

STATE OF COLORADO
Department of State
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Christopher P. Beall
Deputy Secretary of State

TO: Joint Technology Committee
FROM: Colorado Department of State
Re: August 28th Quarterly Update 2022-23 IT Capital projects: “Money In Politics System”
DATE: August 23, 2023

In advance of the Joint Technology Committee’s August 28th hearing, the Department of State received a request for updates regarding the FY22-23 DOS R-03 ‘Money in Politics System’ project. The Department remains constrained by confidentiality obligations from the RFP process but has attempted to address the questions requested by the committee.

1. Which elements of the project are currently underway? Which elements have been completed since the department last updated the JTC? Is the project on schedule with initial plans?

The Department published an RFP in the fall of 2022 with responses due in the spring of 2023. After reviewing all responses received for the RFP, the Department of Personnel and Administration, who was overseeing the contracting process on behalf of the Department of State, determined that the solicitation was noncompetitive and as a result, cancelled the RFP on June 5, 2023.

2. How much money has been obligated and spent at this point? Please break down amounts and spent separately.

To date, no money has been spent from the initial one-time General Fund appropriation of \$1,610,000.

3. What is anticipated to be completed by the next quarterly update?

Per guidance given by DPA, the Department is working on reviewing, further defining, and reprioritizing requirements that were contained in the original RFP to identify potential system features that can be deferred for future development to potentially reduce up-front development costs. The Department is also meeting with vendors who have developed similar reporting systems for other jurisdictions to review current reporting systems, determine how current market offerings meet or exceed Department needs, and to assist in further requirement refinement. Any future steps taken by the Department will continue to follow the guidance of DPA.

4. When does the department/institution anticipate that the project will be complete?

The Department cannot commit to a project completion date until a vendor is under contract. The Department is working to the extent possible to pursue a procurement, development, and deployment timeline that would see a new campaign finance and lobby reporting system rolled out in early 2025.

5. Are there any important concerns or updates you wish to share with the committee?

The Department believes it is now prudent to delay rollout of a new filing system until after the November 2024 General Election. Changing the look, feel, and overall user interface for both public and administrative users during a Presidential and Legislative election cycle would create unnecessary confusion and would not allow time for sufficient organizational change management and user training. Additionally, it remains to be seen whether the Department can refine the system requirements enough to meet the State's needs while staying within the existing appropriation of approximately \$1.6 million dollars due to unanticipated technology development service cost increases that have outpaced inflation. The Department may need to request additional funds through the upcoming budget cycle.

6. For multi-phase projects, has there been any insight gained through this phase of the project that will cause changes in the next requested phase of the project?

In meeting with potential system vendors, the Department has identified some opportunities to clarify certain system requirements and to add specificity and detail without necessarily committing the Department to a specific development or functionality path. The Department has learned that some vendors increase development cost estimates, and in some cases quite substantially, in response to requirements they believe are too ambiguous or vague. The Department hopes to better control potential costs in a future solicitation by further refining and clarifying functional system requirements.

The Department is also exploring the possibility of releasing a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) and working to enhance the system based on funding availability in future budget cycles.