NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

FY2028 Budget Request

Presentation to the Legislative Finance Committee

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE



November 19, 2026

Maggie Toulouse Oliver, Secretary of State

AGENCY SCOPE

Statewide responsibilities supported by one small agency

Elections	Statewide election administration, county support, voter registration, training and compliance
Business Services	Business filings, commercial records, notary services, apostilles and customer support
Ethics and Campaign Finance	Campaign finance disclosure, lobbying, financial disclosure and enforcement support
Agency Operations	Finance, procurement, legal, human resources, IT, cybersecurity and records

The FY2028 request supports one agencywide operating structure, not four separate administrative systems.

FY2028 operating model

1

P642 recurring operations

Agencywide personnel, contracts, technology and operating costs

2

P783 federal activity

HAVA federal funding only, with no permanent FTE or General Fund operating costs

3

Election Fund 68180

County reimbursements and direct election expenditures

The consolidation improves transparency and aligns agencywide support costs with the program that manages them.

FY2028 request at a glance

$18.814M

GENERAL FUND

Recurring operations plus expansion

$0.233M

OTHER REVENUE

Agency transaction fees for bank-processing costs

$1.185M

HAVA FEDERAL

Federal election security activity

$20.232M

ALL-SOURCE TOTAL

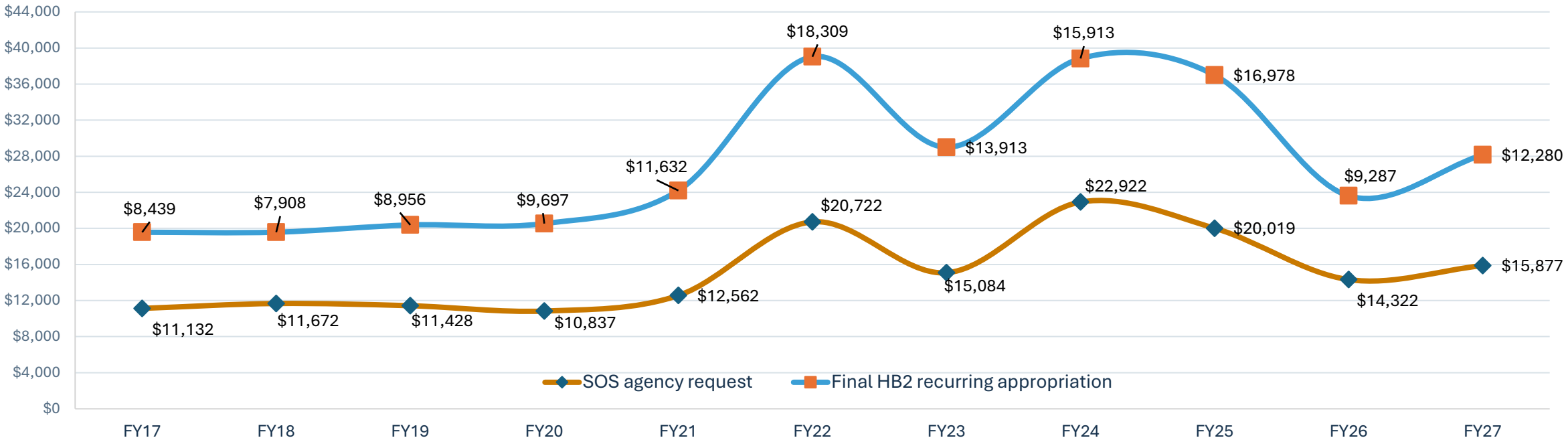
Recurring budget request

Request component	FY2027 GF	FY2028 GF	Change
Personnel and benefits	$7.923M	$10.778M	+$2.855M
Contractual services	$1.298M	$3.204M	+$1.906M
Other operating costs	$2.254M	$4.831M	+$2.577M

Separate from recurring operations: $4.5M special appropriation and $24.470M in C2 technology requests.

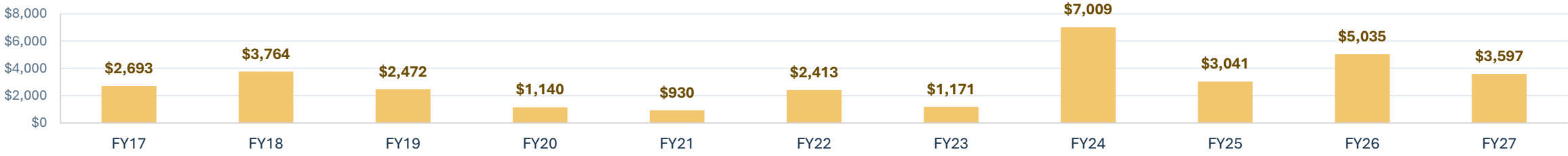
Agency total request compared with final HB2

FY2017-FY2027 recurring operating budget, all funding sources, dollars in thousands



Annual request-to-HB2 gap, dollars in thousands

$33.3 million cumulative gap



The comparison includes all recurring operating funding sources in the agency request and final HB2. It excludes separate special and supplemental appropriations, Election Fund deposits, capital outlay, and other nonrecurring funding.

The workforce request has two separate actions

WITHIN THE 73-POSITION BASE

Convert six temporary intern slots

Permanent, mission-aligned roles in Legal, Elections, IT and Security. This stabilizes the existing structure without increasing the 73-position base.

ABOVE THE 73-POSITION BASE

Add seven permanent positions

Election management, regional county support, election technology, application security and network administration. FY2028 request: 80 total FTE.

73

BASE POSITIONS

Includes six converted slots

+7

EXPANSION

New permanent positions

80

FY2028 TOTAL

Requested staffing level

SIX INTERN POSITION CONVERSIONS

Six permanent roles within the existing 73 positions

67 regular positions + 6 converted intern slots = 73 base positions

Existing slot	Proposed permanent role	Work supported
Intern slot 1	Attorney	Legal review, IPRA, contracts and agency advice
Intern slot 2	Elections Training and Outreach	County training, voter information and election readiness
Intern slot 3	Senior IT Business Analyst	Business Services workflows and system requirements
Intern slot 4	Elections IT Project Manager	Election technology projects, vendors and testing
Intern slot 5	Cloud Security Specialist	Cloud monitoring, access controls and remediation
Intern slot 6	Elections Senior IT Business Analyst	Election system requirements, testing and vendor support

FTE change from conversions: 0 | Separate expansion: +7 | FY2028 total: 80

Permanent roles require recurring payroll funding. The six conversions remain within the base request.

YEAR-OVER-YEAR CONTEXT

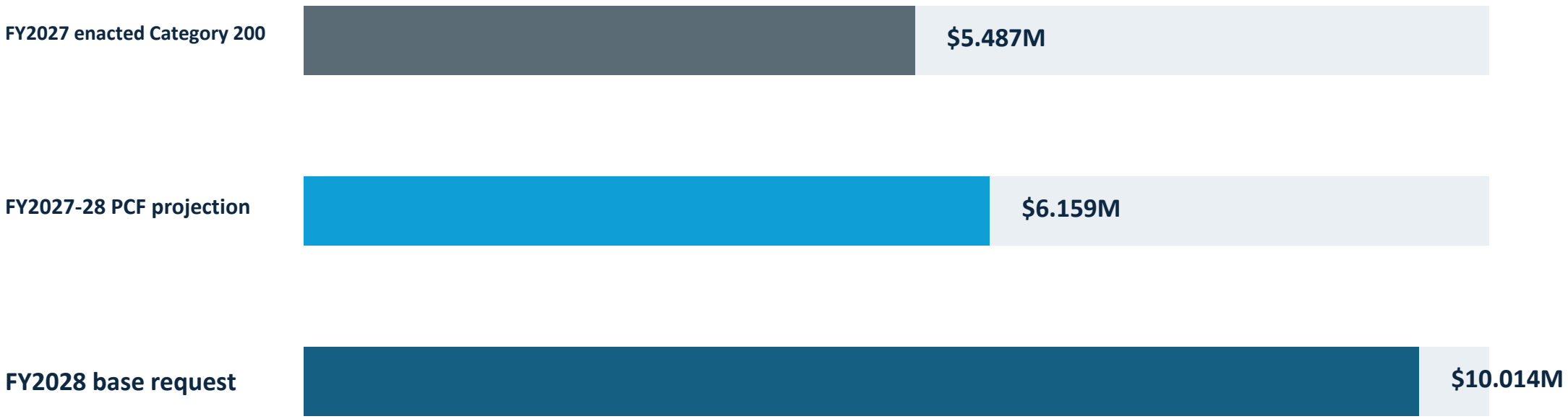
The $7.338 million increase restores the operating base



Enacted to requested: +$7.338M / +63.9%
Submitted to requested: +$4.422M / +30.7%

Only $0.764M of the increase is the seven-position expansion. The remainder supports the existing structure and recurring costs.

FY2028 base request funds the full 73-position structure



PCF projection to base request: +$3.855M / +62.6% | Seven-position expansion: +$0.764M

Historically, the agency operated with approximately 57 employees against 67 regular positions, leaving about 10 positions, or 14.9 percent, vacant. Compared with the full 73-position authorization, staffing was 21.9 percent below capacity. The FY2028 base request funds all 73 FTE and converts the six temporary intern slots into permanent positions.

Vacancies shift work and increase operating risk

54
FILLED POSITIONS
August 2026 snapshot

13
VACANCIES
Of 67 regular positions

19.4%
VACANCY RATE
Regular-position structure

73
AUTHORIZED
Includes six intern slots

Workload	Remaining employees absorb required duties and institutional knowledge becomes concentrated.
Service	Backlogs, response times and statutory processing pressures increase.
Cost	Overtime and contract support can replace personnel costs rather than eliminate them.
Retention	Hiring near midpoint without internal alignment can create salary compression and pay inequity.

The FY2028 priority is adequate staffing across Elections, Business Services, Finance, Legal and IT.

Business Services shows the cost of chronic vacancy

20
AUTHORIZED
Existing structure

13
FILLED
August 2026 snapshot

7 / 35%
VACANT
Service capacity gap

$9.53M
FY2026 REVENUE
Transferred to General Fund

200,079
TRANSACTIONS
2025 annual report

41,454
CALLS
Customer demand

12,743
EMAILS
Customer requests

2,228
WALK-INS
In-person customers

FY2028 funds the authorized 20-position structure. Revenue demonstrates workload and value but does not create spending authority.

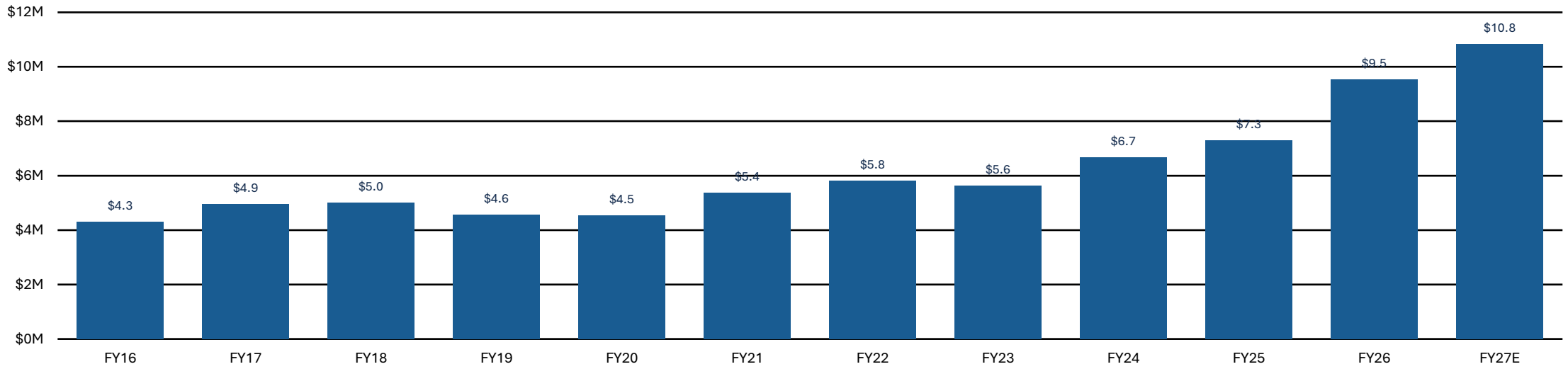
Business Services has transferred $74.5 million since FY2016

$74.5M
FY2016–FY2027 EST.
Cumulative revenue swept

$10.82M
FY2027 ESTIMATE
Annualized from first quarter

$9.53M
FY2026 ACTUAL
Transferred to General Fund

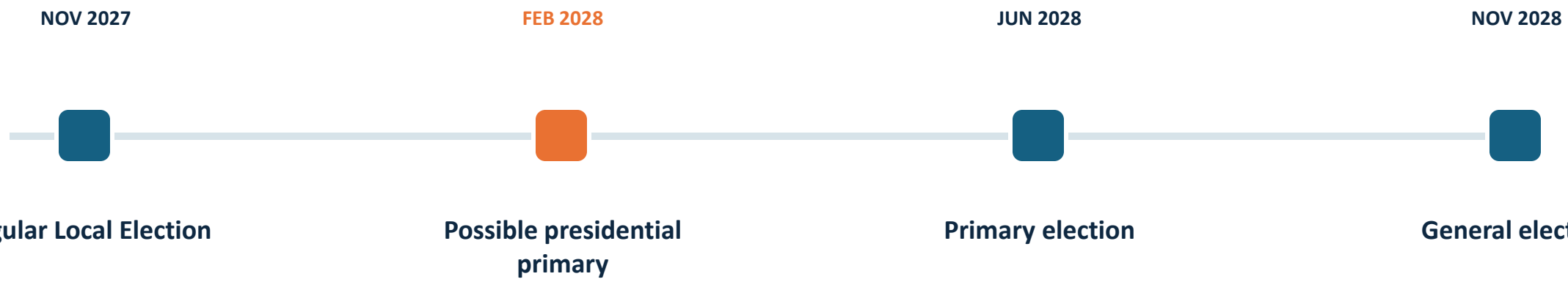
35%
VACANCY RATE
7 of 20 authorized positions



Business Services revenue depends on adequate staffing. The division has a 35% vacancy rate, while limited personnel funding, below-midpoint pay, and gaps in the C5–C6–C7 career ladder affect recruitment and retention. SOS is requesting funding for the authorized 20-position structure, not revenue-retention authority.

Source: SHARE revenue detail. FY2027 estimate annualizes first-quarter revenue. Figures represent revenue swept to the General Fund.

A February 2028 presidential primary remains contingent



The Legislature will determine the election date, structure, voting method and statutory requirements. Those decisions will determine county reimbursements, postage, systems work, temporary staffing and other direct costs.

The recurring request provides the operating foundation. A separate statewide election may require additional appropriations.

EXPANSION REQUEST $764,200

Seven positions support the 2028 election cycle

FTE	Position	Primary purpose
1	Elections Management Analyst Supervisor	Supervision and regional county coordination
1	Elections IT Administrator	Election systems and technical administration
3	Regional County Support Coordinators	Training, readiness, year-round troubleshooting and field support
1	Application Security Specialist	Application security and vulnerability remediation
1	IT Network Administrator	Secure and resilient network infrastructure

The positions support ongoing statutory work and readiness for a possible additional statewide presidential primary.

Special appropriation and C2 requests address distinct needs

$4.5M

SPECIAL APPROPRIATION

Voting-system modernization

Approximately $3.0M for monitor upgrades
$1.488M for retrofit kits, servers, workstations, onsite service and shipping

$24.470M

C2 REQUESTS

Technology investments

$5.771M infrastructure modernization
$18.099M SERVIS replacement
$0.600M Overseas Voter Portal

$6.0M

PRIOR APPROPRIATION

Replacement of 812 tabulators

The prior $6.0M is expected to cover replacement of 812 end-of-life tabulators. The vendor quote totals approximately $5.906M including shipping.

The $4.5M request completes work not funded in the prior cycle and includes equipment, system upgrades and vendor services.

FY2028 Funding Priorities

1	**Fund the recurring operating structure**	Support the full 73-position base, recurring contracts and agencywide operating costs.
2	**Approve the seven-position expansion**	Provide county support, election management, application security and network capacity.
3	**Complete voting-system modernization**	Evaluate the $4.5 million special appropriation separately from recurring operations.
4	**Advance critical technology investments**	Review the C2 requests for infrastructure, SERVIS replacement and overseas voting.

The request funds the people, systems and operating capacity required to meet statewide responsibilities.