

PALS PROJECT

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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INTRODUCTION

As a group, we concentrated our efforts into setting an optimal resolution by merging the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Annapolis with the Board of Elections of Anne Arundel County. The objective of this department will be to provide efficiency for the tasks of providing and maintaining a properly administration for all federal, state or local elections that will hold in the future.



INTRODUCTION (CONT.)

After analyzing how both Board of Elections operated individually, we reached the conclusion that the Anne Arundel County Boards of Elections is better established, due to the fact that it is already running efficiently. Currently the City of Annapolis just runs elections at a local level, this means that the Board of Elections of the city does not deal with constant elective events, therefore it lacks the specialization in its operations, resulting in a loss of efficiency. Considering this, the optimal way to proceed according to our research would be to delegate every election event to the County's dependency, that includes all elections currently held at Annapolis local level



BUDGET

Regarding the budget assigned for this department, it is clear that, even without the merging of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, the budget is expected to be lower in FY18 in comparison with the current budget (FY17). The reason for this is that during 2016 three elections were held if we consider the federal, state and local level. Consequently, a higher budget was needed to be assigned for the elections to be held properly.



BUDGET (CONT.)

Due to the main proposal made for the consolidation, this is, the fact that the Board of Elections of the County will be responsible for holding every election in its dominion including the Annapolis Municipal Elections, the budget for the next fiscal year is expected to face an increase if it is compared to what it would have been without the merger of both Boards of Elections. We would expect to reduce the expenditure for the following years if the plan is executed appropriately.



CURRENT STATUS

Currently, both Annapolis and Anne Arundel County are responsible for their own Boards of Supervisors of Elections. In the case of the county, the office of the Board of Elections is a State Agency totally funded by the County and has over 388,363 active, inactive, and pending registered voters. As the FY17 budget mentions “All of employees of the County Board of Elections (15 positions) are State Employees; Anne Arundel County reimburses the State for their salaries and benefits. There are also three Board members, two alternates, as well as an appointed attorney”.



CURRENT STATUS (CONT.)

According to the budget that the county presented for the current year, the Board of Supervisors of Elections has been running efficiently due to the implementation of a brand-new voting system and also the centralization of every operation into a central facility located in Glen Burnie. Therefore, we do not expect to make substantial modifications in the way that this Board of Elections operates besides adding some new responsibilities associated with the conduction of Annapolis City Elections.



General Classifications of Expenditure	Actual FY2015	Original FY2016	Estimate FY2016	Budget FY2017	Inc (Dec) from Orig.
Fund					
General Fund	3,586,691	4,353,600	4,109,400	4,610,900	257,300
Total by Fund	3,586,691	4,353,600	4,109,400	4,610,900	257,300
Character					
Brd of Supervisor of Elections	3,586,691	4,353,600	4,109,400	4,610,900	257,300
Total by Character	3,586,691	4,353,600	4,109,400	4,610,900	257,300
Object					
Personal Services	2,289,994	2,041,600	2,080,700	2,199,500	157,900
Contractual Services	1,095,046	2,032,400	1,757,300	2,097,600	65,200
Supplies & Materials	146,553	220,300	212,100	237,800	17,500
Business & Travel	40,454	42,900	42,900	55,500	12,600
Capital Outlay	14,644	16,400	16,400	20,500	4,100
Total by Object	3,586,691	4,353,600	4,109,400	4,610,900	257,300

COMPARISON WITH OTHER CITY-COUNTY CONSOLIDATIONS

While city-county consolidations are rare, there have been many state and local initiatives attempting consolidation. The rationale for consolidation is to address certain government challenges. The Department of Elections for San Francisco continues to improve its services by streamlining processes and anticipating the future needs of San Francisco voters. In order to improve the resource base and accountability and productivity of the City and County, the department would have to change the organizational structure and allocate the budget for better efficiency.



COMPARISON (CONT.)

The Department's proposed FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18 budget contemplates the necessary funding for fixed operating expenses as well as funding to carry out services and programs associated with the two elections scheduled during the period encompassed by the budget: the November 2016 Consolidated General Election and the June 2018 Consolidated Statewide Direct Primary Election



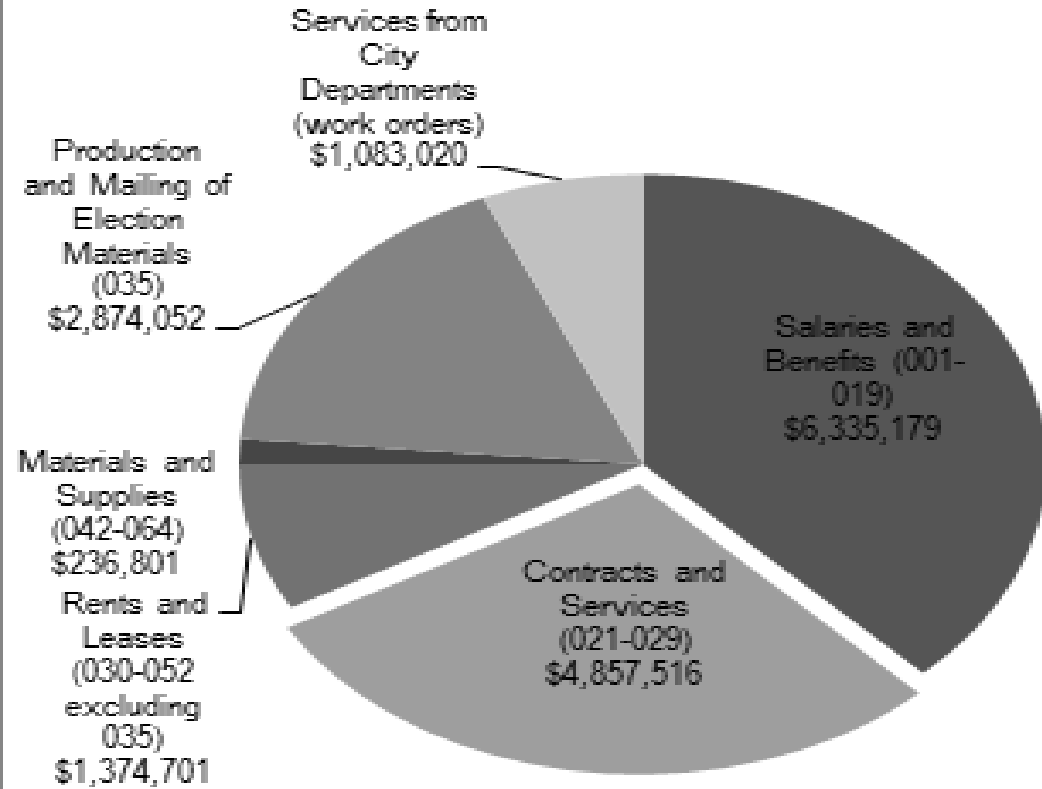
Figure 1: Snapshot of the Department’s proposed operating budget

	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
Total Expenditures	\$16,761,269	\$14,735,854
Total Revenue & Recovery	(\$752,689)	(\$45,159)
Total General Fund Support	\$16,008,580	\$14,690,695

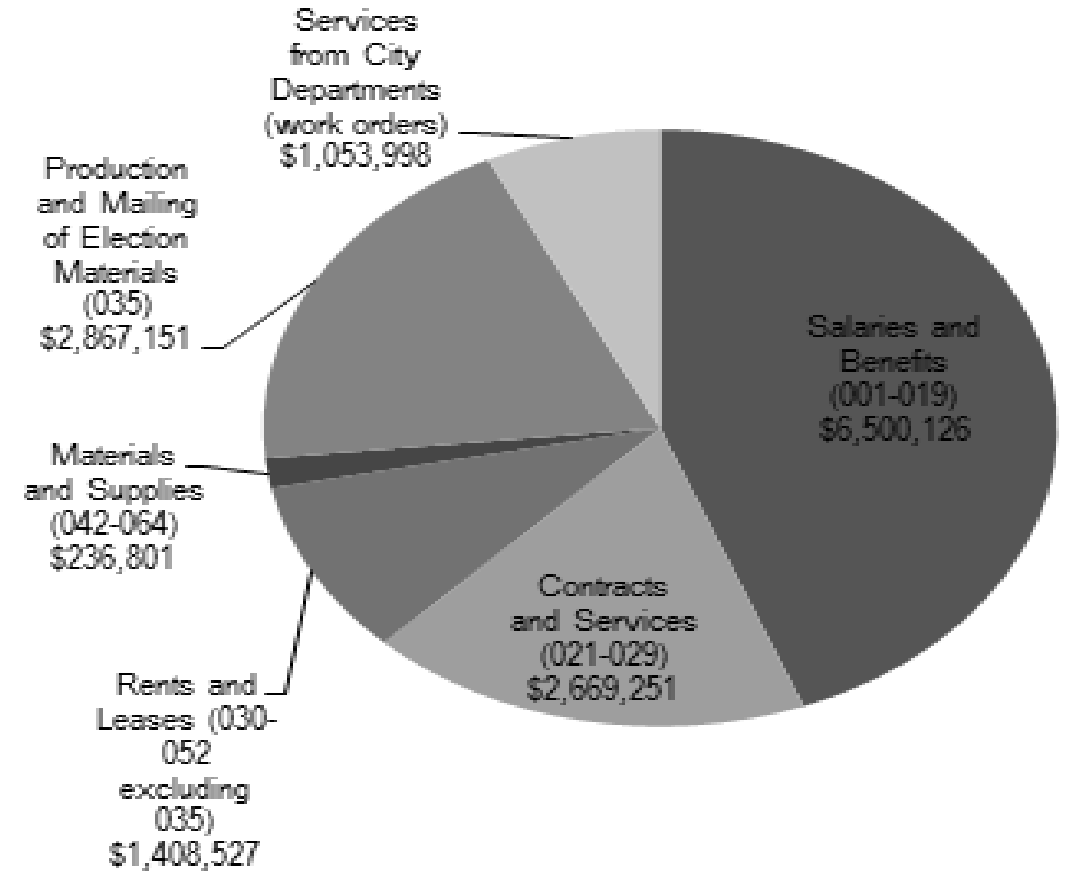


Figure 3: Total Projected Expenditures by Category

FY 2016-17



FY 2017-18



SAVINGS

The City of Annapolis would save \$60,951.25 in salary expenses from eliminating the Deputy City Clerk position. Since the Board of Supervisors of Elections are unpaid positions in Annapolis, this was the only savings we found from paid positions. During election years, Annapolis government would save a lot more by cutting personnel and operating budgets, as in 2014 it was \$32,606.50 and \$205,338, respectively.



SAVINGS(CONT.)

Annual Savings - Annapolis	Election Year Savings - Annapolis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Deputy City Clerk = \$60,951.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Deputy City Clerk = \$60,951.25Elections Personnel = \$32,606.50Elections Operations = \$205,338.00TOTAL = \$298,895.75



Anne Arundel County Staff: UNCHANGED

Administration Division	Voting System & Supply Division
Election Director	Voting System Manager
Deputy Director	Electronic Pollbook & Polling Place Supply Mngr.
Administrator	Polling Place Manager
Administrative Assistant	Two (2) Election Clerk III
Voter Registration Division	
Two (2) Supervisors	
Data Application Specialist	
Election Clerk III	
Absentee Voting Division	
Administrator	
Administrative Assistant	
Three (3) Election Clerk III	
Election Worker Division	
Administrator	
Election Data and Networking App Specialist	
Election Judge Training Manager	
Six (6) Election Clerk III	

