

Worksession

MEMORANDUM

May 1, 2009

TO: County Council

FROM: Amanda M. Mihill, Legislative Analyst *A. Mihill*

SUBJECT: **Worksession:** FY10 Operating Budget for the Board of Elections

Management and Fiscal Policy Committee recommendation: approve the BOE operating budget as submitted by the Executive with a reduction of \$70,968 to lapse an Office Services Coordinator position and an addition of \$50,000 for temporary office clerical. The Committee recognized that a supplemental appropriation during FY10 may be required for additional costs, including funding to implement early voting and the 2009 Special Election.

The Executive's recommendation for BOE is attached at ©1-5.

Overview

For FY10, the Executive recommends total expenditures of \$4,497,740 for BOE, a 35.3% decrease from the FY09 approved budget.

(in \$000's)	FY08 Actual	FY09 Approved	FY10 CE Recommended	% Change FY08-FY09
Expenditures:				
General Fund	\$8,297,358	\$6,954,140	\$4,497,740	-35.3%
Grant Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
TOTAL Expenditures	\$8,297,358	\$6,954,140	\$4,497,740	-35.3%
Positions:				
Full-time	28	28	28	0.0%
Part-time	0	0	0	0.0%
TOTAL Positions	28	28	28	0.0%
WORKYEARS	46.6	47.2	46.2	-2.1%

The Executive is not recommending a change in the number of full-time or part-time positions.

Public Hearing Testimony/Correspondence

Margaret Jurgensen, Election Director for the County Board of Elections, submitted testimony to the MFP Committee (©6). The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County noted that there are unknowns that may require a supplemental appropriation during the fiscal year (©9). Additionally, Anne Martin submitted written correspondence and noted that Board of Elections hired many temporary employees and questioned whether money could be saved by hiring additional permanent employees (©10).

FY10 Expenditure Issues

Many of the Board's services are mandated by federal and state election law. Article 33 of the Maryland Code, §2-203, requires the County to appropriate funds to the local board of elections to cover the necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of its duties as prescribed by law. The AccuVote-TS, Direct Recording Electronic Voting System and ongoing policy changes at the State Board continue to place additional demands on staff at BOE and the operating budget.

1. *Election Year Fluctuations (-\$2,311,800).*

The BOE workload fluctuates according to the following four-year election cycle:

FY10-FY13 Election Cycle

Year	Election	Fiscal-Year
One	Local & Municipal	FY10
Two	State & County Primary and General	FY11
Three	Presidential Primary	FY12
Four	Presidential General	FY13

The recommended FY10 Operating Budget reflects this cycle and contains several cost changes associated with election cycle changes. Additionally, the County Board is subject to State Election Law, which has imposed several unfunded mandates and BOE must continue to follow ever-changing directives from the State Board of Elections. The table on the following page summarizes these election year fluctuations.

Item	Amount
Temporary Clerical Services - Voter Registration Services	\$3,420
Polling Place Supplies	-\$30,000
Non-Sample Ballot mailing	-\$10,000
State Board of Elections Program Management	-\$20,820
Building or Space Rental/Leases	-\$25,000
Polling Place Supplies	-\$30,000
Central Duplicating - Postage - Bulk	-\$34,000
Sample Ballot Printing Contract	-\$75,000
Printing Costs	-\$80,000
Election Cycle Changes	-\$128,000
Maintenance Costs - Electronic Poll Books	-\$145,350
Moving Services, Equipment Rentals, Temp. Office Clerical	-\$148,900
Ballot and Supply Expenses - State Voting System	-\$213,400
Sample Ballot Postage	-\$420,500
Election Cycle Overtime	-\$420,650
Election Judge Stipends	-\$533,600
Net Election Year Fluctuations Total	-\$2,311,800

2. Potential Reduction: Lapsed Positions (-\$70,968)

The Board currently has a vacant Program Manager I position which is being filled with the temporary promotion of an Office Services Coordinator. The Board has attempted to fill the Program Manager position, but this position is not exempted from the County's hiring freeze. It is unlikely that this position will be exempted from the hiring freeze during FY10 either. Therefore, **the Committee recommended lapsing the Office Services Coordinator position for a savings of \$70,968 (salary and benefits).**

3. Decrease Cost: Temporary Office Clerical (-\$50,000).

Because of a historical staffing shortage, the Board of Elections relies on temporary employees to assist with its workload. The Executive's budget recommends a decrease of \$50,000 for Temporary Office Clerical beyond the typical election year fluctuations. The budget identifies that this decrease will not have a service impact. Board staff are hopeful that this reduction will not impact services, but note that there is a possibility that it could. The level of staffing for temporary workers could impact the Board's duties both at the beginning and end of FY10.

The reduction in temporary workers will require the Board to eliminate most temporary workers at the beginning of the fiscal year and at a time when the Board is doing its "clean up" from the special election and will be in the process of moving from its location in Broome School to the new facility. At the end of FY10, the decrease in temporary workers may hinder the Board's ability to prepare for the FY11 election, which is scheduled for September 2010 (Gubernatorial primary election) and November 2010 (Gubernatorial general election). Additionally, if the General Assembly passes legislation to allow early voting, the Board will likely need to bring on additional temporary workers prior to July 1, 2010.

The Committee recommended adding \$50,000 temporary office clerical to the budget.

4. *Additional Positions*

As noted above, because of the historical staffing shortage, the Board of Elections typically uses temporary workers to perform certain functions. The Board has identified 3.5 staff workyears they believe are required to address this staffing shortage. These positions and potential costs and savings, are summarized in the table below. Each of these positions will be discussed in turn below.

Position	Work- years	Permanent Position Cost	Temporary Worker Cost	Net Cost
Voter Registration	2	\$131,782	\$56,450	\$75,332
Administrative Support	0.5	\$30,000	\$18,685	\$11,315
Absentee Voter Reg Staff	1	\$65,891	\$28,238	\$37,653

A. Voter Registration (\$131,782, 2.0 workyears)

The Board indicates that it needs 2 Grade 16 Office Services Coordinator positions to address the increased workload associated with use of electronic voting machines, the Help America Vote Act, and the introduction of the statewide voter registration system. Although the Board will at times be required to hire temporary employees to deal with increased workload, which fluctuates with the election cycle, Board staff indicate that they could reduce the temporary staffing by 4 part-time temporary workers most of the time, which costs \$56,450. If the Council were to grant these positions, it would be a net increase of \$75,332. **Due to fiscal constraints, the Committee did not recommend adding these positions at this time.**

B. Administrative Support Staff (\$30,000, 0.5 workyears)

The Board indicates that it needs 1 part-time position to provide administrative support to the Board of Elections, Election Director, Deputy Election Director, and the ASC functional equivalent position. The Board does not have any secretarial positions and report difficulties with temporary employees being able to access certain on-line functions of County Government because of their temporary status. The Board staffs this position with a temporary employee at a cost of \$18,865. If the Council were to grant this position, it would be at a net increase cost of \$11,315. **Due to fiscal constraints, the Committee did not recommend adding this position at this time.** However, Council staff notes that if the Council were inclined to add a position to the reconciliation list, this position would result in the least net cost increase.

C. Absentee Voter Registration Staff (\$65,891, 1.0 workyear)

The Board indicates that it needs 1 Grade 16 Office Services Coordinator position to address the workload associated with the increased interest in absentee voting. The Board staffs this position with 2 temporary employees at a cost of \$28,238. If the Council were to grant this position, it would be at a net increase cost of \$37,653. **Due to fiscal constraints, the Committee did not recommend adding this position at this time.**

FY10 Revenue Issues

FY10 revenues for the Board are calculated based on publication sales and rental of warehouse space. State law mandates the fees charged for election publications, and sales are expected to

produce \$2,500 in FY10. Rental of warehouse space to the State is expected to generate \$78,900 in FY09.

Committee Recommendation

As noted above, the County Board is subject to State Election Law, which has imposed several unfunded mandates over the last year. In addition, the County Board must follow ever-changing directives from the State Board of Elections. The Committee recommended approval of the BOE operating budget as submitted by the Executive with a reduction of \$70,968 to lapse an Office Services Coordinator position and an addition of \$50,000 for temporary office clerical. **If the Council approves these two actions, the Board's budget would decrease by \$20,968 from the Executive's recommended budget.**

The Committee discussed with Board staff that a supplemental appropriation during FY10 may be required for additional costs, including funding to implement early voting and the 2009 Special Election.

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Board of Elections

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Board of Elections is to register voters; conduct elections; assist persons seeking elective office with candidate filings and campaign fund reports; assist citizens seeking to place questions on the ballot; and preserve election data.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The total recommended FY10 Operating Budget for the Montgomery County Board of Elections is \$4,497,740, a decrease of \$2,456,400 or 35.3 percent from the FY09 Approved Budget of \$6,954,140. Personnel Costs comprise 54.6 percent of the budget for 28 full-time positions for 46.2 workyears. Operating Expenses account for the remaining 45.4 percent of the FY10 budget.

LINKAGE TO COUNTY RESULT AREAS

While this program area supports all eight of the County Result Areas, the following are emphasized:

- ❖ *A Responsive, Accountable County Government*
- ❖ *Vital Living for All of Our Residents*

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Contact Margaret A. Jurgensen of the Montgomery County Board of Elections at 240.777.8523 or Bryan Hunt of the Office of Management and Budget at 240.777.2770 for more information regarding this department's operating budget.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Voter Registration Services

The Voter Registration Services program provides clerical and administrative support to register new voters and maintains the currency of information in the official registry. Currently, 602,074 registered voters are on file and the expected growth rate is 6 percent. The Federal Help America Vote Act mandated the establishment of a statewide voter registration database (MDVOTERS) that occurred in 2006 moving the county voter registration database to a statewide platform. In addition, this program processes all changes of name, address, and party affiliation and maintains a delete file, removing voters for reasons of death, felony conviction, refusal to perform jury duty, moving out of the jurisdiction, and other valid reasons. The program provides legally-required training for volunteer registrars; responds to various voter and candidate requests for voter registration applications, listings, CDs, and labels of registered voters; verifies nominating or referenda petitions submitted; and issues and canvasses absentee and provisional ballots. Implementation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, on January 1, 1995, requires all motor vehicle and State social service agencies to solicit voter registration applications and information changes from every client or customer. The program also tracks returned mail and sends a second mailing in order to accurately maintain the database.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY07	Actual FY08	Estimated FY09	Projected FY10	Projected FY11
Number of electronic poll books prepared and used on election days (see footnote 1) ¹	1,500	820	820	NA	820
Number of provisional ballots issued on election day(s) (see footnote 1) ²	19,300	12,000	7,600	NA	8,000
Number of Registered Voters (000s) ³	549.8	560	565	570	575
Number of Voter Registration transactions (000s) ⁴	183	230	250	240	250
Number of voting units prepared and used on election days (see footnote 1) ⁵	5,400	2,800	3,000	NA	3,000
Total ballots cast (000s) (see footnote 1) ⁶	408.4	230	441	NA	350

¹ FY09 quantity is for the 2008 general election. FY11 quantity is for the 2010 general election.

² FY09 quantity is for 2008 general election. No elections in FY10. FY11 quantity is for 2010 general election. Early voting, a new mandated change, is expected to impact quantity of provisional ballots.

³ Active registered voters.

⁴ In August 2006, transferred to statewide system resulting in changes in format, process, data groups, periodic upgrades and linkages with non-election agencies.

⁵ FY09 is actual quantity for 2008 general election. No County-wide election in FY10.

⁶ 2 elections in 2010 (FY11) using legislated new optical scan voting system, not yet procured. State is expected to purchase and lease new voting system to local jurisdictions, detail has yet to be provided.

⁶No County-wide election in FY10. 2010 general election quantity is indicated, the first cycle for early voting and no-reason absentee voting.

FY10 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	WYs
FY09 Approved	1,330,420	16.5
Increase Cost: Temporary Clerical Services	3,420	0.0
Decrease Cost: Other Outside Mail Services	-1,500	0.0
Decrease Cost: Repair/Maintenance Agreements - Office Equipment	-2,500	0.0
Decrease Cost: Other Non-Professional Services	-28,870	0.0
Decrease Cost: Central Duplicating - Postage - Bulk	-34,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Moving Services, Equipment Rentals, and Temporary Office Clerical	-148,900	0.0
Miscellaneous adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting more than one program	101,000	1.5
FY10 CE Recommended	1,219,070	18.0

Election Operations

The Election Operations program provides administrative, clerical, and technical support for the conduct of local, State, and Federal elections. The Election Operations program assists individuals seeking elective office with candidate filings; provides information, guidance, and monitoring of required campaign committee filings and financial report submissions; delineates and maintains accurate precinct boundaries; prepares and produces various district and precinct maps; administers the results of redistricting; acquires and maintains required polling places; surveys and monitors compliance of handicapped accessibility at all polling places; obtains and provides all polling place supplies and logistics to properly equip the polling places for voting; and develops training materials, recruits, and trains election judges to staff the polling places.

An example of a four-year election cycle, is shown below.

- Year One: Local and Municipal Elections (FY10)
- Year Two: State and County Primary and General Elections (FY11)
- Year Three: Presidential Primary Elections (FY12)
- Year Four: Presidential General Elections (FY13)

FY10 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	WYs
FY09 Approved	4,070,710	24.2
Decrease Cost: Central Duplicating Deficit Recovery Charge	-370	0.0
Decrease Cost: Trash Hauling/Removal Agreements	-2,500	0.0
Decrease Cost: Furniture Rentals	-3,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Metropolitan Area Travel	-5,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Non-Sample Ballot mailing	-8,810	0.0
Decrease Cost: Computer Equipment	-10,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Local Telephone Service Charges	-15,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Building or Space Rental/Leases	-25,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Polling Place Supplies	-30,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Temporary Office Clerical	-50,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Elimination of One-Time Items Approved in FY09 - Enhancement of Election Judge Database	-80,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Printing Costs	-80,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Election Cycle Changes	-128,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Maintenance Costs - Electronic Poll Books	-145,350	0.0
Decrease Cost: Ballot and Supply Expenses Associated with the State Voting System	-213,400	0.0
Decrease Cost: Election Cycle Overtime	-420,650	-1.0
Decrease Cost: Election Judge Stipends	-533,600	0.0
Miscellaneous adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting more than one program	59,510	-1.5
FY10 CE Recommended	2,379,540	21.7

Administration

The Administration program of the Board of Elections includes budget development; fiscal control; administration of personnel and contractual issues; procurement; program planning and evaluation; and coordination and cooperation with Federal, State, and local government agencies, elected officials, and political organizations. This includes ensuring that the requirements of Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act are met by providing all election related materials in both English and Spanish languages. The program is also responsible for providing accessible voting for all registered voters and coordinating all technology needs and activities with the State and County technology systems. Finally, the program is responsible for programming and coordinating resources for 3,120 voting units in three versions; 850 express poll books; and 850 printers and required peripheral equipment for deployment to 243 polling places located within Montgomery County.

Program Performance Measures	Actual FY07	Actual FY08	Estimated FY09	Projected FY10	Projected FY11
Number of absentee ballots requested (000s) (see footnote 1) ¹	51	17	57	NA	60
Number of absentee ballots voted/returned (000s) ²	39	14	52	NA	55
Number of designated polling places per general election (see second sentence of footnote 1) ³	240	243	243	NA	245
Number of election judges recruited, trained, and placed per general election (see footnote 1) ⁴	3,700	4,200	4,900	NA	5000

¹ FY09 is an actual number of absentee ballots requested for the presidential general.

No elections in FY10; 2 gubernatorial elections in FY11.

² FY09 number is actual for presidential general election. FY11 covers two gubernatorial elections. Legislative changes, no cause and early voting, expected to affect FY11 quantity of absentee ballots.

³ No countywide elections in FY10; two gubernatorial elections in FY11.

⁴ FY09 actual numbers from presidential general election. An additional 2,600 voters were recruited and trained to serve as stand-by election judges.

FY10 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	WYs
FY09 Approved	1,553,010	6.5
Increase Cost: Annualization of FY09 Service Increment	7,480	0.0
Decrease Cost: Advertising - Jobs	-1,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Other Miscellaneous Operating Expenses	-4,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: State Board of Elections Program Management	-20,820	0.0
Decrease Cost: Sample Ballot Printing Contract	-75,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Sample Ballot Postage	-420,500	0.0
Miscellaneous adjustments, including negotiated compensation changes, employee benefit changes, changes due to staff turnover, reorganizations, and other budget changes affecting more than one program	-140,040	0.0
FY10 CE Recommended	899,130	6.5

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BUDGET SUMMARY

	Actual FY08	Budget FY09	Estimated FY09	Recommended FY10	% Chg Bud/Rec
COUNTY GENERAL FUND					
EXPENDITURES					
Salaries and Wages	3,158,941	2,280,600	3,345,980	1,925,070	-15.6%
Employee Benefits	534,501	554,840	676,870	531,370	-4.2%
County General Fund Personnel Costs	3,693,442	2,835,440	4,022,850	2,456,440	-13.4%
Operating Expenses	4,603,916	4,118,700	3,927,120	2,041,300	-50.4%
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	—
County General Fund Expenditures	8,297,358	6,954,140	7,949,970	4,497,740	-35.3%
PERSONNEL					
Full-Time	28	28	28	28	—
Part-Time	0	0	0	0	—
Workyears	46.6	47.2	47.2	46.2	-2.1%
REVENUES					
Rental of Warehouse Space	48,360	48,360	48,360	78,900	63.2%
Publication Sales - Board of Elections	6,858	8,000	8,000	2,500	-68.8%
County General Fund Revenues	55,218	56,360	56,360	81,400	44.4%

FY10 RECOMMENDED CHANGES

	Expenditures	WYs
COUNTY GENERAL FUND		
FY09 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION	6,954,140	47.2
Other Adjustments (with no service impacts)		
Increase Cost: Service Increment	22,350	0.0
Increase Cost: Annualization of FY09 Service Increment [Administration]	7,480	0.0
Increase Cost: Group Insurance Adjustment	4,590	0.0
Increase Cost: Retirement Adjustment	3,810	0.0
Increase Cost: Temporary Clerical Services [Voter Registration Services]	3,420	0.0
Decrease Cost: Central Duplicating Deficit Recovery Charge [Election Operations]	-370	0.0
Decrease Cost: Advertising - Jobs [Administration]	-1,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Other Outside Mail Services [Voter Registration Services]	-1,500	0.0
Decrease Cost: Repair/Maintenance Agreements - Office Equipment [Voter Registration Services]	-2,500	0.0
Decrease Cost: Trash Hauling/Removal Agreements [Election Operations]	-2,500	0.0
Decrease Cost: Motor Pool Rate Adjustment	-2,760	0.0
Decrease Cost: Furniture Rentals [Election Operations]	-3,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Other Miscellaneous Operating Expenses [Administration]	-4,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Metropolitan Area Travel [Election Operations]	-5,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Printing and Mail Adjustments	-7,520	0.0
Decrease Cost: Non-Sample Ballot mailing [Election Operations]	-8,810	0.0
Decrease Cost: Computer Equipment [Election Operations]	-10,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Local Telephone Service Charges [Election Operations]	-15,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: State Board of Elections Program Management [Administration]	-20,820	0.0
Decrease Cost: Building or Space Rental/Leases [Election Operations]	-25,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Other Non-Professional Services [Voter Registration Services]	-28,870	0.0
Decrease Cost: Polling Place Supplies [Election Operations]	-30,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Central Duplicating - Postage - Bulk [Voter Registration Services]	-34,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Temporary Office Clerical [Election Operations]	-50,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Sample Ballot Printing Contract [Administration]	-75,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Elimination of One-Time Items Approved in FY09 - Enhancement of Election Judge Database [Election Operations]	-80,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Printing Costs [Election Operations]	-80,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Election Cycle Changes [Election Operations]	-128,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Maintenance Costs - Electronic Poll Books [Election Operations]	-145,350	0.0
Decrease Cost: Moving Services, Equipment Rentals, and Temporary Office Clerical [Voter Registration Services]	-148,900	0.0
Decrease Cost: Ballot and Supply Expenses Associated with the State Voting System [Election Operations]	-213,400	0.0
Decrease Cost: Sample Ballot Postage [Administration]	-420,500	0.0
Decrease Cost: Election Cycle Overtime [Election Operations]	-420,650	-1.0
Decrease Cost: Election Judge Stipends [Election Operations]	-533,600	0.0
FY10 RECOMMENDED:	4,497,740	46.2

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program Name	FY09 Approved		FY10 Recommended	
	Expenditures	WYs	Expenditures	WYs
Voter Registration Services	1,330,420	16.5	1,219,070	18.0
Election Operations	4,070,710	24.2	2,379,540	21.7
Administration	1,553,010	6.5	899,130	6.5
Total	6,954,140	47.2	4,497,740	46.2

FUTURE FISCAL IMPACTS

Title	CE REC.			(5000's)		
	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15
This table is intended to present significant future fiscal impacts of the department's programs.						
COUNTY GENERAL FUND						
Expenditures						
FY10 Recommended	4,498	4,498	4,498	4,498	4,498	4,498
No inflation or compensation change is included in outyear projections.						
Labor Contracts	0	11	11	11	11	11
These figures represent the estimated cost of service increments and associated benefits.						
Subtotal Expenditures	4,498	4,509	4,509	4,509	4,509	4,509

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Testimony for MFP Committee

Good afternoon, my name is Margaret Jurgensen, Election Director For the Montgomery County Board of Elections. I represent the agency of the never ending unfunded mandates.

The Maryland Legislature adjourned yesterday and their actions will have a significant impact on our budget in the upcoming year. As you are aware the has been significant interest in Election Reform at the state level. The latest reform for the counties will be the state mandated purchase of the new voting system which is an optical scan system which will be deployed with the Touchscreen system similar to the District of Columbia voting system and the implementation of the new Constitutional Amendment allowing Early Voting. Neither of these items has been included in our budget for the upcoming year yet these two proposals will have significant fiscal impact. Our agency has just been assigned two significant projects with all 75% of the funding coming from county government. The best speculation I can offer is that the leasing costs for the optical scan system will maybe or probably not occur until FY 12, so those cost could be pushed out but the county will continue to pay for the Touchscreen system thru FY 2014 and all support and maintenance cost associated with the system.

The new voting system will be a blended system with the optical scan and the current Touchscreen. This will be the third voting system introduced to the voters of Montgomery County in less than ten years. The challenge of the successful implementation will require the voters to self-educate themselves on the correct voting procedure:

- This will require significant voter self-education for the community in order to complete the ballot so that it is able to be tabulated to reflect the voter choices. The state board of election will have an outreach program but success requires actual “hands on” voting opportunities.
- As with the introduction of any new system, we will need to perform significant changes in the training of the election judges plus survey each site for the configuration of the layout of each polling place. The previous election nearly 90% classified the polling place operation in the highest rating category. The well trained poll worker permits the voter to have confidence in the voting system and the

results of the election to be a true representation of the selection of the governance of the county state and federal representatives,

- This cannot all be completed from July of 2010 to the September election date; this must be completed before the training of the Election Judges begins in July of 2010. Training development will need to be started no later than March 2010 in order to receive State approval and training material, exercises and other related requirements put in place for the first training class in July 2010.
- Additionally, the Primary of 2010 will be difficult to recruit election judges. First, there will be the change to the voting system, which will be significantly more difficult and secondly, the election is held in September and the months of July and August are difficult to get citizens to attend the mandatory training.
- The local Board of Election will be required to look to a greater number of outside contractors to assist with the set up of this election cycle than in the past as the deadlines are increasingly tighter.

Early Voting provides additional voting opportunities for the community.

The impact is that there will be five community centers or recreation centers in Montgomery County that will require that a room that can have at least 40 voting booths set up and the necessary network connections starting from September 2 thru Sept 15 and again October 20 thru November 3, 2010. This will impact the Board's needs for voting sites will impact services offered at the sites for other community related services. It is our desire to make sure that each area of the county will be equally served, the sites will be selected and known to the public six months prior to the Primary election (March 1, 2010). This will be completed by the Local Board and the State Board of Elections.

The position of the Office Service Coordinator is the position that serves as the support for the polling place operation and the Campaign Filing and Finance support. If this position is lapsed, we will need to use a temporary to fill that position to complete the surveys of each polling place for the upcoming election. Managing the expectation of candidates, we will offer the person/s the opportunity to make an appointment to file for office or they can file in Annapolis at the State Board of Elections.

We strongly believe that the temporary office clerical should be restored to meet the transitional costs for the new voting system, the early voting

system and the accompanying work load that will come with the implementation of the election reform here in Maryland. Additionally these funds assist the staff with performing the confirmation mailing process to assist in cleaning the list of registered voters who have moved. Of course, in accordance to the Maryland Constitution, we are not permitted to remove the voter unless the voter notifies us they are not a resident of the state and request removal from our data base. The restoration of these funds will only address work for the transition and planning and no efforts regarding voter education on the ability to vote on the optical scan system.

We see challenges and opportunities with the new voting opportunities but there will be costs that are unanticipated when the budget was considered and drafted earlier this year. The Maryland County Officials did advocate delaying the optical scan for two years but the Legislature chooses to move forward with the purchase at this time.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.

**Testimony Before the Montgomery County Council on the
FY2010 Operating Budget and Public Services Programs
April 15, 2009**

I am Barbara Hankins, 2nd Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County. Thank you for the opportunity to present our response to the proposed FY 2010 Operating Budget. As you know, the League studies and takes positions on a wide variety of government issues. The following remarks are based on some of the local studies which the League has produced in past years.

Before I begin with our specific comments, we would like to point out that we recognize the extremely difficult economic conditions that you and the County Executive have been facing in the past year or more and recognize that we cannot continue with "business as usual" under the circumstances. We were pleased to see that the proposed budget does much to maintain the safety net which provides support to our most disadvantaged citizens both for social and health services and for housing programs. That being said, we do have concerns about a few specific programs and proposals.

Board of Elections

The League has first hand experience with the Board of Elections through our collaboration on registration issues. While we are not suggesting an increase in the Board of Elections proposed budget at this time, we would like to point out that there are currently unknowns which could require that the budget be supplemented later in the year. These include additional costs related to the Board's move to a new facility at the end of this fiscal year; the possible arrival of a state purchased optical scan system for use in future elections; and the need for education about new procedures for the constitutionally mandated changes to early voting and absentee voting. We hope that you will look favorably on requests by the Board of Elections if it needs additional funding to implement these programs during the coming year.

While we recognize that the budget format follows a four year cycle, we suggest that in the case of the Board of Elections, a fifth year be added in order to allow comparability of expenses and measures related to years with like activities.

Based on our recent two year study of alternate election methods, we recommend that the Council look into a policy change in its special election procedures for filling vacancies. Although we don't anticipate the volume of special elections required in the last two years, the League and other organizations interested in the electoral process suggest changing to a single special election using instant runoff voting (IRV) to fill vacancies as a cost saving measure. We believe it also may lead to increases in the very low voter turnout in such elections. In an IRV election, the candidate is required to receive a majority of votes cast in order to win. We believe it is preferable to the current system because of its timeliness, lower cost and broader candidate support.

Public Transportation

We'd first like to thank you for your unanimous support for the Purple Line. We look forward to the hearing on the Corridor Cities Transitway. (9)

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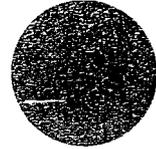
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ANNE MARTIN
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BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814
240.593.3052

April 20, 2009

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

041990



Dear Hon. Mr. Leggett:

My name is Anne Martin and I am a former employee of the Montgomery County Government. I was an Election Aide I for the Board of Elections in the Absentee Department (██████████) from Jan. 7, 2008 until Dec. 20, 2008. (My full name is Lauren Anne Martin – Advice ██████████) I was hired as a temporary employee, and left the County in good standing, with eligibility for re-hire. The reason I am writing is this: It is my belief that the County could save a lot of money by hiring more full-time permanent employees, since you pay temp agencies exorbitant amounts of money for temps which must be trained and are seemingly not as committed to the cause as someone who would be working at a salary with benefits. In the case of this historic (and very busy) past Presidential General Election, I know that our department was short-staffed for quite a while; had we had a stronger “core” team and not had to weed out so many “temporary temps” things would have gone much more smoothly. Therefore I am writing to suggest that you allow for more permanent employees in the Elections Offices.

My second suggestion to you is that you allow those persons which have been laid off in good standing (such as myself) be allowed to apply for County positions which are only open to County employees for one year following their dismissal. I have applied to several positions during the past three years, as I would love to spend the rest of my career working for the Montgomery County Government.

Mr. Leggett, I understand that the County has had to make cutbacks, just as almost every branch of Government and business across the nation has, but I truly believe that if you allow for those of us who love this county dearly to become permanent employees, then your mission in making this county ‘a great place to live, raise a family, grow a business and earn a paycheck’ will be realized.

With the utmost respect I am
Sincerely yours,

Anne Martin

cc: Montgomery County Council President

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