

**D38I01**  
**State Board of Elections**

***Executive Summary***

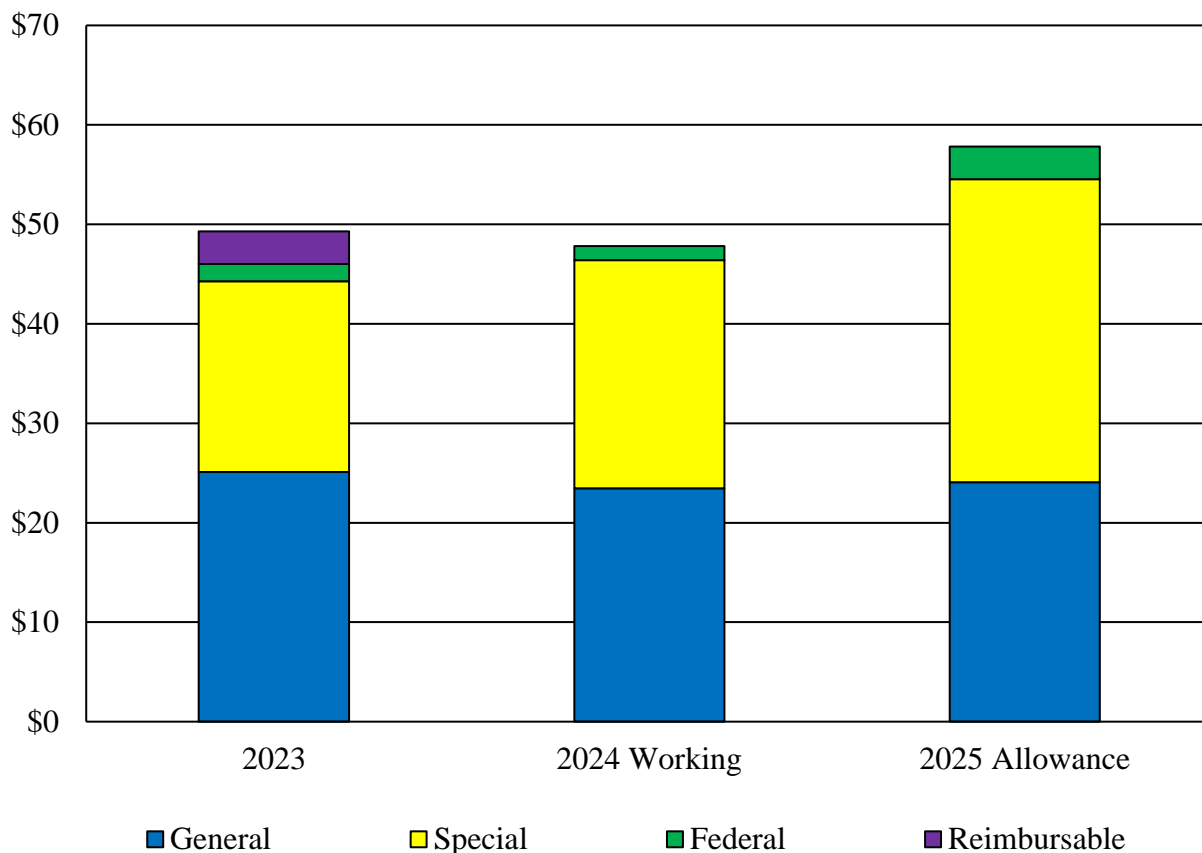
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The State Board of Elections (SBE) is a five-member board charged with managing and supervising elections in the State, registering voters, and coordinating candidacy.

***Operating Budget Summary***

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**Fiscal 2025 Budget Increases \$10.0 Million, or 20.9%, to \$57.8 Million  
(\$ in Millions)**



Note: The fiscal 2024 working appropriation includes deficiencies. The fiscal 2024 impacts of statewide salary adjustments appear in the Statewide Account in the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and adjustments are not reflected in this agency’s budget. The fiscal 2025 impacts of the fiscal 2024 statewide salary adjustments appear in this agency’s budget. The fiscal 2025 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in DBM and are not included in this agency’s budget.

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- The fiscal 2025 allowance increases by \$10 million compared to fiscal 2024 after accounting for proposed deficiency appropriations. Federal funds increase by \$1.8 million, or 128%, in fiscal 2025 primarily due to the purchase of routers for the pollbook solution and associated data processing equipment. Similarly, special funds increase by \$7.5 million, or 32.9%, primarily reflecting the local share related to the new voting system, information technology projects, major information technology development projects (MITDP), application support for the Agency Election Management System (AEMS) and the Maryland Voter Registration, Candidacy, and Election Management System (MDVOTERS).

## ***Key Observations***

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- ***Pollbook Project Implementation Postponed to 2026 Elections:*** Previously, the Pollbook Project was scheduled to be ready ahead of the 2024 elections. However, the vendor failed to provide a fully tested and accepted solution. Failure to meet the minimum viable product standards has delayed the implementation of the Pollbook Project to 2026 elections.

## **Operating Budget Recommended Actions**

1. Adopt committee narrative requesting quarterly reports on Major Information Technology Development Project activities and spending.

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***Operating Budget Analysis***

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**Program Description**

SBE is a five-member board charged with managing and supervising elections in the State; ensuring compliance with State and federal election laws, including the federal Help America Vote Act; assisting citizens in exercising their voting rights; and providing access to candidacy for individuals seeking elected office. Individuals from both major parties are appointed to SBE by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for staggered four-year terms. The board appoints a State administrator, also with the advice and consent of the Senate, who is charged with oversight of the board's functions and supervising the operations of the local boards of elections (LBE). LBEs process voter registration records for the statewide voter registration database, establish election precincts, staff polling places, provide and process absentee and provisional ballots, and certify local election results. The mission of SBE is to administer the process of holding democratic elections in a manner that inspires public confidence and trust. SBE's key goals are:

- to ensure that all eligible Maryland citizens can register to vote; and
- to provide a voting process that is convenient and accessible.

**Fiscal 2024**

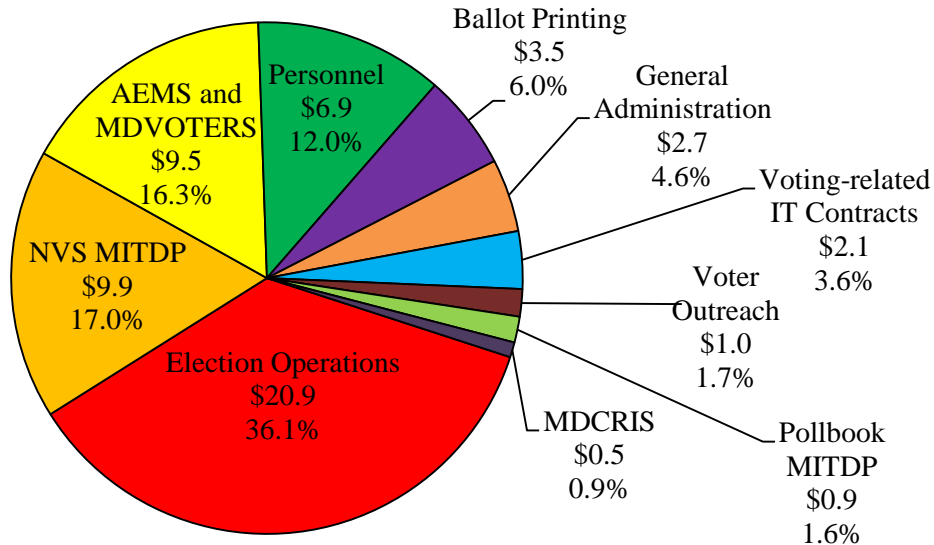
**Proposed Deficiency**

The fiscal 2025 budget includes two proposed deficiencies for SBE for fiscal 2024 totaling \$1,599,118. One proposed deficiency appropriation would provide \$1,500,000 in general funds for bonus payments for returning election judges as required by to Chapter 157 of 2023. Chapter 157 establishes minimum compensation levels for both new election judges and returning election judges. The minimum compensation for a new election judge is at least \$250 per day for each election day and each early voting day actually served. The LBE pays the entire minimum compensation of \$250 per day for a new election judge. For each returning judge, the minimum compensation is at least \$100 more per day than the new election judge. Chapter 157 requires that SBE reimburse LBE for half of the extra compensation paid to each returning judge. The remaining costs for election judges are paid by LBE. LBEs require approximately 23,000 election judges for primary election day and 19,000 for the early voting period. According to SBE, 5 of the 24 LBEs have reported that 50% to 85% of election judges in their jurisdiction are expected to be returning election judges. SBE has not received an estimate from the 19 remaining LBEs. The other proposed deficiency appropriation would provide 1 new position and \$99,118 in federal funds for a chief information security officer position.

## Fiscal 2025 Overview of Agency Spending

The fiscal 2025 allowance includes a total of \$57.8 million for SBE. **Exhibit 1** illustrates how the nonpersonnel portion of these funds are allocated by program. Most of the fiscal 2025 allowance supports election operations, totaling to \$20.9 million, or 36.1%, which supports necessary equipment, supplies, and temporary staffing for election operations, including processing voter registrations. SBE’s two MITDPs make up 19.6% of the fiscal 2025 allowance. Personnel expenditures comprise \$6.9 million, or 2%, of the fiscal 2025 allowance, including 54 regular positions.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Overview of Agency Spending**  
**Fiscal 2025 Allowance**  
**(\$ in Millions)**



**Total Expenditure: \$57.8 Million**

AEMS: Agency Election Management System  
 IT: information technology  
 MDCRIS: Maryland Campaign Reporting Information System  
 MDVOTERS: Maryland Voter Registration, Candidacy, and Election Management System  
 MITDP: Major Information Technology Development Project  
 NVS: new voting system

Note: The fiscal 2025 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management are not included in this agency’s budget.

Source: Governor’s Fiscal 2025 Budget Books

**Proposed Budget Change**

As shown in **Exhibit 2**, the fiscal 2025 allowance for SBE increases by \$10 million, or 20.9%, compared to the fiscal 2024 working appropriation after accounting for the proposed deficiency appropriations. The largest increase occurred in federal funds, which increase by \$1.8 million, or 128%. Special funds increase by \$7.5 million, or 32.9%. The largest expenditure increase occurs in the new voting system MITDP, amounting to \$10.1 million. Although the 2024 presidential general election occurs in fiscal 2025, the largest expenditure decrease occurs in ballot printing and mailing, approximately \$1.9 million, along with voter outreach materials amounting to \$1.4 million due to the timing of expenditures.

**Exhibit 2  
Proposed Budget  
State Board of Elections  
(\$ in Thousands)**

<b>How Much It Grows:</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Special Fund</b>	<b>Federal Fund</b>	<b>Reimb. Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fiscal 2023 Actual	\$25,107	\$19,153	\$1,753	\$3,283	\$49,296
Fiscal 2024 Working Appropriation	23,469	22,922	1,438	0	47,829
Fiscal 2025 Allowance	<u>24,079</u>	<u>30,465</u>	<u>3,278</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>57,822</u>
Fiscal 2024-2025 Amount Change	\$610	\$7,543	\$1,840	\$0	\$9,993
Fiscal 2024-2025 Percent Change	2.6%	32.9%	128.0%		20.9%

<b>Where It Goes:</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>	
3 new positions in fiscal 2025 and 1 new position in proposed deficiency appropriation .....	\$252
Turnover decreases from 3.14% to 2.64% .....	28
Salary increases and associated fringe benefits including fiscal 2024 COLA and increments and reclassifications.....	23
Accrued leave payout.....	-71
Workers’ compensation .....	-144
<b>Other Changes</b>	
<b>Election Administration Costs</b>	
Transportation of voting equipment including rentals .....	605
Returning election judge additional compensation required in Chapter 157 of 2023, net of deficiency appropriation .....	360
Election telecommunication.....	299
Voter activation cards for Ballot Marking Devices .....	175
New voter registration application .....	140
Onsite voting equipment management.....	130
Voting system and ballot programming personnel resources .....	65
Usability review of forms and information MOU with the University of Baltimore).....	15
Sign language interpreters for election judge training .....	10

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<b>Where It Goes:</b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
Election judges online training and curriculum software development including deputies for 2024 Primary election .....	-449
Voter outreach materials .....	-1,357
Ballot printing and mailing for regular and absentee ballots, including activation cards and same-day registration postcards .....	-1,948
<b>Information Technology Systems for Election Activities</b>	
Voting System MITDP to replace voting system by 2026 elections (see Issue 2) .....	10,133
AEMS and MDVOTERS registration application and database development and hosting.....	1,489
Procurement of Pollbook MITDP .....	868
Pollbook Project MITDP cradlepoint routers lease and associated payments .....	433
Existing Pollbook Project system software acquisition and maintenance .....	21
Supplies to support implementation of the new pollbook system including pollbook licenses and repairs .....	-98
Existing Pollbook Project Department of Information Technology oversight .....	-133
Maryland Campaign Reporting Information System database and website application .....	-179
Pollbook Project MITDP personnel resources.....	-1,069
<b>Other Costs</b>	
Cost allocation.....	264
Additional computers and equipment due to hiring new positions and teleworking arrangements .....	198
Other hardware support and maintenance.....	73
Additional personnel to support general warehouse and office administration .....	69
Software licenses.....	61
Additional personnel support for the document management project .....	52
Fixed charges including rent and association dues .....	31
Insurance coverage paid to State Treasurer's Office .....	22
Information technology system software maintenance and warranties .....	-33
Security services .....	-33
Cyber security contracts.....	-66
Office supplies and materials .....	-404
Other expenses .....	158
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,993</b>

AEMS: Agency Election Management System

COLA: cost-of-living adjustments

MDVOTERS: Maryland Voter Registration, Candidacy, and Election Management System

MITDP: Major Information Technology Development Project

MOU: memorandum of understanding

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding. The fiscal 2024 working appropriation includes deficiencies. The fiscal 2024 impacts of statewide salary adjustments appear in the Statewide Account in the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and adjustments are not reflected in this agency’s budget. The fiscal 2025 impacts of the fiscal 2024 statewide salary adjustments appear in this agency’s budget. The fiscal 2025 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in DBM and are not included in this agency’s budget.

## *Personnel Data*

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	<b>FY 23</b> <b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b>FY 24</b> <b><u>Working</u></b>	<b>FY 25</b> <b><u>Allowance</u></b>	<b>FY 24-25</b> <b><u>Change</u></b>
Regular Positions	46.00	50.00	54.00	4.00
Contractual FTEs	<u>0.40</u>	<u>0.38</u>	<u>0.38</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>46.40</b>	<b>50.38</b>	<b>54.38</b>	<b>4.00</b>

### *Vacancy Data: Regular Positions*

Turnover and Necessary Vacancies, Excluding New Positions	1.32	2.64%
Positions and Percentage Vacant as of 12/31/23	8.00	16.00%
Vacancies Above Turnover	6.68	

- The fiscal 2025 allowance provides SBE with 4 new regular positions. One of the new positions added is for a chief information security officer who assists SBE in ensuring the best security practices, which is added through a proposed deficiency appropriation but is not yet reflected in the fiscal 2024 working appropriation. Another new position is an election reform administrator that will support the 24 LBEs in reviewing and selecting polling place locations for election day. The remaining 2 new positions are a director of audits and an assistant auditor responsible for auditing the 24 LBEs' compliance with federal and State laws.
- All 8 vacancies reported as of December 31, 2023, have been vacant for less than six months.
- The budgeted vacancy rate in the fiscal 2025 allowance is 2.64%, a 0.5 percentage point decrease over fiscal 2024.

## ***Issues***

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### **1. The Pollbook Project**

The Pollbook MITDP will replace the legacy pollbook system with a new system. As part of the project, new hardware, software, ancillary items, maintenance, and support have been procured to support an estimated 7,800 pollbook units statewide. Although originally intended to be implemented in advance of the 2022 elections, the implementation timeline was initially postponed to be used for the first time in the 2024 elections due to procurement and implementation delays and cost uncertainties.

Following the decision to delay to the 2024 elections, consistent progress was made on the Pollbook Project, indicating significant improvement. In the 2023 session, SBE noted its plans to begin systems integration testing and then conduct a mock election as the final test before implementation in March 2023. To continue to monitor progress, however, committee narrative in the 2023 *Joint Chairmen’s Report (JCR)* requested quarterly updates on project progress and spending along with updates on other MITDPs for the agency.

According to SBE, interim builds of the new pollbook solution were received from August 31, 2023, through November 2023. The statewide testing build was received on November 19, 2023. The quarterly report as of January 15, 2024, reports that a statewide integration test was conducted throughout November and December 2023, involving 24 LBEs to validate the system’s ability to work as a cohesive statewide solution. The test involved demonstrating certain functionality including:

- that the ePollTab application meets requirements;
- that the Centerpoint application meets requirements;
- that the Merlin/vMerlin application meets requirements;
- live monitoring of pollbook transactions;
- cross-jurisdiction communication and functionality;
- that the Application Programming Interface meets requirements; and
- acceptable performance (equal to or faster than the current solution).

Based on the testing, the system did not meet the minimum requirements, and a draft remediation plan has been provided by the vendor. A final remediation schedule and roadmap was expected to be provided by January 5, 2024. Although significant progress was made on the Pollbook Project in calendar 2023, the quarterly report as of January 15, 2024, indicates that, due



to delays in delivering a fully tested and accepted solution by the vendor before the August 31, 2023 deadline, a determination was made by SBE on September 8, 2023, that the solution would not be used in support of the 2024 elections. SBE made the decision to execute the contingency plan of utilizing the current pollbooks for the 2024 election. SBE has notified LBEs of the decision, and they are now executing all the necessary steps to prepare the existing pollbooks for use in the 2024 election. **SBE should comment on whether the remediation schedule and roadmap has been received and what further actions will be taken to ensure that the new pollbook project is implemented for the 2026 election.**

SBE has purchased an additional 140 pollbooks from Georgia to be used as needed for the 2024 elections. In a briefing before the House Ways and Means Committee on January 18, 2024, SBE indicated that the additional pollbooks were required to better serve the increasing Maryland population and to ensure that there are sufficient backup pollbooks for conducting the 2024 elections.

### **Cost Estimates**

The total fiscal 2025 allowance funding, including both SBE’s local share and the general fund share budgeted in the Major Information Technology Development Project Fund (MITDPF) in the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) for the pollbook project is \$1.8 million. The fiscal 2025 allowance in total decreases by \$3.7 million, or 67%, from the total fiscal 2024 working appropriation funding. The local share of the fiscal 2025 allowance equals 51%. The local contribution budgeted within SBE decreases by \$2 million, or 67.9%, from the local share of the fiscal 2024 working appropriation. Based on the three quarterly reports submitted, the actual project spending from April to December 2023 amounts to \$7.9 million, indicating that previously appropriated but unspent funds are being utilized to support costs in fiscal 2024.

## **2. New Voting System Project**

The current voting system contract has been in effect since calendar 2015. It was procured via a lease agreement that is set to expire after the 2024 presidential election cycle. Due to the age of the existing equipment, technology limitations, and maintenance costs, SBE plans to procure and implement a new statewide voting system for the 2026 gubernatorial election cycle.

Funding for the new voting system project began in fiscal 2024. Given the lack of information on the project when first funded in fiscal 2024, committee narrative in the 2023 JCR requested a report on the project’s scope and schedule to be submitted on July 15, 2023, in addition to the quarterly updates on project progress and spending in the 2023 JCR.

The Voting System and Information Technology divisions within SBE will be responsible for the implementation, operations, and maintenance of the new voting system. The SBE Project Management Office will support the Voting System division. In addition, the project will require ongoing interfaces with the other divisions of SBE and the 24 LBEs. Key project personnel, including project manager, business analyst, and technical writer, have all been selected and began

working as of December 21, 2023. The request for proposals (RFP) award for the procurement is expected by the end of November 2024.

SBE plans to include the nonvisual access clause as part of the RFP to ensure that the new voting system follows Maryland’s Nonvisual Access requirements. The committees also requested that SBE report if it is considering ranked-choice voting capabilities for the new voting system solution. SBE notes that the RFP for the new voting system will ask each offeror to document how their proposed voting system solution facilitates ranked-choice voting. However, this will not be a system requirement or evaluation criterion for selecting the vendor until it is enacted into law.

Prior to first use, SBE indicates that several voter education initiatives will be carried out to allow the voters of Maryland to learn more about the new voting system through hands-on voting demonstration ballots.

### **Cost Estimates**

The new voting system project receives funding totaling \$541,000 split equally between the local share contained in the budget of SBE and the State share budgeted as general funds in DoIT’s MITDPF in the fiscal 2024 working appropriation. The fiscal 2025 allowance totals \$20.8 million also split equally. The project’s total estimated cost is \$55 million, which is 46.3% higher than previously estimated in the 2023 session. As of January 15, 2024, the total project spending is \$43,637. **SBE should comment on the increase in estimated cost for the project and the implementation schedule for the new voting system for the 2026 gubernatorial election cycle.**

### **Concerns**

SBE plans to implement the new voting system and the new pollbook solution during the same 2026 gubernatorial election cycle. The implementation of multiple major projects in the same year may cause LBEs to be overwhelmed and cause strains on resources in SBE during the planning and implementation process. To mitigate the possible impact, SBE is considering a potential pilot launch of its multiple MITDPs for municipal and special elections. **SBE should comment on its efforts to mitigate impacts on their own staff trying to implement these two MITDPs at the same time.**

## **3. New Campaign Reporting Information System Project**

The current Maryland Campaign Reporting Information System (MDCRIS) is used for the full management of the campaign finance system for the State. SBE uses MDCRIS to oversee filing cycles, establish filing periods, review and approve committee registrations, maintain users within the system, send correspondence to the committees, run audits on delinquent committees, and fine the committees as allowed through State statutes. Section 13-324 of the Election Law Article requires that all campaign finance reports must be submitted using an electronic storage medium. The law requires SBE to supply filers with the electronic filing program. In addition,

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SBE must make campaign finance reports filed widely and easily accessible to the public for viewing and data dissemination and duplication.

Within MDCRIS, there is also a separate module called the Business Contribution Disclosure System (BCDS). Title 14 of the Election Law Article requires that a person doing business with the State, any one or more counties, incorporated municipalities, or other political subdivisions of the State, or with any one or more agencies of the State or a political subdivision involving aggregate consideration of \$200,000 or more, file a contribution disclosure statement with SBE. Additionally, pursuant to Section 5-716 of the General Provisions Article, a person who employs a State lobbyist and makes applicable contributions must file a contribution disclosure statement. To satisfy this requirement, the BCDS module allows users to electronically file business contribution disclosures to SBE.

SBE entered a two-year contract extension for the current MDCRIS contract beginning March 31, 2023, which will expire March 31, 2025. The procurement of a new system was initiated in July 2023 to ensure that adequate time is allotted for the RFP publication and the implementation of a new system before the expiration of the current contract extension. Funding for the new MDCRIS system began in fiscal 2024.

The new MDCRIS system will be managed and controlled by the winning vendor with administrative oversight by SBE's Campaign Finance Division and technical oversight by the SBE Information Systems and Technology Division. The Campaign Finance Division will have the responsibility for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of MDCRIS.

Due to the lack of information on the new system, a report on the project's scope and schedule was requested by the committees to be submitted on July 15, 2023, in addition to the narrative requesting quarterly updates on project progress and spending in the 2023 JCR. In its third quarterly report, SBE notes that, although previously estimated to complete onboarding of the project team by November 1, 2023, it now expects to complete recruiting project personnel by February 1, 2024. The RFP award for the procurement of the new MDCRIS system is scheduled for October 1, 2024, and the new system is expected to be implemented by March 31, 2025. **SBE should comment on the progress made in its recruitment efforts. SBE should also comment on its efforts to mitigate impacts on its own staff due to the 2024 presidential election.**

SBE plans to review capabilities and interface requirements to accommodate any interdependencies between the new reporting system and existing SBE applications such as AEMS and MDVOTERS. Additionally, SBE plans to include the nonvisual access clause as part of the RFP to ensure that the new MDCRIS system follows Maryland's Nonvisual Access requirements.

**Cost Estimates**

The new reporting system receives \$100,000 in general funds in the fiscal 2024 working appropriation and \$532,282 in the fiscal 2025 allowance. These funds are budgeted in the DoIT MITDPF. The project's total estimated cost is \$1.2 million, which is 70.6% lower than the cost previously estimated in the 2023 session. As of January 15, 2024, the actual project spending is \$13,729. **SBE should comment on the reason for the decrease in its estimated cost for the new campaign reporting system.**

**The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends adopting committee narrative requesting continued submission of combined quarterly reports on the progress of and spending on each of the MITDPs, namely the new Pollbook Project, the new voting system, and the new MDCRIS, through its completion.**

## ***Operating Budget Recommended Actions***

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1. Adopt the following narrative:

**Quarterly Reports on all Major Information Technology Development Programs (MITDP):** The State Board of Elections (SBE) is currently implementing three MITDPs for a Pollbook system replacement, new voting system, and a new Campaign Reporting Information System. The committees remain interested in monitoring the progress of SBE’s implementation of the MITDPs. The committees request that SBE submit quarterly reports on all MITDP activities and expenditures separately for each of the three projects. Each report should include for each project the following:

- a description of activities undertaken in the quarter, complete with dates identifying whether project milestones were achieved or if delays were experienced, and an assessment of the resulting effect that any delays experienced in the quarter have on the project’s overall timeline;
- actual project spending in each month of the quarter;
- an assessment of future risks to the project’s timeline and how SBE plans to mitigate those risks.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Quarterly report on all MITDPs	SBE	July 15, 2024 October 15, 2024 January 15, 2025 April 15, 2025

**Appendix 1**  
**2023 Joint Chairmen’s Report Responses from Agency**

The 2023 JCR requested that SBE prepare six reports. Electronic copies of the full JCR responses can be found on the DLS Library website.

- ***Quarterly Reports on MITDPs:*** SBE has submitted three of the four quarterly reports. The fourth report is due April 15, 2024. Further discussion of these reports is included in Issue 1, Issue 2, and Issue 3.
- ***Voing System Solution and Campaign Reporting Information System MITDPs:*** SBE submitted information on the scope, timelines, and need for the new voting system solution and campaign reporting information system. Further discussion of the report is included in Issue 2 and Issue 3 for MITDP separately in this analysis.
- ***Expanded Opportunities for Pretrial Facility Voting:*** Due to a change in staffing, SBE has requested an extension to submit the report from the original deadline of December 1, 2023, to March 1, 2024.

**Appendix 2  
Audit Findings**

Audit Period for Last Audit:	December 13, 2018 – July 31, 2022
Issue Date:	October 2023
Number of Findings:	8
Number of Repeat Findings:	1
% of Repeat Findings:	12.5%
Rating: (if applicable)	n/a

**Finding 1:** **SBE could enhance its procedures to fully identify deceased or duplicate voters recorded in MDVOTERS. Additionally, SBE did not ensure that LBEs corrected errors in voter data that were identified during periodic reviews.**

**Finding 2:** Although testing did not identify material discrepancies in the voting results, we identified opportunities to enhance the integrity of the automated vote tabulation process.

**Finding 3:** SBE did not always timely refer potentially improper voter activity to the Office of the State Prosecutor for investigation.

**Finding 4:** Redacted cybersecurity-related finding.

**Finding 5:** Redacted cybersecurity-related finding.

**Finding 6:** Redacted cybersecurity-related finding.

**Finding 7:** SBE had not established adequate controls to ensure the propriety of payroll transactions, including adjustments to employee leave balances.

**Finding 8:** SBE did not always post board meeting agendas on its website at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting start time as required by the State’s Open Meetings Act.

\*Bold denotes item repeated in full or part from preceding audit report.

**Appendix 3**  
**Pollbook Project**  
**Major Information Technology Development Project**  
**State Board of Elections**

For additional information on the Pollbook Project, see Issue 1 of this analysis.

<b>New/Ongoing:</b> Ongoing								
<b>Start Date:</b> Fiscal 2020					<b>Est. Completion Date:</b> Fiscal 2027			
<b>Implementation Strategy:</b> Agile								
<b>(\$ in Millions)</b>	<b>Prior Year</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>Remainder</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>GF</b>	\$6.058	\$2.633	\$0.896	\$0.000	\$0.157	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$9.745
<b>SF</b>	8.508	2.950	0.948	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	12.406
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14.567</b>	<b>\$5.583</b>	<b>\$1.844</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.157</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$22.151</b>

- **Project Summary:** A pollbook is a tool used in elections to help check in voters at their voting location. The new Pollbook Project includes the procurement, Maryland-specific customization, testing, and implementation of a commercial off-the-shelf pollbook solution. The project scope includes any directly-related equipment, supplies, and services needed to implement the pollbook solution fully.
- **Need:** The existing pollbook system is nearing end-of-life and needs to be replaced.
- **Observations and Milestones:** The solution failed to meet SBE’s minimum viable product standards in a statewide integration test conducted throughout November and December 2023.
- **Changes:** A determination was made on September 8, 2023, that the new pollbook solution would not be used in support of the 2024 elections due to delay in delivering a fully tested and accepted solution.
- **Concerns:** The vendor has not submitted the final remediation plan or a roadmap for the new pollbook solution and its implementation.



**Appendix 4**  
**2026 New Voting System**  
**Maryland Information Technology Development Project**  
**State Board of Elections**

For additional information on the 2026 new voting system project, see Issue 2 of this analysis.

<b>New/Ongoing:</b> New								
<b>Start Date:</b> Fiscal 2024					<b>Est. Completion Date:</b> Fiscal 2027			
<b>Implementation Strategy:</b> Agile								
<b>(\$ in Millions)</b>	<b>Prior Year</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>Remainder</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>GF</b>	\$0.000	\$0.271	\$10.404	\$10.377	\$6.413	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$27.464
<b>SF</b>	0.000	0.271	10.404	10.377	6.413	0.000	0.000	27.464
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.541</b>	<b>\$20.808</b>	<b>\$20.755</b>	<b>\$12.825</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$54.928</b>

- **Project Summary:** The current voting system was procured via a lease agreement that is set to expire after the 2024 presidential election cycle.
- **Need:** The existing voting system contract is expiring in March 2025. In preparation for the 2026 election cycle, SBE plans to procure a replacement voting system.
- **Change:** The project’s total estimated cost is \$55 million, which is 46.3% higher than previously estimated in the 2023 session.
- **Observations and Milestones:** SBE has recruited the key project personnel. It is in the planning phase of the new voting system 2026 project and is expecting to publish the RFP in the second quarter (April) of 2024 for a new voting system.
- **Concerns:** The implementation of the new voting system and the new pollbook solution simultaneously during the same 2026 gubernatorial election cycle may impact successful execution of these projects.

**Appendix 5**  
**Maryland Campaign Reporting Information System**  
**Major Information Technology Development Project**  
**State Board of Elections**

For additional information on the campaign reporting information system project, see Issue 3 of this analysis.

<b>New/Ongoing:</b> New								
<b>Start Date:</b> Fiscal 2024					<b>Est. Completion Date:</b> Fiscal 2026			
<b>Implementation Strategy:</b> Agile								
<b>(\$ in Millions)</b>	<b>Prior Year</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>Remainder</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>GF</b>	\$0.000	\$0.100	\$0.532	\$0.595	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$1.227
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.100</b>	<b>\$0.532</b>	<b>\$0.595</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$1.227</b>

- **Project Summary:** The current MDCRIS is used for the full management of the campaign finance system for the State. SBE entered a two-year contract extension for the current MDCRIS contract beginning March 31, 2023, which will expire March 31, 2025.
- **Need:** Section 13-324 of the Election Law Article requires SBE to have a campaign reporting system to be in place when the contract for the existing system expires. Without initiating this procurement, Maryland may not have a campaign reporting information system under contract for use in the referenced elections.
- **Change:** The project’s total estimated cost is \$1.2 million, which is 70.6% lower than previously estimated in the 2023 session.
- **Concerns:** The recruitment of project team is estimated to complete on February 1, 2024, which may potentially impact the issuance of the RFP due to the 2024 elections.

**Appendix 6  
Object/Fund Difference Report  
State Board of Elections**

<u>Object/Fund</u>	<u>FY 23 Actual</u>	<u>FY 24 Working Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 25 Allowance</u>	<u>FY 24 - FY 25 Amount Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
<b>Positions</b>					
01 Regular	46.00	50.00	54.00	4.00	8.0%
02 Contractual	0.40	0.38	0.38	0.00	0%
<b>Total Positions</b>	<b>46.40</b>	<b>50.38</b>	<b>54.38</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
<b>Objects</b>					
01 Salaries and Wages	\$ 5,709,346	\$ 6,651,009	\$ 6,837,609	\$ 186,600	2.8%
02 Technical and Special Fees	51,738	123,815	73,998	-49,817	-40.2%
03 Communication	725,548	613,584	973,811	360,227	58.7%
04 Travel	52,601	58,585	61,528	2,943	5.0%
07 Motor Vehicles	79,262	2,030	3,400	1,370	67.5%
08 Contractual Services	24,040,544	29,892,337	38,636,813	8,744,476	29.3%
09 Supplies and Materials	269,205	2,028,530	1,624,626	-403,904	-19.9%
10 Equipment – Replacement	5,963,164	5,840,764	6,472,194	631,430	10.8%
11 Equipment – Additional	7,188,442	0	206,250	206,250	N/A
12 Grants, Subsidies, and Contributions	4,000,000	0	1,860,000	1,860,000	N/A
13 Fixed Charges	1,215,790	1,019,233	1,072,211	52,978	5.2%
<b>Total Objects</b>	<b>\$ 49,295,640</b>	<b>\$ 46,229,887</b>	<b>\$ 57,822,440</b>	<b>\$ 11,592,553</b>	<b>25.1%</b>
<b>Funds</b>					
01 General Fund	\$ 25,106,574	\$ 21,969,170	\$ 24,079,132	\$ 2,109,962	9.6%
03 Special Fund	19,153,326	22,922,137	30,465,266	7,543,129	32.9%
05 Federal Fund	1,752,986	1,338,580	3,278,042	1,939,462	144.9%
09 Reimbursable Fund	3,282,754	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 49,295,640</b>	<b>\$ 46,229,887</b>	<b>\$ 57,822,440</b>	<b>\$ 11,592,553</b>	<b>25.1%</b>

Note: The fiscal 2024 appropriation does not include deficiencies. The fiscal 2025 allowance does not include statewide salary adjustments budgeted within the Department of Budget and Management.

**Appendix 7  
Fiscal Summary  
State Board of Elections**

<u>Program/Unit</u>	<u>FY 23 Actual</u>	<u>FY 24 Wrk Approp</u>	<u>FY 25 Allowance</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>FY 24 - FY 25 % Change</u>
01 General Administration	\$ 6,380,086	\$ 7,500,918	\$ 7,833,794	\$ 332,876	4.4%
02 Help America Vote Act	32,185,908	35,508,092	38,636,965	3,128,873	8.8%
03 MITDPs	6,729,646	3,220,877	11,351,681	8,130,804	252.4%
04 Campaign Finance Fund	4,000,000	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 49,295,640</b>	<b>\$ 46,229,887</b>	<b>\$ 57,822,440</b>	<b>\$ 11,592,553</b>	<b>25.1%</b>
General Fund	\$ 25,106,574	\$ 21,969,170	\$ 24,079,132	\$ 2,109,962	9.6%
Special Fund	19,153,326	22,922,137	30,465,266	7,543,129	32.9%
Federal Fund	1,752,986	1,338,580	3,278,042	1,939,462	144.9%
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 46,012,886</b>	<b>\$ 46,229,887</b>	<b>\$ 57,822,440</b>	<b>\$ 11,592,553</b>	<b>25.1%</b>
Reimbursable Fund	\$ 3,282,754	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 49,295,640</b>	<b>\$ 46,229,887</b>	<b>\$ 57,822,440</b>	<b>\$ 11,592,553</b>	<b>25.1%</b>

Note: The fiscal 2024 appropriation does not include deficiencies. The fiscal 2025 allowance does not include statewide salary adjustments budgeted within the Department of Budget and Management.