012 - 2013
Spending					
Personal Services	\$48,487	\$47,428	\$55,719	\$28,320	(\$19,107)
Full-Time Salaried – Civilian	15,646	19,487	17,478	9,379	(10,107)
Other Salaried & Unsalaries	25,752	25,390	25,690	16,390	(9,000)
Additional Gross Pay	193	89	89	89	0
Overtime – Civilian	6,698	1,292	1,292	1,292	0
Amounts to be Scheduled	0	1,146	11,146	1,146	0
Fringe Benefits	199	24	24	24	0
PS Other	(1)	0	0	0	0
Other Than Personal Services	\$54,387	\$52,260	\$71,629	\$43,568	(\$8,692)
Supplies and Materials	3,395	3,081	3,717	3,081	0
Property and Equipment	494	800	8,046	800	0
Other Services and Charges	21,275	23,460	29,064	17,267	(6,192)
Contractual Services	29,218	24,920	30,802	22,420	(2,500)
Fixed and Misc. Charges	5	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	\$102,874	\$99,688	\$127,348	\$71,888	(\$27,800)
Funding					
City Funds	NA	99,688	122,559	71,888	(27,800)
State	NA	0	3,731	0	0
Federal – Other	NA	0	1,058	0	0
TOTAL	\$102,874	\$99,688	\$127,348	\$71,888	(\$27,800)
Positions					
TOTAL	341	319	319	319	0

*The difference of Fiscal 2012 Adopted compared to Fiscal 2013 February Plan funding.

The Fiscal 2013 Preliminary Plan totals are significantly higher than the previous year's actual expenditures due in large part to the presidential primary and the statewide primary election set for June 2012. Because of the nature of elections, the BOE's budget varies significantly from year to year based on several variables including 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. The Board's Fiscal 2013 Preliminary Budget of \$71.9 million, is likely to be modified to meet the Board's changing needs.

Spending for other salaried and unsalaried personnel includes expenditures for the Board's more than 30,000 poll workers.

Fiscal 2013 Preliminary Plan Highlights

Financial Plan Actions

- **BOE Budget Modifications.** In the City's effort to force BOE to reduce its spending, OMB has funded the BOE below its projections over the past few years. In that time, the City Council has sought and received from OMB assurances that should the Board's funding prove insufficient mid-year, appropriate funding would be added. While BOE routinely identifies budget shortfalls, funding for any deficits are added to the Board's budget by the fiscal year's end.
- **Presidential Primary Election.** New York will have its presidential primary on April 24, 2012 and only registered republicans may vote. The Fiscal 2012 Executive Plan included \$23.9 million in Fiscal 2013 to conduct the presidential primary, an amount based on expenditures for the 2008 presidential primary. More than one million voters cast ballots in 2008.
- **PS Reduction.** The 2011 November Plan included a PEG to reduce personal services spending by \$2.2 million in Fiscal 2012 and \$5.1 million in Fiscal 2013 and in the outyears. The BOE has indicated that this PEG would not be achieved.
- **Special Election Funding.** The Preliminary Plan includes \$840,000 for the special election in the 27th Senatorial District – Kings County Special Election in March 2012.
- **Additional 2012 Election Needs.** After the BOE identified a \$4.14 million shortfall for various needs associated with elections held in the first half of Fiscal 2012, the Preliminary Plan provides an additional \$ 1.04 million for the current fiscal year.
- **Primary Election U.S. Congress.** The Preliminary Plan includes \$23 million for primary elections for congressional offices set for June 26, 2012.

Capital Program

Included in the Capital Plan for Fiscal 2012 and 2013 are planned commitments totaling \$18.6 million for BOE equipment and infrastructure. The majority of this funding (\$9.7 million) resides in a lump sum project line that operates as a holding code. Funding is transferred from this line as needs are identified. BOE capital projects identified in the Capital Plan include purchasing voter machines, call center upgrades, relocation of offices and additional warehouse space.

Appendix A: Budget Actions in the November and February Plans

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	FY 2012			FY 2013		
	City	Non-City	Total	City	Non-City	Total
Agency Budget as of June 2011 Plan	\$99,688	\$0	\$99,688	\$76,595	\$0	\$76,595
Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEGs)						
PS Reduction	(2,162)		(2,162)	(5,067)		(5,067)
TOTAL, PEGs	(\$2,162)	\$0	(\$2,162)	(\$5,067)	\$0	(\$5,067)
New Needs						
Additional 2012 election Needs	1,040		1,040			0
June Presidential Primary Election	23,000		23,000			0
Special Election	840		840			0
TOTAL, New Needs	\$24,880	\$0	\$24,880	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Adjustments						
Fringe Offset	153		153	360		
Federal Funding		1,058	1,058			
State		3,731	3,731			360
TOTAL, Other Adjustments	\$153	\$4,789	\$4,942	\$360	\$0	\$360
TOTAL, All Changes	\$22,871	\$4,789	\$27,660	(\$4,707)	\$0	(\$4,707)
Agency Budget as of February 2012 Plan	\$122,559	\$4,789	\$127,348	\$71,888	\$0	\$71,888

Appendix B: Contract Budget

Category	Number	Budgeted	Pct of BOE's Total	Pct of City Total
Contractual Services General	2	\$1,500,000	6.69%	0.33%
Telecommunications Maintenance	8	\$1,000	0.00%	0.00%
Maint & Repair, General	1	\$1,132	0.01%	0.00%
Office Equipment Maintenance	2	\$220,000	0.98%	1.57%
Data Processing Equipment	1	\$200,000	0.89%	0.12%
Printing Contracts	9	\$17,007,500	75.86%	55.34%
Security Services	1	\$200,000	0.89%	0.25%
Cleaning Services	1	\$100,000	0.45%	0.49%
Transportation Expenditures	9	\$2,750,000	12.27%	20.89%
Training Programs for City Employees	1	\$190,000	0.85%	1.27%
Professional Services Legal Services	1	\$150,000	0.67%	0.16%
Professional Services: Other	1	\$100,000	0.45%	0.07%
Fiscal 2013 Preliminary Budget	37	\$22,419,632	100%	0.21%

In the Preliminary Plan, the BOE’s contract budget for Fiscal 2013 totals \$22.4 million to support 37 contracts. Because the BOE is responsible for printing all ballots for elections held in the City, printing contracts represent 75.9 percent of its contract budget and 55.3 percent of all printing contracts citywide.