

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

***Executive Summary***

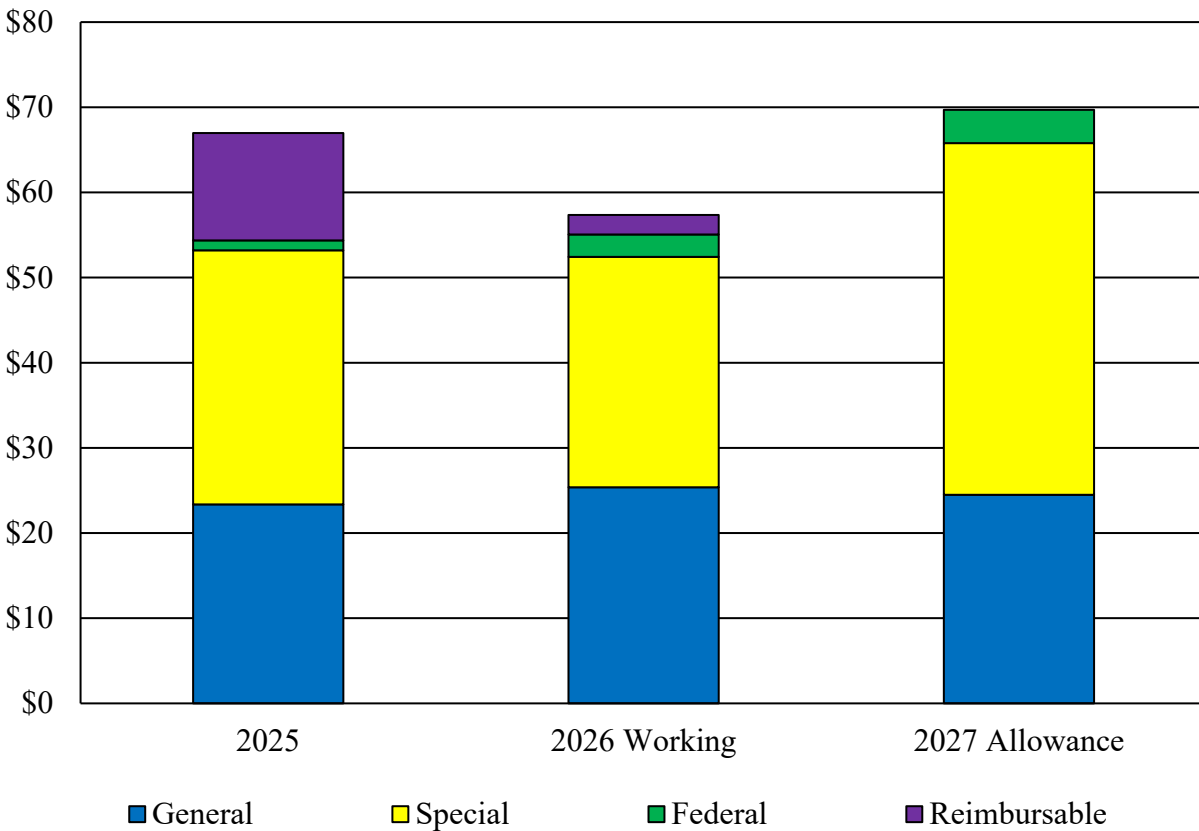
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The State Board of Elections (SBE) is a five-member board charged with managing and supervising elections in the State, registering voters, and coordinating candidacy.

***Operating Budget Summary***

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**Fiscal 2027 Budget Increases \$12.3 Million, or 21.5%, to \$69.7 Million**  
**(\$ in Millions)**



Note: The fiscal 2026 working appropriation accounts for deficiencies. The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency's budget.

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For further information contact: Nathaly Andrade

nathaly.andrade@mga.maryland.gov

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- The fiscal 2027 allowance increases by \$12.3 million compared to the fiscal 2026 working appropriation after accounting for proposed deficiency appropriations. This increase is primarily due to a \$14.2 million increase in special funds, including an increase of \$13.9 million for the New Voting System (NVS) Major Information Technology Development Project (MITDP). The allowance does not include reimbursable funds for SBE. The agency indicated that reimbursable funds for major information technology (IT) projects are budgeted within the Department of Information Technology (DoIT), and that it will request a budget amendment at the beginning of fiscal 2027 to transfer reimbursable funds from DoIT.

## ***Key Observations***

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- ***Implementation of Multiple Major IT Projects:*** SBE is implementing four MITDPs that aim to modernize statewide election administration, including pollbooks, voting systems, campaign finance reporting, and voter registration. While progress has been made across these projects, the systems replacing pollbooks and voting equipment will not be available for the 2026 elections, and full implementation is currently targeted for the 2028 presidential election, leaving limited flexibility should there be further delays in procurement, certification, funding, or development timelines. The scope, scale, and timing of these projects increase risks related to staffing capacity, vendor coordination, funding approval, and system integration.
- ***Implementation of 2025 Legislation:*** Legislation enacted in 2025 establishes new requirements for election administration that SBE and local boards of elections (LBE) are preparing to implement ahead of the 2026 election cycle. Chapters 277 and 278 of 2025 establish a Language Assistance Program applicable to five jurisdictions identified by SBE, with affected LBEs notified and implementation activities underway. Chapters 320 and 321 of 2025 require the adoption of risk-limiting audits following statewide elections, leading SBE to approve regulatory changes to audit procedures and ballot handling, with public comment ongoing and implementation guidance nearing completion. In addition, Chapter 281 of 2025 requires local boards to submit election plans to SBE for approval in advance of statewide primaries, with 19 of the 24 local boards having received approval to date.

## **Operating Budget Recommended Actions**

1. Adopt committee narrative requesting quarterly reports on all 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 LBEs. 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 2026**

**Proposed Deficiency**

The fiscal 2027 allowance for SBE includes two proposed fiscal 2026 deficiency appropriations totaling \$1,623,142 in general funds. Of this amount:

- \$595,255 supports an increase in warehouse lease reimbursements for several LBEs including Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Kent, Montgomery, and Worcester counties. The increase reflects LBE transitions to new warehouse facilities due to inadequacies in their current spaces. When a county government elects to lease a facility rather than use a county-owned space, SBE reimburses 50% of the lease cost. SBE indicated that six additional LBEs are expected to be added to lease reimbursement in fiscal 2027 or 2028, as they are currently coordinating with their county governments to identify new warehouse space and plan to relocate following the 2026 election. **SBE should provide the allocation of this deficiency by LBE and the factors specific to each jurisdiction's space needs;** and
- \$1,027,887 addresses higher than anticipated vendor costs associated with the New Campaign Finance Reporting System (NCRIS) MITDP. SBE indicated that, at the time the

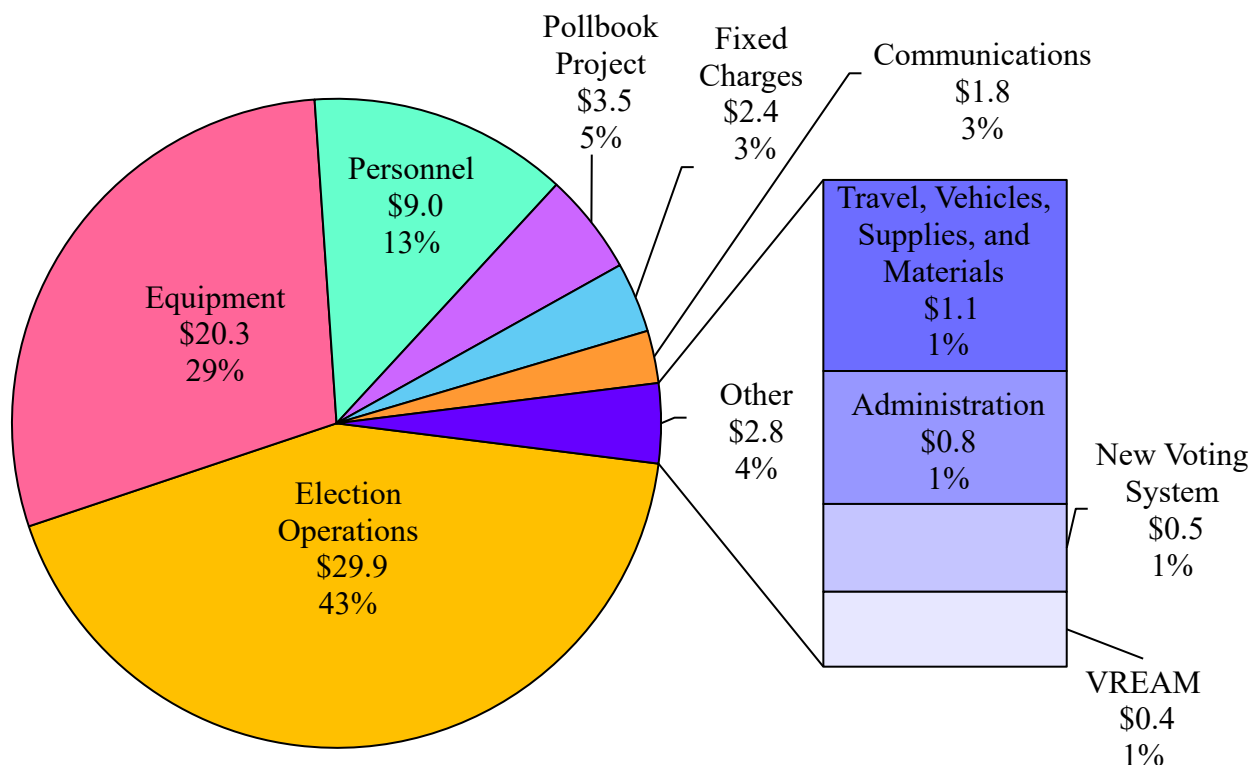
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fiscal 2026 budget was submitted, a vendor had not yet been selected. After the vendor was chosen, the Board of Public Works (BPW) approved the contract on January 29, 2025, with a final amount of \$6,516,744. This amount exceeds the original budgeted estimate. The general fund share of MITDPs is budgeted within DoIT through the Information Technology Investment Fund, and DoIT is responsible for MITDP oversight and releases funds to the agencies where the funds are shown as reimbursable funds. In this case, the proposed deficiency provides general funds for the MITDP directly to SBE. **SBE should comment on how it will coordinate with DoIT and ensure that DoIT maintains oversight as the NCRIS project progresses.**

### **Fiscal 2027 Overview of Agency Spending**

As shown in **Exhibit 1**, the fiscal 2027 allowance includes a total of \$69.7 million for SBE. Election operations represent the largest share of the allowance at \$29.9 million, or 43.3%, reflecting costs associated with administering statewide elections. Equipment expenditures total \$20.3 million, or 29%, and support the acquisition, maintenance, and replacement of election equipment. Personnel costs account for \$9.0 million of the allowance and fund regular and contractual salaries and fringe benefits. Major IT initiatives, including the Pollbook Project, the New Voting System, and Voter Registration and Election Administration Modernization (VREAM), total \$4.4 million, or 6% of the allowance, and support ongoing system development and modernization efforts. The remaining funding supports fixed charges, communications, travel, supplies, and general administrative operations.

**Exhibit 1  
Overview of Agency Spending  
Fiscal 2027 Allowance  
(\$ in Millions)**



VREAM: Voter Registration and Election Administration Modernization

Note: The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency’s budget.

Source: Governor’s Fiscal 2027 Budget Books

**Proposed Budget Change**

As shown in **Exhibit 2**, the fiscal 2027 allowance for SBE increases by \$12.3 million compared to the fiscal 2026 working appropriation after accounting for deficiencies. The net increase is driven primarily by \$17.7 million in major IT project implementation costs for LBEs related to the NVS, pollbooks, and VREAM projects, along with additional increases for election operations support systems and cybersecurity. These increases are partially offset by reductions of \$2.6 million for the Maryland Campaign Reporting Information System (MDCRIS) (including the

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fiscal 2026 deficiency), \$2.4 million for IT project management and vendor support services, \$2.5 million in leases and one-time election operations costs, and \$777,660 in election staffing costs. Personnel expenses increase by a net \$1.2 million, largely reflecting salary adjustments, fringe benefits, and two new positions. **SBE should explain the reason for the \$304,943 reduction associated with the removal of DoIT oversight costs for major IT projects from LBEs.**

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

<b>How Much It Grows:</b>	<b><u>General</u> <u>Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Special</u> <u>Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Federal</u> <u>Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Reimb.</u> <u>Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Fiscal 2025 Actual	\$23,365	\$29,837	\$1,164	\$12,610	\$66,977
Fiscal 2026 Working	25,367	27,064	2,626	2,303	57,360
Fiscal 2027 Allowance	24,497	41,300	3,901	0	69,698
Fiscal 2026-2027 \$ Change	-\$870	\$14,236	\$1,275	-\$2,303	\$12,338
Fiscal 2026-2027 % Change	-3.43%	52.60%	48.54%	-100.00%	21.51%

<b>Where It Goes:</b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>	
Salary adjustments and associated fringe benefits .....	\$607
Salary and fringe benefits for 2.0 new positions .....	352
Employee and retiree health insurance.....	334
Deferred compensation match due to change in budgeting.....	14
Accrued leave payouts.....	4
Workers’ compensation.....	2
Overtime earnings .....	-2
Turnover rate increases from 3.04% to 3.94% .....	-72
<b>Election Administration Costs</b>	
Business reply postage reimbursements to LBEs .....	641
Election supplies ( <i>i.e.</i> , ADA tables, pollbook paper, “I Voted” stickers, pollbook printers).....	216
Call center costs to align with fiscal 2025 actuals.....	110
Voter list maintenance fees (Higher Electronic Registration Information Center annual dues and Election Assistance Commission’s List Maintenance Program) ..	107
Absentee/mail-in ballots.....	50

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<b>Where It Goes:</b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
Sign language interpreter and document translation costs to align with fiscal 2025 actuals .....	-45
Election staffing costs (contract staff and election judge bonus pay) .....	-778
Leases, logistics, and one-time election operations adjustments	-2,526
<b>Information Technology for Election Operations .....</b>	
Major IT project implementation costs for LBEs (New Voting System, Pollbooks, VREAM).....	17,656
Election operations support systems (mail sorters, provisional app, test decks, redistricting tools, and election infrastructure support) .....	768
Election cybersecurity and security services .....	750
Audit Review and Oversight software .....	449
Election systems infrastructure, hosting, and data environments.....	370
Software licensing, maintenance, and warranty costs .....	-70
Removal of DoIT oversight costs for major IT projects from LBEs .....	-305
Other IT efficiencies (warehouse staffing, same day registration postcards, voter registration application alignment) .....	-326
Reduced personnel management costs for an IT project.....	-772
IT project management and vendor support services .....	-2,428
MDCRIS, including the fiscal 2026 deficiency .....	-2,569
<b>Other changes</b>	
Other operating expenses .....	151
Cost allocations .....	-352
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,338</b>

ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act  
 DoIT: Department of Information Technology  
 IT: information technology  
 LBE: local board of elections  
 MDCRIS: Maryland Campaign Reporting Information System  
 VREAM: Voter Registration and Election Administration Modernization Project

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding. The fiscal 2026 working appropriation accounts for deficiencies. The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency’s budget.

## ***Personnel Data***

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	<b>FY 25</b>	<b>FY 26</b>	<b>FY 27</b>	<b>FY 26-27</b>
	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Working</u></b>	<b><u>Allowance</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
Regular Positions	55.00	56.00	58.00	2.00
Contractual FTEs	<u>0.29</u>	<u>0.38</u>	<u>0.38</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>55.29</b>	<b>56.38</b>	<b>58.38</b>	<b>2.00</b>

### ***Vacancy Data: Regular Positions***

Turnover and Necessary Vacancies, Excluding New Positions	2.29	3.94%
Positions and Percentage Vacant as of 12/31/2025	3.00	5.36%
Vacancies Above Turnover	0.71	

- The fiscal 2027 allowance provides funding for 2 new positions at SBE. These positions include 1 assistant Attorney General and 1 security engineer. The assistant Attorney General will provide legal guidance on election law, personnel matters, procurement, and contract issues; support election policy development; and monitor litigation. The security engineer will support cybersecurity operations by implementing and maintaining technical security controls to protect agency systems and ensure compliance with State and federal security requirements.
- SBE reported 3.0 vacant positions as of December 31, 2025, which is 0.71 vacancies above the budgeted turnover rate of 3.94% in the fiscal 2027 allowance. All 3 positions have been vacant for less than six months.

## Issues

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### 1. Implementation of Multiple Major IT Projects

SBE is in the process of implementing four MITDPs: the Statewide Pollbook Modernization (SPM) project; the NVS project; NCRIS; and the VREAM Project. Committee narrative in the 2025 *Joint Chairmen’s Report* (JCR) requested that SBE submit quarterly reports on the status, activities, expenditures, and risks associated with its MITDPs to monitor project progress and spending. These projects represent multi-year investments intended to modernize core election systems that support voter check-in, vote tabulation, campaign finance reporting, voter registration, and election administration. In addition, committee narrative in the 2025 JCR requested that SBE submit a separate report addressing the readiness and timing of implementation of the SPM and NVS MITDPs for the calendar 2026 midterm elections and the calendar 2028 presidential election, including information on project timelines, vendor readiness, components expected to be available for each election cycle, potential security and electoral integrity risks, and planned mitigation strategies. As shown in **Exhibit 3**, the allowance provides \$40.5 million for the four projects.

**Exhibit 3**  
**Fiscal 2027 Funding for SBE’s Major IT Projects**  
 (\$ in Millions)

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Special Funds SBE Budget</u>	<u>General Funds DoIT Budget</u>	<u>Total</u>
State Pollbook Modernization	\$5.3	\$5.3	\$10.6
New Voting System	13.9	13.9	27.8
New Campaign Reporting Information System	0.0	1.2	1.2
Voter Registration and Election Administration Modernization	0.4	0.5	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19.6</b>	<b>\$20.9</b>	<b>\$40.5</b>

DoIT: Department of Information Tec  
 IT: information technology  
 SBE: State Board of Elections

Source: State Board of Elections

## **Statewide Pollbook Modernization Project**

Pollbooks are used statewide to check in voters during early voting and on Election Day, verify voter registration, and issue ballots. The SPM project will replace Maryland’s current pollbooks as they near the end of their useful life. SBE will procure and implement a new pollbook solution, including hardware, software, and statewide integration. The SPM project advanced during the reporting period as BPW approved the contract award in December 2025, and SBE completed a vendor kickoff meeting shortly thereafter. During the fourth quarter of calendar 2025, SBE reported expenditures of approximately \$40,000 for vendor project staffing. The fiscal 2027 allowance for the SPM project increases by \$2.3 million, or 3.6%, to \$5.3 million in special funds. Additionally, there is \$5.3 million in the general fund share budgeted in DoIT. The total estimated cost of the project is projected to range from \$30 million to \$40 million.

SBE identified several risks to the project timeline, including reduced availability of subject matter experts during the 2026 election cycle – which could limit staff capacity to support system development, user acceptance testing (UAT), and training – and system compatibility with existing systems such as the Electronic Pollbook Interchange and Conversion (EPIC) system. Regarding readiness for elections, SBE reported that all new pollbook components, including hardware, software, integration testing, and deployment, will not be available for the 2026 elections. Full statewide deployment is contingent on successful vendor performance and adherence to the project schedule leading into 2028. SBE indicated that delays could place certain components at risk for the 2028 election, although existing pollbooks are being maintained, licensed, and tested quarterly to ensure continued usability as a contingency.

## **New Voting System Project**

SBE initiated the NVS Project to replace the State’s current voting system with a system certified under updated federal Election Assistance Commission (EAC) guidelines and certified for use in Maryland. The new system is intended to be fully operational for the 2028 presidential election. During the last quarter of calendar 2025, SBE continued vendor evaluations, including oral presentations and hands-on equipment assessments. Technical rankings are expected in early 2026, with an intent to award anticipated later in the fiscal year. SBE reported expenditures of approximately \$96,000 during the quarter for vendor project staffing. No additional development or procurement costs were incurred during the reporting period. The fiscal 2027 allowance for the NVS project is \$13.9 million in special funds. Additionally, there is \$13.9 million in the general fund share budgeted in DoIT. The total estimated cost of the project is projected to range from \$100 million to \$125 million.

SBE reported that the current voting system lease expires in March 2027, with an option to extend through March 2029 if necessary. This lease extension serves as a contingency should the new system not be ready for the 2028 elections. Risks identified for the new system include potential cost increases related to federal certification requirements, integration with existing contracted systems, and the operational challenges of implementing a new voting system concurrently with a new pollbook system.

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SBE reported that the NVS project is not expected to be ready for use in the calendar 2026 midterm elections. Instead, the target for full implementation is the calendar 2028 presidential election, with the State relying on existing voting systems for the 2026 cycle. SBE indicated that contingency plans are in place to maintain current systems through 2028 if necessary. Implementation for the 2028 presidential election remains contingent on vendor readiness and federal certification under updated EAC guidelines. SBE noted that delays in certification or vendor testing could affect deployment timelines and that continued reliance on the current paper based voting system remains the primary contingency. **SBE should comment on its level of confidence that the current implementation timelines for the SPM and NVS IT projects ensure full readiness for the 2028 presidential election and whether additional operational, financial, or staffing contingencies may be necessary if delays occur in vendor performance, testing, or federal certification.**

### **New Campaign Reporting Information System**

NCRIS replaces MDCRIS and supports campaign finance reporting, committee registrations, audits, and statutory disclosure requirements, including 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. In addition, pursuant to § 5-716 of the General Provisions Article, a person who employs a State lobbyist and makes applicable contributions is also required to file a contribution disclosure statement. The BCDS module enables users to electronically file these required business contribution disclosures with SBE.

During the reporting period, BCDS and NCRIS went live on November 10, 2025, and December 5, 2025, respectively. The project entered a post-implementation hypercare phase through the end of December to address any critical issues, with a transition to operations and maintenance beginning in January 2026. SBE reported approximately \$393,000 in expenditures during the quarter for vendor staffing and software development. NCRIS receives \$1.2 million in general funds in the fiscal 2027 allowance, which is budgeted within DoIT. The project's total estimated cost is currently projected to range up to \$10 million.

SBE identified data conversion issues that became apparent after system go-live and temporarily affected reporting accuracy. The agency reported that these issues are being actively managed through data reconciliation, script updates, and enhanced monitoring, with no long-term impacts to project objectives anticipated.

### **Voter Registration and Election Administration Modernization Project**

The VREAM project is intended to replace the Maryland Voter Registration, Candidacy, and Election Management System (MDVOTERS) system, which has been in use since 2006 and supports voter registration, election judge assignments, ballot production, mail-in voting, and

redistricting. The MDVOTERS system is nearing the end of its operational life and limits SBE’s ability to implement legislative changes and automate election administration functions.

During the last reported quarter, SBE continued requirements-gathering activities through stakeholder engagement and system analysis. The agency anticipates releasing a request for proposals (RFP) in August 2026. SBE reported approximately \$39,000 in expenditures during the quarter for vendor staffing support. The fiscal 2027 allowance for the VREAM project is \$425,926 in special funds. Additionally, there is \$500,000 in the general fund share budgeted in DoIT. The total estimated cost of the project is projected to range from \$30 million to \$40 million.

SBE identified risks such as system integration challenges with other SBE-managed systems and resource constraints due to concurrent MITDP activity. SBE indicated that it is coordinating with the Department of Budget and Management and DoIT to address funding and oversight concerns.

**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 SPM project, NVS, VREAM, and the NCRIS project.**

## **2. Implementation of 2025 legislation**

### **Language Assistance Program**

Chapters 277 and 278 establish a statewide Language Assistance Program requiring SBE to identify counties with a significant need for voter language assistance based on specified criteria. LBEs in counties identified by SBE are required to provide designated language assistance services, including allowing voters to communicate with election judges at early voting centers and Election Day polling places through a translator.

In a memorandum dated January 22, 2026, SBE reported that based on the best available data, five local jurisdictions met the criteria for a significant need for language assistance for the 2026 election cycle. As shown in **Exhibit 4**, in each identified jurisdiction, at least one language group consists of more than 4,000 limited English proficient voting age citizens who use a single non-English language. In addition, limited English proficient Spanish-speaking citizens constitute more than 2% of the citizen voting age population in both Montgomery and Prince George’s counties.

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**Exhibit 4**  
**LBEs with Significant Need for Language Assistance**  
**Calendar 2026**

<u>LBE</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Citizen Voting Age Population</u>
Anne Arundel County	Spanish	4,691
Baltimore City	Spanish	4,276
Baltimore County	Spanish	5,774
Montgomery County	Amharic	4,356
(2% of CVAP Equals 13,695)	Chinese	7,111
	Spanish	28,853
	Vietnamese	4,548
Prince George’s County	Spanish	19,561
(2% of CVAP Equals 12,479)		

CVAP: citizen voting age population

LBE: local boards of elections

Source: State Board of Elections

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The agency indicated that the five LBEs required to implement the Language Assistance Program have been notified and are coordinating with SBE to ensure compliance. SBE reported that implementation activities are proceeding as planned, and a formal rollout of the program would begin after the SBE board completes the required actions to identify the covered languages and jurisdictions.

### **Risk-limiting Audits**

Chapters 320 and 321 require SBE, in coordination with each LBE, to conduct a risk-limiting audit of at least one statewide contest and any other contest selected by SBE following each statewide election. The audit must assess the accuracy of the voting system’s tabulation of votes in each county for the audited contests. A risk-limiting audit is a post-election audit that uses statistical methods to ensure a predetermined minimum probability of triggering a full manual count of voter verifiable paper records if such a count would result in a different outcome than the electronic tabulation. The legislation also requires SBE to adopt regulations establishing criteria for selecting contests to be audited, determining the risk limit, and specifying the audit methodology.

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To implement these requirements, SBE proposed amendments to multiple Code of Maryland Regulations, which were approved by the SBE Board at its December 17, 2025 meeting. Amendments to regulations revise the format and structure of post-election audits to incorporate risk limiting audits. Additional regulatory changes modify procedures for ballot handling, storage, and batch identification to ensure ballots can be accurately retrieved for audit purposes. Further changes authorize SBE to request technical information from vendors during procurement of the new voting system to assess system compatibility with risk-limiting audits.

SBE reported that public comment on the proposed regulations remains open through February 23, 2026. The agency also indicated that standard operating procedures covering all phases of the risk limiting audit process are near completion and are expected to be distributed to LBEs during the first quarter of calendar 2026.

### **Election Plan Requirements**

Chapter 281 requires each LBE to submit an election plan to SBE for approval at least seven months prior to each statewide primary election. The Act also establishes requirements for election plans and modifies existing requirements related to polling place plans, ballot drop box plans, and early voting center plans. SBE indicated that LBEs submitted their election plans in accordance with guidelines and instructions issued by the agency. As of the reporting date, 19 of the 24 LBEs have had their election plans reviewed and approved by both their local boards and the State Board. The remaining five election plans were scheduled for consideration and approval at the State Board meeting on January 22, 2026.

## ***Operating Recommended Actions***

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1. **Quarterly Reports on all Major Information Technology Development Projects (MITDP):** The State Board of Elections (SBE) is implementing four ongoing MITDPs for a statewide pollbook system replacement, new voting system, Voter Registration and Election Administration Modernization Project, 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 four projects through their completion. Each report should include the following for each project:
  - a description of activities undertaken during the quarter, including dates, identification of achieved milestones or delays, and an assessment of how any delays affect the overall project timeline;
  - actual project spending by month for the quarter, cumulative project expenditures to date, including total spending since project inception and remaining estimated funding by fund source;
  - any changes to the project’s approved cost baseline, including explanations for increases or decreases in total estimated project costs;
  - an assessment of future risks to the project timeline and planned mitigation strategies; and
  - identification of key upcoming milestones and external dependencies, including vendor deliverables, federal certification requirements, and coordination with local boards of elections, that could affect project readiness for upcoming election cycles.

<b>Information Request</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Quarterly report on all MITDPs	SBE	July 15, 2026 October 15, 2026 January 15, 2027 April 15, 2027

**Appendix 1**  
**2025 Joint Chairmen’s Report Responses from Agency**

The 2025 JCR requested that SBE prepare two reports. Electronic copies of the full JCR responses can be found on the DLS Library website.

- ***Quarterly Reports on all MITDPs:*** SBE has submitted three of the four quarterly reports. The fourth report is due April 15, 2026. Further discussion is included in Issue 1 of this analysis.
- ***MITDP Readiness for Upcoming Elections:*** SBE provided a report with information on the readiness and timing of implementation of the SPM MITDP and the NVS MITDP for the upcoming calendar 2026 midterm elections and calendar 2028 presidential election. SBE indicated that neither the system replacing pollbooks or voting equipment will be available for the 2026 election, and full implementation is currently targeted for the 2028 presidential election. Further discussion of this report can be found in Issue 1 of this analysis.

**Appendix 2**  
**Statewide Pollbook Modernization**  
**Major Information Technology Development Project**  
**State Board of Elections**

For additional information on the SPM project, see Issue 1 of this analysis.

<b>New/Ongoing:</b> Ongoing					
<b>Start Date:</b> 2024			<b>Est. Completion Date:</b> 2031		
<b>Implementation Strategy:</b> Agile					
<b>(\$ in Millions)</b>	<b>Prior Year</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>Remainder</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>GF</b>	\$0.196	\$0.531	\$5.315	\$7.587-\$12.587	\$15.000-\$20.000
<b>SF</b>	0.898	2.572	5.315	7.587-12.587	15.000-20.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.094</b>	<b>\$3.103</b>	<b>\$10.630</b>	<b>\$15.174-\$25.174</b>	<b>\$30.000-\$40.000</b>

Note: Remaining estimated funding is allocated between general and special funds based on the fiscal 2027 fund split, reflecting recent funding experience.

- **Project Summary:** The SPM project is an initiative to procure and implement a modernized electronic pollbook system for use by SBE and LBEs beginning with the 2028 statewide election cycle. The project includes new hardware and software; Maryland-specific system modifications; statewide integration and testing, training, deployment; and ongoing operational support.
- **Need:** The existing pollbook system is nearing end of life.
- **Changes:** An intent to award the SPM contract was issued on October 1, 2025, and BPW approved the award on December 3, 2025. A gap analysis is expected to begin in early 2026, followed by system customization and development, with activities scheduled to be completed in advance of statewide testing planned for the third quarter of fiscal 2027.
- **Concerns:** Reduced subject matter experts’ availability during the 2026 elections could negatively impact the development, UAT, and training for the SPM solution. If the new solution cannot sync with SBE-designated systems such as the EPIC system, which is a middleware system between the pollbooks and the Voter Registration Database that houses all voter registration information, it could result in significant workflow and process changes.

**Appendix 3**  
**2026 New Voting System**  
**Major Information Technology Development Project**  
**State Board of Elections**

For additional information on the 2026 NVS project, see Issue 1 of this analysis.

<b>New/Ongoing:</b> Ongoing					
<b>Start Date:</b> 2022			<b>Est. Completion Date:</b> 2031		
<b>Implementation Strategy:</b> Agile					
<b>(\$ in Millions)</b>	<b>Prior Year</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>Remainder</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>GF</b>	\$10.399	\$0.000	\$13.938	\$25.663-\$38.163	\$50.000-\$75.000
<b>SF</b>	10.3999	0.000	13.938	25.663-38.163	50.000-75.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20.798</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$27.876</b>	<b>\$51.326-\$76.326</b>	<b>\$100.000-\$125.000</b>

- **Project Summary:** The current voting system was procured via a lease agreement that is set to expire in March 2025 with an option to renew for an additional two years to March 2027. Under Maryland law, the new voting system must be certified by EAC under the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) that outlines specific requirements and standards for voting systems.
- **Need:** The existing voting system is nearing end of life.
- **Changes:** An RFP was released on June 27, 2025, and responses were received on September 5, 2025. Evaluations have been underway for three offerors since November 2025 and intent to award is anticipated by the end of January 2026, with SBE presentation to BPW for the award planned for May 2026.
- **Concerns:** Costs for the new voting system may increase significantly due to the cost to upgrade to VVSG 2.0, which will impact funding requests for the project.

**Appendix 4**  
**2026 New Campaign Reporting Information System**  
**Major Information Technology Development Project**  
**State Board of Elections**

For additional information on the 2026 NCRIS project, see Issue 1 of this analysis.

<b>New/Ongoing:</b> Ongoing					
<b>Start Date:</b> 2023			<b>Est. Completion Date:</b> 2028		
<b>Implementation Strategy:</b> Agile					
<b>(\$ in Millions)</b>	<b>Prior Year</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>Remainder</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>GF</b>	\$2.110	\$0.522	\$1.210	-\$3.842-\$6.158	\$0.000-\$10.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2.110</b>	<b>\$0.522</b>	<b>\$1.210</b>	<b>-\$3.842-\$6.158</b>	<b>\$0.000-\$10.000</b>

- **Project Summary:** SBE is seeking to procure a new NCRIS prior to the 2026 election cycle. The current system is used for the full management of the campaign finance system for the State. Contributors, and committees can self-register; declare their participation in an election cycle; document all contributions, expenditures, outstanding obligations, and loans; and electronically file reports to SBE.
- **Need:** Section 13-324 of the Election Law Article requires SBE to have a campaign reporting system 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 2026 election cycle.
- **Changes:** The BCDS system successfully went live on November 10, 2025, followed by the NCRIS system on December 5, 2025. The project team is currently in the post-go-live hypercare phase, focusing on resolving any critical issues through December 31, 2025, to ensure system stability and a smooth transition. Beginning in January 2026, focus will shift toward operations and maintenance activities to support long-term system performance.

**Appendix 5**  
**Voter Registration and Election Administration Modernization**  
**Major Information Technology Development Project**  
**State Board of Elections**

For additional information on the VREAM project, see Issue 1 of this analysis.

<b>New/Ongoing:</b> Ongoing					
<b>Start Date:</b> 2025			<b>Est. Completion Date:</b> 2032		
<b>Implementation Strategy:</b> Agile					
<b>(\$ in Millions)</b>	<b>Prior Year</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>Remainder</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>GF</b>	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.500	\$15.700-\$21.100	\$16.2000-\$21.600
<b>SF</b>	0.000	0.000	0.426	13.374-17.974	13.800-18.400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>	<b>\$0.926</b>	<b>\$29.074 - \$39.074</b>	<b>\$30.000-\$40.000</b>

Note: Remaining estimated funding is allocated between general and special funds based on the fiscal 2027 fund split, reflecting recent funding experience.

- **Project Summary:** The VREAM project will implement a new system for voter registration and election management in Maryland. The existing system is 20 years old and does not meet the needs of modern election administration, including integration with new systems, increased security guidelines, Geographic Information system (GIS) integration, and accessibility requirements.
- **Need:** The existing MDVOTERS and the Agency Election Management System is nearing the end of its operational life and can no longer continue to efficiently support future election needs and requirements, including increased security requirements and GIS integration for the 2030 census and redistricting cycle.
- **Changes:** The current voting system lease agreement is set to expire in March 2027; however, there is an additional option period to March 2029 if there are any issues in the implementation process. SBE currently plans to complete vendor evaluation, State certification, and system implementation ahead of the 2028 presidential election. The project team began gathering, reviewing, and refining functional and nonfunctional requirements through detailed discussions with a range of stakeholders. The current timeline anticipates the RFP to be released in August 2026.
- **Concerns:** If the solution is not fully implemented by 2030, SBE may be unable to effectively support redistricting activities required for the 2031 redistricting cycle.

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

<u>Object/Fund</u>	<u>FY 25 Actual</u>	<u>FY 26 Wrk Approp</u>	<u>FY 27 Allowance</u>	<u>FY 26 - 27 \$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Positions</b>					
01 Regular	55.00	56.00	58.00	2.00	3.6%
02 Contractual	0.29	0.38	0.38	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Positions</b>	<b>55.29</b>	<b>56.38</b>	<b>58.38</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
<b>Objects</b>					
01 Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits	\$7,599,283	\$7,608,322	\$8,847,059	\$1,238,737	16.3%
02 Technical and Special Fees	46,040	148,252	164,995	16,743	11.3%
03 Communications	448,802	2,219,023	1,821,352	-397,671	-17.9%
04 Travel	82,192	68,442	49,460	-18,982	-27.7%
07 Motor Vehicle Operation and Maintenance	70,968	3,400	1,690	-1,710	-50.3%
08 Contractual Services	51,452,311	36,575,077	34,099,160	-2,475,917	-6.8%
09 Supplies and Materials	78,369	754,099	1,035,025	280,926	37.3%
10 Equipment – Replacement	4,551,841	5,838,700	20,228,356	14,389,656	246.5%
11 Equipment – Additional	1,168,042	0	27,500	27,500	N/A
12 Grants, Subsidies, and Contributions	0	1,860,000	981,534	-878,466	-47.2%
13 Fixed Charges	1,478,830	2,284,812	2,442,041	157,229	6.9%
<b>Total Objects</b>	<b>\$66,976,678</b>	<b>\$57,360,127</b>	<b>\$69,698,172</b>	<b>\$12,338,045</b>	<b>21.5%</b>
<b>Funds</b>					
01 General Funds	\$23,365,148	\$25,366,636	\$24,496,812	-\$869,824	-3.4%
03 Special Funds	29,837,102	27,063,867	41,300,184	14,236,317	52.6%
05 Federal Funds	1,164,382	2,626,430	3,901,176	1,274,746	48.5%
09 Reimbursable Funds	12,610,046	2,303,194	0	-2,303,194	-100.0%
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$66,976,678</b>	<b>\$57,360,127</b>	<b>\$69,698,172</b>	<b>\$12,338,045</b>	<b>21.5%</b>

Note: The fiscal 2026 appropriation includes proposed deficiency appropriations. The fiscal 2027 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 25 Actual</u>	<u>FY 26 Wrk Approp</u>	<u>FY 27 Allowance</u>	<u>FY 26 - 27 \$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
01 General Administration	\$7,011,422	\$7,174,230	\$7,602,776	\$428,546	6.0%
02 Election Operations	36,003,529	44,282,893	42,416,456	-1,866,437	-4.2%
03 Major Information Technology Development Projects	23,961,727	5,903,004	19,678,940	13,775,936	233.4%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$66,976,678</b>	<b>\$57,360,127</b>	<b>\$69,698,172</b>	<b>\$12,338,045</b>	<b>21.5%</b>
General Funds	\$23,365,148	\$25,366,636	\$24,496,812	-\$869,824	-3.4%
Special Funds	29,837,102	27,063,867	41,300,184	14,236,317	52.6%
Federal Funds	1,164,382	2,626,430	3,901,176	1,274,746	48.5%
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$54,366,632</b>	<b>\$55,056,933</b>	<b>\$69,698,172</b>	<b>\$14,641,239</b>	<b>26.6%</b>
Reimbursable Funds	\$12,610,046	\$2,303,194	\$0	-\$2,303,194	-100.0%
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$66,976,678</b>	<b>\$57,360,127</b>	<b>\$69,698,172</b>	<b>\$12,338,045</b>	<b>21.5%</b>

Note: The fiscal 2026 appropriation includes proposed deficiency appropriations. The fiscal 2027 allowance does not include statewide salary adjustments budgeted within the Department of Budget and Management.