

Lines of Business Reduction Impact Statements

Office of Elections

001-15-73 Eliminate "I Voted Today" Stickers

LOB Number	LOB Title	Positions	Expenditures	Revenue	Net Reduction
01-01	Election Administration	0 / 0.0 SYE	\$6,000	0	\$6,000

DESCRIPTION OF REDUCTION

This reduction will eliminate the distribution of "I Voted Today" stickers to Election Day voters. The savings will be achieved from the discontinued purchase of these stickers after the current stock is depleted.

IMPACT OF REDUCTION

This reduction is expected to disappoint some voters but will have no other impact on the conduct of elections. All voters who vote in an election will be affected. There is no impact on the agency performance measures, however. Since there is no statutory requirement to give voters "I Voted Today" stickers at the polls, the agency believes that this is a "nice to have" not a "must have" service provided for the voters.

001-15-74 Eliminate Precinct Maps for Polls

LOB Number	LOB Title	Positions	Expenditures	Revenue	Net Reduction
01-02	Election Administration	0 / 0.0 SYE	\$4,000	0	\$4,000

DESCRIPTION OF REDUCTION

This reduction will eliminate the printing of Precinct (wall) Maps for each of the County Polling Places. Savings result from no longer printing full-size color maps of the County precincts for posting at the polling places. The precinct maps also will no longer be available for purchase through Maps and Publications.

IMPACT OF REDUCTION

The impact of this reduction is the decreased ability for voters to locate their correct precinct on Election Day. Elected officials, County agencies, political parties, candidates and other users will be unable to purchase precinct maps at the Office of Maps and Publications. The County agencies, officials, voters and candidates who use the maps will be affected. There is no impact on the agency performance measures, however. The agency believes that this is a "nice to have" not a "must have" service since maps are available in PDF format from the geographical information system. Persons needing maps may be able to print their own maps or obtain them from other sources. There is no statutory requirement to provide maps to the polling places.

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Office of Elections

001-15-75 Eliminate High School Elections

LOB Number	LOB Title	Positions	Expenditures	Revenue	Net Reduction
01-03	Election Administration	0 / 0.0 SYE	\$10,000	0	\$10,000

DESCRIPTION OF REDUCTION

This reduction will eliminate the High School Election program which provides civic education for students by introducing them to the County's voting system. This is also a service to the schools to assist them in conducting their student government elections. Savings will include a reduction in staff hours to programming machines and to coordinate and supervise these elections. Additional savings will result from the reduction of consumables items involved in operating the machines and mileage paid to seasonal staff to travel to the schools. Approximately 550 limited term staff hours will be saved.

IMPACT OF REDUCTION

The impact is a reduction in high school civic education and exposure of future voters to current County voting systems. The 18 County high schools who participate in the program will also have to find other resources to conduct their student government elections. There is no impact on the agency performance measures, however. Since there is no statutory requirement to conduct elections in the County high schools, the agency believes this is a "nice to have" but not a "must have" future voter education program. The high school election program is also related to the high school student page program which was also proposed but not taken for reduction.

001-15-76 Reduce Polling Place Staffing

LOB Number	LOB Title	Positions	Expenditures	Revenue	Net Reduction
01-04	Election Administration	0 / 0.0 SYE	\$170,000	0	\$170,000

DESCRIPTION OF REDUCTION

This reduction will reduce election officer staffing at polling places to FY 2008 levels. Savings will be achieved by reducing election officer personnel numbers to FY 2008 (non-Presidential election year) staffing levels. This reduction does not affect agency merit staff positions; however, approximately 1,700 election officers (one day at \$100 per day) will be eliminated over two elections (June primary and November general elections.)

IMPACT OF REDUCTION

The impact is the potential for increased lines at polling locations, reduced alphabetical splits of poll books and a decline in customer service. All potential voters could be affected. The cost of election officers per precinct will be reduced in the agency performance measures. Code of Virginia mandates a minimum of three election officers per precinct. Election officer staffing, however, is significantly increased for a presidential election (FY 2009) because of the high voter turnout. Non-presidential election staffing is based on predicted turnout using statistics from previous comparable federal, state or local elections. The reduction in the number of election officers could be affected by the reduction or elimination of the absentee voting satellites. Reducing or eliminating absentee satellite voting, which is a related reduction, could increase the number of poll voters that need to be processed.

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Office of Elections

001-15-77 Postage Reduction

LOB Number	LOB Title	Positions	Expenditures	Revenue	Net Reduction
02-01	Voter Registration	0 / 0.0 SYE	\$100,000	0	\$100,000

DESCRIPTION OF REDUCTION

This is a reduction in postage allocation for the expected lower volume of election and voter registration related materials that are mailed by the agency. Savings results from an anticipated reduction of mailings due multiple factors, including but not limited to: the precinct boundary freeze, reduced voter registration activity, increased use of electronic communication and an expected decrease in absentee ballot requests. The reduction does not affect agency merit staff positions. The cost savings is based on the reduction in actual postage predicted for mailings. However, seven to 10 seasonal staff positions may be eliminated because of the reduction in mail processing.

IMPACT OF REDUCTION

There should be no significant impact for this reduction, unless there is an unexpected increase in voter registration activities or an unexpected demand for mailed absentee ballots. Since voter registration and absentee mailings are mandated, no voters will be affected. The cost of processing voter transactions will be reduced in the agency performance measures. Voter registration transactions and absentee applications are significantly increased for a presidential election (FY 2009) because of the high voter turnout. Non-presidential election mailings are based on predicted registration and absentee statistics from previous comparable federal, state or local elections. Code of Virginia specifies requirements for mailing voter information cards and absentee ballots. The reduction in postage could be affected by the related reduction or elimination of the absentee voting satellites which could increase the demand for mailed absentee ballots. Postal rate increases will also impact this business requirement.

001-15-78 Curtailing Certification Training

LOB Number	LOB Title	Positions	Expenditures	Revenue	Net Reduction
01-05 02-02	Election Administration Voter Registration	0 / 0.0 SYE	\$23,000	0	\$23,000

DESCRIPTION OF REDUCTION

This reduction will decrease the number of merit staff members who are able to earn state and/or national certification in the administration of voter registration and election functions. Savings will be achieved by eliminating staff travel and tuition for participation in non-mandatory state and national certification and recertification programs. The reduction does not affect the number of agency merit staff positions but reduces the opportunity for staff advancement and continuing education.

IMPACT OF REDUCTION

This reduction will impact the staff's ability to monitor and influence state and federal legislation and diminish the agency's ability to maintain a workforce recognized as leaders in the profession. There is also a decreased ability to follow emerging trends, learn best practices and network with national and international leaders in the election industry. Approximately 10-12 merit staff members may not be able to earn continuing education, certification or re-certification credits, unless they are willing and able to pay for their own travel and tuition. There is no impact on the agency performance measures, however. The agency considers this is a "best practices" activity, but not a mandated activity. Although the General Registrar is required to attend state training functions, there is no current statutory requirement for staff certification.

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<i>Office of Elections</i>					
001-15-79 Eliminate Absentee Satellite Voting					
LOB Number	LOB Title	Positions	Expenditures	Revenue	Net Reduction
01-08 02-02	Election Administration Voter Registration	0 / 0.0 SYE	\$42,000	0	\$42,000
DESCRIPTION OF REDUCTION					
<p>This reduction will eliminate the seven absentee voting satellites at the governmental centers and reduce absentee voting hours to the legal minimum requirements. It should be noted that this reduction will require preclearance from the U. S. Department of Justice, Voting Rights Division.</p> <p>Savings will result from the closing of seven satellite voting locations and reducing extended voting hours at the Government Center and the elimination of staffing for these locations. The reduction does not affect merit staff positions but would eliminate approximately 25 limited term staff positions. A portion of this reduction may be offset by the need for additional seasonal staff to process the increased number of absentee voters coming into the Office of Elections in the Government Center and to process the increased requests for absentee ballots by mail.</p>					
IMPACT OF REDUCTION					
<p>The impact will be reduced access to in-person absentee voting for the citizens of Fairfax County. The closing of absentee satellites also may negatively impact other agency functions resulting in increased costs for postage and personnel costs in other areas. The full impact is unknown at this time. Passage of pending state and or federal legislation that would mandate “early voting” will cause a significant change in the conduct of elections and absentee voting.</p> <p>Voters who are disabled or who will be away from the County on Election Day who wish to vote in-person will not have convenient access to this service in many parts of the County. There is no direct impact on the agency performance measures, however. The agency considers this function a “best practices” solution to serve the voters, but not a mandated service. Absentee voting and minimum service hours are mandated by the <u>Code of Virginia</u>, but there is no statutory requirement to provide additional absentee voting locations or extended office hours. This reduction is related to the overall level of service provided by the agency including postage reduction and the elimination of election officers in the polling places.</p>					