

FISCAL NOTE

This bill would transfer the functions in the Secretary of State's Office (SOS) that administer elections to the State Canvassing Board (Board). On July 1, 2024, the Governor would transfer to the Board those positions, personnel, property, funds and equipment currently in the SOS. The SOS and the Board would work collaboratively to develop recommendations regarding the transfer, and the appropriate budget request for the 2025-26 biennial budget.

The SOS provided the information below regarding the 2023-24 budget that would be moved from the SOS and the estimated necessary funding for the 2025-26 biennium.

2023-24 biennium budgeted expenditures moved from the SOS

Code	Description	Biennium Cost
0100	Removal of two (2) general fund election positions and benefits	(\$397,756)
0207	Dues & Memberships (NASED/Election Center/HAVA/Statute Books)	(\$17,200)
0221	In-state Travel	(\$25,000)
0231	Commercial Printing (ballot envelopes, constitutions, office supplies)	(\$20,000)
0292	Ongoing operational expenses (modifications to applications)	(\$300,000)
0410	Mainframe Services (Adabas, batch services prime time, etc.)	(\$22,568)
0420	Telecommunications (desk phone, voice mail, cellular)	(\$3,858)
0900	Contractual Services (hosting costs for 23/24 biennium)	(\$1,489,920)
	TOTAL REDUCTION IN EXPENDITURES	(\$2,276,302)

2025-26 biennium Board Funding Requirements:

For the Board to administer Wyoming statutes as they pertain to elections, the SOS anticipates that the staff would need to be comprised of more than an executive director. The SOS assumes that the positions listed below would be required to assist with administering the statutory responsibilities of the Board.

The staffing recommendation is listed below:

- Executive Director would serve as the Election Director (EXMT02);
- Assistant Director (BAPS12);
- Technology Position (CTMG11);
- Office Coordinator (BAB009); and
- Office Support Specialist (BAAS06).

2025-26 biennium Total Estimated Funding Requirements:

Code	Description	Biennium Cost
0100	Personnel (5 positions; see above) & Benefits	\$983,624
0207	Dues & Memberships (NASED/Election Center/HAVA/Statute Books)	\$17,200
0221	In-state Travel	\$25,000
0222	Out-of-state Travel	\$12,500
0231	Commercial Printing (ballot envelopes, constitutions, office supplies)	\$24,000
0240	Software (Microsoft Office, Adobe, Snagit, etc.)	\$5,287
0242	Hardware (computers, monitors, etc.)	\$16,213
0292	Ongoing operational expenses (modifications to applications)	\$300,000
0410	Tier 1.5 storage, SSL certificate, web hosting, mainframe services	\$24,300
0420	Telecommunications (desk phone, voice mail, cellular)	\$5,694
0900	Contractual Services (hosting costs for 25/26 biennium) *	\$1,833,600
	TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	\$3,247,418

* The hosting and operational support cost does not include any of the optional services provided by the vendor which includes WyoReg End-User Support or WYEPB End-User Support. Therefore, the cost noted above may be higher.

Assumptions:

It is assumed that all federal funds administered by the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and provided to the WYSOS in the form of grants would be transferred from the SOS to the Board for continued use to implement HAVA and physical/cyber security requirements. If that federal funding is no longer available, the above cost estimates for funding the Board would need to be updated to include that which is currently paid with federal funds.

Currently, the SOS's Election Division is responsible for administering lobbyist registration (W.S. 28-7-101 - W.S. 28-7-201) and the filing of ethics reports (W.S. 9-13-101 -109). SOS does not recommend that lobbyist filing be transferred to the Board as the registration and management of lobbyists is a module of the WyoSuite application. The management of ethics reporting is a component of WyoReg but could be handled by either department. If ethics reporting were to remain with the WYSOS, user accounts with specific credentials could be created to allow for those filings by employees at the SOS. Article 3, Section 52 of the Wyoming Constitution requires initiatives and referendums be filed and processed by the SOS. Petition checking is a module of WyoReg. Similar to the ethics reporting solution noted above, user accounts with specific credentials could be provided to staff at the SOS for checking petitions. Additional considerations should be given as to where this newly created office would be located and how it would be furnished. These costs are not included in the funding requirements noted above.

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