



Colorado General Assembly
Joint Budget Committee

Joint Budget Committee Staff

FY 2014-15 Budget Briefing Summary

Department of State

The Department of State is responsible for the following activities: (1) administering statutory provisions related to elections; (2) collecting, maintaining, and providing public access to filings by business and nonprofit entities, such as annual reports, articles of incorporation, and liens; (3) registering lobbyists and monitoring the filing of required disclosure reports; (4) regulating charitable gaming laws; (5) regulating notaries public and enforcing related laws; (6) implementing the provisions of the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA); (7) administering the initiative and referendum process, including signature verification; and (8) managing the statewide computerized voter registration database. The Department's FY 2013-14 appropriation represents 0.1 percent of statewide operating appropriations and 0.0 percent of statewide General Fund appropriations.

FY 2013-14 Appropriation and FY 2014-15 Request

Department of State				
	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	FTE
FY 2013-14 Appropriation				
SB 13-230 (Long Bill)	\$21,372,884	\$0	\$21,372,884	135.0
Other Legislation	1,535,333	0	1,535,333	4.0
TOTAL	\$22,908,217	\$0	\$22,908,217	139.0
FY 2014-15 Requested Appropriation				
FY 2013-14 Appropriation	\$22,908,217	0	\$22,908,217	139.0
Centrally appropriated line items	364,733	0	364,733	0.0
Indirect cost assessment	21,971	0	21,971	0.0
Annualize prior year funding	(1,232,961)	0	(1,232,961)	(1.8)
Statewide IT common policy adjustments	(68,688)	0	(68,688)	0.0
TOTAL	\$21,993,272	\$0	\$21,993,272	137.2
Increase/(Decrease)	(\$914,945)	\$0	(\$914,945)	(1.8)
Percentage Change	(4.0%)	0.0%	(4.0%)	(1.3%)

Summary of Issues Presented to the Joint Budget Committee

Fund Balance Concerns and Funding for Elections-related External Expenditures I: General Funding Local Election Reimbursement: Statute permits the use of General Fund for reimbursements to county clerks for statewide ballot issues, although General Fund has never been appropriated for this purpose. Increasing elections-related expenses and a diminished Department of State Cash Fund balance suggest it may be time to fund local election reimbursements with General Fund.

Fund Balance Concerns and Funding for Elections-related External Expenditures II: Narrowing the Window for the Line-by-line Verification of Signatures: The Initiative and Referendum line item provides funding for the costs of verifying signatures on initiative and other ballot petitions. Statute specifies a sampling process for verifying signatures for initiatives that requires a line-by-line verification if the sampling process establishes a projected percentage between 90 and 110 percent of the number required. A narrower window can still ensure accuracy and integrity while reducing expenditures for this line item.

For More Information

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To read the entire briefing: http://www.tornado.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/jbc/2013-14/stabrf.pdf