

Redbook

LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

Ohio Secretary of State

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LBO Redbook

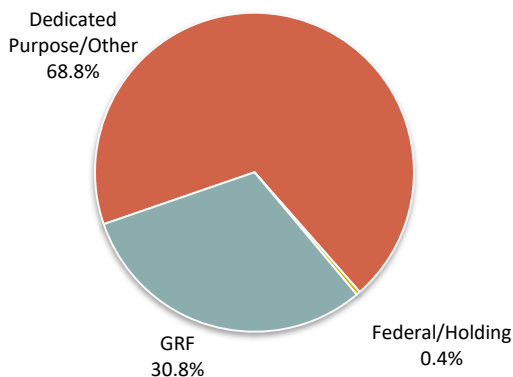
Ohio Secretary of State

Quick look...

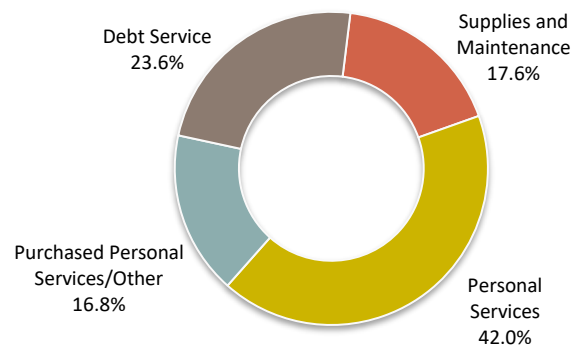
- The Secretary of State (SOS) oversees elections and business licensing in Ohio, among other responsibilities. The Office employs a staff of approximately 157 as of February 2025.
- The budget totals about \$103.6 million for the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium. Approximately \$71.3 million (68.8%) of this biennial funding comes from business and notary filing fees.
- GRF funding is approximately \$31.9 million (30.8%) of biennial funding. Of this, \$24.4 million (76.5%) is for debt service payments on obligations issued to buy county voting systems, and \$7.5 million (23.5%) is for cybersecurity personnel and poll worker training.

| Fund Group | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| General Revenue (GRF) | \$12,934,331 | \$14,090,000 | \$15,705,147 | \$16,210,274 |
| Dedicated Purpose (DPF) | \$49,401,785 | \$41,162,692 | \$35,021,210 | \$36,266,197 |
| Federal (FED) | \$5,273,288 | \$5,056,570 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |
| Holding Account (HLD) | \$69,060 | \$85,000 | \$85,000 | \$85,000 |
| Total | \$67,678,466 | \$60,394,263 | \$50,911,357 | \$52,661,471 |
| % change | -- | -10.8% | -15.7% | 3.4% |
| <i>GRF % change</i> | -- | 8.9% | 11.5% | 3.2% |

**Chart 1: SOS Budget by Fund Group
FY 2026-FY 2027 Biennium**



**Chart 2: SOS Budget by Expense Category
FY 2026-FY 2027 Biennium**



Biennial total: \$88.4 million

Overview

The Secretary of State (SOS) supervises the administration of election laws and the 88 county boards of elections. The SOS also chairs the five-member Ohio Ballot Board, which approves statewide ballot language, reviews statewide initiative and referendum petitions, and informs voters about proposed ballot issues. In overseeing elections, the SOS compiles and maintains election statistics, political party records, and other related records, including campaign finance reports filed by candidates running for statewide office, the General Assembly, and political action committees. These responsibilities are handled by the Elections Division. The SOS also oversees business licensing in the state. This function is handled by the Business Services Division. In addition, the Division handles a variety of Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) filings. The Business Services Division also houses the Notary Commission. Overall, the SOS employs approximately 157 people according to February 2025 payroll records.

Appropriation summary

As Chart 1 in the “**Quick look**” section on the preceding page shows, the executive budget recommends a total of \$31.9 million (30.8%) in GRF funding, over three-quarters of which is for debt service on purchases of new voting machines for counties. The remaining portion of the GRF funding is for cybersecurity staffing and poll worker training. The largest share of funding for the SOS comes from filing fees on businesses and notaries in various funds within the Dedicated Purpose Fund (DPF) Group. Together, these fees plus a small amount in the form of business filing refunds support approximately \$71.3 million (68.8%) of proposed funding for the biennium. These amounts mostly go toward operations of the Business Services Division, but also supplement funding for the Elections Division. Finally, \$200,000 over the biennium constitutes the remaining portion of grant funding received through the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission (EAC) under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

Chart 2 shows the proposed budget for the SOS by object of expense. The amounts budgeted for personal services are just under \$43.5 million (42.0%). Debt service expenses of \$24.4 million (23.6%) for county voting machines account for the second largest expenditure over the biennium. Supplies and maintenance costs of slightly more than \$18.0 million account for 17.6% of anticipated spending. Finally, purchased personal services, equipment, transfers, and subsidy costs together comprise \$17.7 million (16.8%) of expenditures for the upcoming biennium.

FY 2024-FY 2025 highlights

As the “**Quick Look**” table on the previous page indicates, FY 2025 estimated expenditures of \$60.4 million are approximately \$9.5 million higher than FY 2026 appropriations of \$50.9 million, a decrease of 15.7% in funding. The greater amount of estimated FY 2025 spending is primarily the result of three factors explained below.

Help America Vote Act grants

Federal grants that Ohio received through the EAC and appropriated under Fund 3AS0 ALI 050616, Help America Vote Act (HAVA) will likely be almost entirely expended by the end of FY 2025. This funding has been used to oversee cybersecurity programs, including grants to county boards of elections (BOEs) for technology and IT support and upgrades associated with

SOS cybersecurity directives. To continue these activities, the proposed budget includes \$100,000 in residual HAVA funding each fiscal year. To make up the difference, the budget includes \$2.1 million in GRF each fiscal year under ALI 050321, Operating Expenses. Remaining costs will be covered using Business Services Fund (Fund 5990) ALIs 050603, Business Services Operating Expenses, and 050630, Elections Support Supplement.

DATA Act

H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly, the main operating budget for the FY 2024-FY 2025 biennium, contained one-time funding of \$5.0 million under DPF ALI 050639, Data Analysis Transparency, to be used by the SOS to carry out the requirements of the Data Analysis Transparency Archive (DATA) Act. This funding was earmarked for two purposes: (1) \$2.7 million to run the Office of Data Analytics and Archives and upgrade the Statewide Voter Registration Database (SWVRD), and (2) \$2.3 million to issue grants to county boards of election to upgrade their county voter registration systems.

Special election and ballot advertising expenses

In FY 2025, the SOS also received funding for various election-related matters. This included \$951,000 for the costs related to holding the June 11, 2024 Sixth Congressional District special election, and approximately \$400,000 for statewide ballot advertising costs for the ballot measures appearing on the November 5, 2024 general election ballot.

Electronic pollbook funding

H.B. 45 of the 134th General Assembly provided \$7.5 million to the Electronic Pollbook Fund (Fund 5ZE0) through a cash transfer from the GRF. This money is used by the SOS to cover the costs that counties incur for buying electronic pollbooks and other ancillary equipment. Under the program, the SOS calculates each county's share of this funding, based upon the number of registered voters in each county. The payment to counties must be the lesser of 85% of the actual acquisition costs, or the allocation to that county, as calculated by the SOS. As of February 2025, the SOS has currently provided over \$6.1 million in payments to 71 counties for pollbook acquisition. The proposed budget reappropriates the unspent, unencumbered money from FY 2025 to be carried forward for use in FY 2026, allowing the residual counties that have yet to participate in the program to acquire pollbooks, as well as enable counties that have yet to spend their full allocation to acquire additional equipment. As of February 2025, \$1.3 million in funding remains available to counties.

Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal

Elections Services

This category of appropriations funds the Secretary of State's (SOS) Elections Division, which is responsible for the administration and oversight of all elections in the state, as well as poll worker training. Overall, approximately \$43.6 million is proposed for Elections Services over the biennium. Approximately \$31.9 million (73.2%) of the proposed funding for these activities during the biennium is supported by the GRF.

Operating Expenses (ALI 050321)

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| GRF ALI 050321, Operating Expenses | | | | | |
| \$622,985 | \$1,438,238 | \$784,254 | \$1,390,000 | \$3,505,147 | \$3,510,274 |
| % change | 130.9% | -45.5% | 77.2% | 152.2% | 0.1% |

This ALI is used to support cybersecurity measures throughout the SOS's Office. This includes the salaries of the Chief Information Officer and Chief Information Security Officer. Reimbursements to county boards of elections for any required post-election audits are also made from this ALI. The substantial increase in funding under the proposed budget – \$2.1 million in each fiscal year – will partially offset costs previously paid from federal funds received under HAVA.

Poll Workers Training (ALI 050407)

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| GRF ALI 050407, Poll Workers Training | | | | | |
| \$0 | \$468,392 | \$0 | \$500,000 | \$0 | \$500,000 |
| % change | -- | -100.0% | -- | -100.0% | -- |

This ALI provides grants to local boards of elections (BOEs) to help cover the cost associated with the initial and ongoing training of poll workers and presiding judges. Training occurs twice per year. The SOS is required to provide grants to county BOEs up front to pay these costs based upon previous training costs. Online training sessions and training materials for poll workers are also available on the SOS's website. These costs, however, are budgeted under DPF appropriation item 050631, Precinct Election Officials Training.

County Voting Systems Lease Rental Payments (ALI 050509)

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| GRF ALI 050509, County Voting Systems Lease Rental Payments | | | | | |
| \$9,675,838 | \$12,117,249 | \$12,150,078 | \$12,200,000 | \$12,200,000 | \$12,200,000 |
| % change | 25.2% | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

This GRF ALI is used to pay the debt service on obligations issued for county voting machine acquisitions under S.B. 135 of the 132nd General Assembly. That act required debt issuance of up to \$104.5 million to ensure the payment for these machine acquisitions. As of FY 2025, all 88 counties have participated in this program and \$100.9 million in obligations have been disbursed to acquire new voting machines.

Board of Voting Machine Examiners (ALI 050610)

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fund 4S80 ALI 050610, Board of Voting Machine Examiners | | | | | |
| \$18,700 | \$24,000 | \$16,727 | \$14,400 | \$14,400 | \$14,400 |
| % change | 28.3% | -30.3% | -13.9% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

This ALI provides funding to cover the expenses of members of the Board of Voting Machine Examiners. It also pays for the costs associated with examining, testing, and certifying voting machine devices. The funding for these purposes is derived from fees charged to voting machine vendors for machine certification. Given the \$2,400 vendor certification fee, this level of funding assumes six items of voting equipment will be brought before the Board for certification in each year.

Statewide Voter Registration Database (ALI 050629)

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fund 5990 ALI 050629, Statewide Voter Registration Database | | | | | |
| \$733,775 | \$607,340 | \$452,805 | \$700,000 | \$705,000 | \$730,000 |
| % change | -17.2% | -25.4% | 54.6% | 0.7% | 3.5% |

This ALI is used to support the numerous functions related to the Statewide Voter Registration Database (SWVRD), such as maintaining the communication lines between SWVRD and 88 county boards of elections as well as IT hardware and software maintenance support for the system.

Election Support Supplement (ALI 050630)

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fund 5990 ALI 050630, Election Support Supplement | | | | | |
| \$2,465,911 | \$2,674,906 | \$3,225,000 | \$4,290,000 | \$4,458,687 | \$4,545,000 |
| % change | 8.5% | 20.6% | 33.0% | 3.9% | 1.9% |

This ALI pays for the expenses that the SOS incurs for administering elections, including the salaries of the Elections Division. Approximately 30 employees will be funded through this appropriation. The current source of operating revenue for these election oversight functions are corporate and business filing fees that are deposited into Fund 5990. The increase in projected spending from this line item in FY 2025, along with the proposed funding levels for the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium, is because the ALI will be used to absorb the costs that were previously paid through federal HAVA funds, including an additional eight employees.

The Elections Division is divided into three areas. The Elections Section provides instructions and develops procedures for conducting elections and prescribes applicable forms for voter registration, petitions, and ballot language. The Campaign Finance Section receives, processes, and examines all submitted campaign finance statements. The Field Services Section acts as a liaison between the SOS and county boards of elections and distributes elections-related information to citizens.

Help America Vote Act (HAVA) (ALI 050616)

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fund 3AS0 ALI 050616, Help America Vote Act (HAVA) | | | | | |
| \$3,910,020 | \$5,096,238 | \$5,273,289 | \$5,056,570 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |
| % change | 30.3% | 3.5% | -4.1% | -98.0% | 0.0% |

This ALI is used to carry out federal requirements and paid for by federal grants deposited into the Help America Vote Act Fund (Fund 3AS0). For the upcoming biennium, proposed funding under this ALI is \$100,000 in each fiscal year, compared to spending of over \$5.0 million annually over the past three fiscal years. This substantial reduction comes about because of a lack of additional funding received from the federal Election Assistance Commission. This has caused a draw down of cash in Fund 3AS0, which has a February 2025 cash balance of \$2.0 million. (Note, however, that some unused FY 2025 appropriations may be carried over for use in FY 2026.)

The types of things that this federal funding supports include: (1) improving the statewide voter registration database, (2) acquiring, modifying, or replacing voting systems and technology, and (3) implementing the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. Thus far in FY 2025, \$1.4 million has been spent under this ALI. In the previous biennium, approximately \$4.6 million in each fiscal year has been used from this fund to support cybersecurity programs, including providing grants to county BOEs for technology and IT support and upgrades, such as upgrading the Albert election security system used by county BOEs to detect electronic intrusions into their networks.

Business Services

The ALIs in this category are used to pay for functions carried out by the Business Services Division. The Division is responsible for handling articles of incorporation for Ohio corporations and granting licenses to out-of-state corporations seeking to do business in Ohio. The Division is also responsible for processing numerous types of filings under the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC). Business filing fees deposited into Fund 5990 account for nearly \$58.0 million (96.6%) of the over \$60.0 million in biennial funding proposed for the Business Services Division. The \$2.0 million remainder (3.4%) is budgeted for filing refunds, Notary Commission services, and management of the “Safe at Home” address confidentiality program. Fund 5990 collected nearly \$25.7 million in fee revenue in FY 2024. As of February 2025, it has collected approximately \$16.8 million from these various fees in FY 2025. The current cash balance is \$34.4 million.

Business Services Operating Expenses (ALI 050603)

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fund 5990 ALI 050603, Business Services Operating Expenses | | | | | |
| \$17,369,792 | \$17,648,025 | \$22,896,271 | \$25,540,878 | \$28,686,668 | \$29,281,310 |
| % change | 1.6% | 29.7% | 11.6% | 12.3% | 2.1% |

This ALI is used to pay the expenses associated with collecting and processing UCC filings as well as filings associated with corporations or partnerships, including the personnel costs for the Business Services Division. The additional proposed funding for the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium is attributable to a shift of operating costs of the Public Integrity Division. As discussed earlier in this Redbook, two Elections Division line items (050321 and 050630) are absorbing the costs previously paid through federal HAVA funding. Those two lines items also paid a majority of the operating costs of the Public Integrity Division. For the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium, the Secretary of State intends to shift the operating costs of the Public Integrity Division to the Business Services Division. Approximately \$1.5 million of the additional recommended funding is being used to fund the Public Integrity Division.

The revenue that supports the appropriation comes from fees charged for corporate and UCC filings. There are approximately 140 different UCC and business filing fees. Of the proposed funding, most will go to payroll and supplies and maintenance. Approximately \$16.5 million in FY 2026 and \$17.5 million in FY 2027 is slated for payroll. The amount budgeted for supplies, maintenance, and equipment is approximately \$6.6 million in FY 2026 and \$6.1 million in FY 2027. Purchased personal services comprises the remaining nearly \$5.5 million in FY 2026 and almost \$5.6 million in FY 2027.

Notary Commission (ALI 050609)

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fund 4120 ALI 050609, Notary Commission | | | | | |
| \$422,607 | \$513,172 | \$442,165 | \$500,000 | \$541,455 | \$555,487 |
| % change | 21.4% | -13.8% | 13.1% | 8.3% | 2.6% |

This ALI is used to pay the expenses of the Notary Public Office, including the cost of issuing licenses. The ALI is funded through a \$15 fee paid by individuals for notary public licenses valid for five years, except notary commissions held by practicing attorneys, which are valid as long as the attorney lives in Ohio. The Notary Commission also oversees minister licenses (\$10 fee) and special police officer commissions (\$15). Overall, about \$500,000 in each fiscal year under the FY 2026-FY 2027 budget is designated for payroll, with the remaining over \$41,000 in FY 2026 and \$45,000 in FY 2027 going to supplies and maintenance. The Notary Commission Fund (Fund 4120) collected just under \$414,000 in revenue in FY 2024. As of February 2025, FY 2025 receipts total just under \$221,000. The fund balance is just over \$527,000.

Address Confidentiality (ALI 050626)

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fund 5SN0 ALI 050626, Address Confidentiality | | | | | |
| \$175,003 | \$214,190 | \$20,238 | \$200,000 | \$375,000 | \$400,000 |
| % change | 22.4% | -90.6% | 888.2% | 87.5% | 6.7% |

This ALI is used to fund the Safe at Home address confidentiality program for survivors of domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, rape, or sexual battery and certain other crimes. The program was created by H.B. 359 of the 131st General Assembly. Under the program, the SOS arranges to receive mail on the participant's behalf, shielding the information from public records. The mail is subsequently forwarded to a confidential mailing address. Eligible voters who are participating in the Safe at Home Program may also register to vote or vote by absentee ballot without address information appearing in public voter registration files.

The Safe at Home Program is funded through fines that courts impose when sentencing certain offenders for various offenses. Fines deposited into the Address Confidentiality Fund (Fund 5SN0) in FY 2024 amounted to approximately \$5,200. The amount collected so far in FY 2025 is nearly \$2,200. Because these sums are insufficient to run the program, uncodified law allows for cash transfers of up to \$400,000 from the Business Services Fund (Fund 5990) to cover the funding needs of the program. The current cash balance of Fund 5SN0 is \$242,000.

Corporate/Business Filing Refunds (ALI 050606)

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fund R002 ALI 050606, Corporate/Business Filing Refunds | | | | | |
| \$32,044 | \$27,840 | \$69,060 | \$85,000 | \$85,000 | \$85,000 |
| % change | -13.1% | 148.1% | 23.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

This ALI is used to pay out UCC and corporate filing fees that may be subject to refund. These refunds occur when, for example, filings are rejected or otherwise not recorded, or when the applicant has made an overpayment.

Secretary of State

General Revenue Fund

GRF 050321 Operating Expenses

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$622,985 | \$1,438,238 | \$784,254 | \$1,390,000 | \$3,505,147 | \$3,510,274 |
| % change | 130.9% | -45.5% | 77.2% | 152.2% | 0.1% |

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Section 395.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line is used to pay the staffing costs for cybersecurity personnel, including the Chief Information Officer and Chief Information Security Officer, as well as provide the federally required matching funding for grants received under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and appropriated under Fund 3AS0 ALI 050616, Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

GRF 050407 Poll Workers Training

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$0 | \$468,392 | \$0 | \$500,000 | \$0 | \$500,000 |
| % change | N/A | -100.0% | N/A | -100.0% | N/A |

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Sections 395.10 and 395.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to provide online training programs and reimburse county boards of elections for costs associated with poll worker training programs. Training typically occurs twice per year.

GRF 050509 County Voting Systems Lease Rental Payments

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$9,675,838 | \$12,117,249 | \$12,150,078 | \$12,200,000 | \$12,200,000 | \$12,200,000 |
| % change | 25.2% | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

Source: General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: Sections 395.10 and 395.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established in S.B. 135 of the 132nd G.A.)

Purpose: This line item is used to make debt service payments on obligations issued through the Office of Budget and Management for counties to acquire new voting and tabulation equipment in accordance with S.B. 135 of the 132nd G.A.

Secretary of State

Dedicated Purpose Fund Group

4120 050609 Notary Commission

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$422,607 | \$513,172 | \$442,165 | \$500,000 | \$541,455 | \$555,487 |
| % change | 21.4% | -13.8% | 13.1% | 8.3% | 2.6% |

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Fees paid by individuals for notary public licenses

Legal Basis: R.C. 147.01 and 147.37; Section 395.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item pays for the operating costs for the Notary Public Office, including the cost of issuing licenses.

4S80 050610 Board of Voting Machine Examiners

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$18,700 | \$24,000 | \$16,727 | \$14,400 | \$14,400 | \$14,400 |
| % change | 28.3% | -30.3% | -13.9% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Fee of \$2,400 charged to voting machine vendors

Legal Basis: R.C. 3506.05; Sections 395.10 and 395.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to pay for services and expenses of the four members of the Board of Voting Machine Examiners and for other expenses related to examining, testing, and certifying voting machine devices.

5990 050603 Business Services Operating Expenses

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$17,369,792 | \$17,648,025 | \$22,896,271 | \$25,540,878 | \$28,686,668 | \$29,281,310 |
| % change | 1.6% | 29.7% | 11.6% | 12.3% | 2.1% |

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Fees charged for Corporate and Uniform Commercial Code filings

Legal Basis: R.C. 111.16 to 111.18 and 1309.528; Section 395.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to pay for expenses the Business Services Division incurs for processing Uniform Commercial Code filings and various filings required of corporations and partnerships.

Secretary of State

Dedicated Purpose Fund Group

5990 050629 Statewide Voter Registration Database

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$733,775 | \$607,340 | \$452,805 | \$700,000 | \$705,000 | \$730,000 |
| % change | -17.2% | -25.4% | 54.6% | 0.7% | 3.5% |

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Fees charged for Corporate and Uniform Commercial Code filings

Legal Basis: Section 395.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to pay the maintenance and operating costs of the Statewide Voter Registration Database (SWVRD).

5990 050630 Elections Support Supplement

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$2,465,911 | \$2,674,906 | \$3,225,000 | \$4,290,000 | \$4,458,687 | \$4,545,000 |
| % change | 8.5% | 20.6% | 33.0% | 3.9% | 1.9% |

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Fees charged for Corporate and Uniform Commercial Code filings

Legal Basis: Section 395.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to pay the various operating expenses associated with election administration, including the salaries of the Elections Division staff. The Elections Division consists of three sections: (1) Elections, which provides instructions and procedures for voter registration, petitions, and ballot language; (2) Campaign Finance, which processes and examines campaign finance statements; and (3) Field Services, which provides liaison services to county boards of elections and gives voter information to citizens.

5990 050631 Precinct Election Officials Training

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$500,000 | \$0 | \$500,000 |
| % change | N/A | N/A | N/A | -100.0% | N/A |

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Fees charged for Corporate and Uniform Commercial Code filings

Legal Basis: As needed line item

Purpose: This line item has been used to provide online training programs and reimburse county boards of elections for costs associated with poll worker training programs. Most recently, funding under this line item was used to assist county boards of elections with precinct election official training in preparation for the November 3, 2020 General Election, in conjunction with GRF line item 050407, Poll Workers Training.

Secretary of State

Dedicated Purpose Fund Group

5990 050636 County Election Officials Training

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$16,210 | \$139,942 | \$163,357 | \$240,000 | \$240,000 | \$240,000 |
| % change | 763.3% | 16.7% | 46.9% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Fees charged for Corporate and Uniform Commercial Code filings.

Legal Basis: Established by Controlling Board on October 10, 2021.

Purpose: This line item is used to provide support for training provided to Ohio election officials, including the Secretary of State's annual summer training.

5AS1 050639 Data Analysis Transparency

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$5,000,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| % change | N/A | N/A | N/A | -100.0% | N/A |

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: One time transfer of \$5.0 million from the FY 2023 GRF ending balance

Legal Basis: Sections 395.10 and 395.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This funding is used to carry out the requirements of the Data Analysis Transparency Archive (DATA) Act. It is earmarked for two purposes: (1) \$2.7 million to run the Office of Data Analytics and Archives and upgrade the Statewide Voter Registration Database, and (2) \$2.3 million to issue grants to county boards of elections to update their county voter registration systems.

5FG0 050620 BOE Reimbursement and Education

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$12,362,867 | \$11,575,596 | \$17,597,866 | \$950,937 | \$0 | \$0 |
| % change | -6.4% | 52.0% | -94.6% | -100.0% | N/A |

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Prior to FY 2024, transfers authorized by the Controlling Board; in FY 2024, an \$11.3 million transfer from the FY 2023 GRF ending balance

Legal Basis: Section 395.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to reimburse boards of elections for the costs of certain special elections and recounts. For FY 2024, the funding includes reimbursements to boards of elections for the costs of running the August 8, 2023 statewide special election on Issue 1, which proposed changing the requirements for qualifying for an initiated constitutional amendment and passing a constitutional amendment.

Secretary of State

Dedicated Purpose Fund Group

5FH0 050621 Statewide Ballot Advertising

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$0 | \$357,109 | \$700,043 | \$404,982 | \$0 | \$0 |
| % change | N/A | 96.0% | -42.1% | -100.0% | N/A |

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Transfers from the Emergency Purposes/Contingencies Fund (Fund 5KM0) as approved by the Controlling Board

Legal Basis: As needed line item

Purpose: This line item is used by the Secretary of State to pay all costs associated with the required advertising of statewide ballot issues, ballot issue explanations, and arguments for or against issues. The Secretary of State contracts with the appropriate media sources for the mandated state ballot advertising. FY 2024 ballot advertising costs were just over \$700,000.

5RG0 050627 Absentee Voter Ballot Application Mailing

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$0 | \$2,361,585 | \$0 | \$713,839 | \$0 | \$0 |
| % change | N/A | -100.0% | N/A | -100.0% | N/A |

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Cash transfers from the Emergency Purposes/Contingencies Fund (Fund 5KM0)

Legal Basis: As needed line item

Purpose: This line item is used to pay the costs associated with printing and mailing unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots. The funding must be approved by the Controlling Board. The Controlling Board has approved cash transfers of \$2.5 million to cover these costs for the November 5, 2024 general election. As of August 19, 2024, however, that funding had not yet been appropriated.

Secretary of State

Dedicated Purpose Fund Group

5SN0 050626 Address Confidentiality

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$175,003 | \$214,190 | \$20,238 | \$200,000 | \$375,000 | \$400,000 |
| % change | 22.4% | -90.6% | 888.2% | 87.5% | 6.7% |

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Court fines of \$70 to \$500 levied against certain offenders; cash transfers of up to \$200,000 per fiscal year from the Business Services Operating Expenses Fund (Fund 5990)

Legal Basis: R.C. 111.48, 2929.18, and 2929.28; Sections 395.10 and 395.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to administer the Address Confidentiality Program for eligible survivors of domestic violence or people who have been subjected to menacing by stalking, human trafficking, rape, or sexual battery. This service ensures that a program participant's address is kept confidential. It works by having the Secretary of State receiving mail on the participant's behalf, then forwarding it to the prescribed confidential mailing address.

5VX0 050634 Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$5,127 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| % change | -100.0% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Gifts and donations made to the fund, and earned interest

Legal Basis: Discontinued line item

Purpose: This line was used to provide funding to the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission for planning and hosting events related to women's suffrage and raising awareness about the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

5ZE0 050638 Electronic Pollbooks

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$0 | \$1,505,031 | \$3,887,312 | \$2,107,657 | \$0 | \$0 |
| % change | N/A | 158.3% | -45.8% | -100.0% | N/A |

Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: One time \$7,500,000 cash transfer from the GRF

Legal Basis: Section 285.12 of H.B. 45 of the 134th G.A., as amended by Section 610.30 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to provide reimbursements to counties for the cost of acquiring electronic pollbooks, whether buying or leasing. These reimbursements are up to eighty-five percent of the cost of acquiring electronic pollbooks and are paid to the county board of elections.

Secretary of State

Holding Account Fund Group

R002 050606 Corporate/Business Filing Refunds

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$32,044 | \$27,840 | \$69,060 | \$85,000 | \$85,000 | \$85,000 |
| % change | -13.1% | 148.1% | 23.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

Source: Holding Account Fund Group: Corporate, Uniform Commercial Code, and business filing fees

Legal Basis: Sections 395.10 and 395.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: This line item is used to refund filers for corporate filings that are not recorded or for overpayments related to these filings. Beginning in FY 2020, this line item is also used to make refunds for Uniform Commercial Code filings that are not recorded or for overpayments related to those filings.

Federal Fund Group

3AS0 050616 Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

| FY 2022 Actual | FY 2023 Actual | FY 2024 Actual | FY 2025 Estimate | FY 2026 Introduced | FY 2027 Introduced |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$3,910,020 | \$5,096,238 | \$5,273,289 | \$5,056,570 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |
| % change | 30.3% | 3.5% | -4.1% | -98.0% | 0.0% |

Source: Federal Fund Group: FAL 90.401, Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 Pub. L. No. 107-252; federal Election Security Grants awarded to Ohio under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

Legal Basis: Sections 395.10 and 395.20 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A.

Purpose: The line item is used to purchase new Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) or optical scan voting machines in compliance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002, make voter registration upgrades, provide voter education, make election cybersecurity upgrades, and administer the federal grant program.

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Appropriations - As Introduced
All Fund Groups - Detail**

Main Operating Appropriations Bill

| Detail by Agency | | | FY 2024 | Estimate FY 2025 | Introduced FY 2026 | Introduced FY 2027 | FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change | FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change |
|--|--------|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| SOS Secretary of State | | | | | | | | |
| GRF | 050321 | Operating Expenses | \$784,254 | \$1,390,000 | \$3,505,147 | \$3,510,274 | 152.17% | 0.15% |
| GRF | 050407 | Poll Workers Training | \$0 | \$500,000 | \$0 | \$500,000 | -100.00% | N/A |
| GRF | 050509 | County Voting Systems Lease Rental Payments | \$12,150,078 | \$12,200,000 | \$12,200,000 | \$12,200,000 | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| General Revenue Fund Subtotal | | | \$12,934,332 | \$14,090,000 | \$15,705,147 | \$16,210,274 | 11.46% | 3.22% |
| 4120 | 050609 | Notary Commission | \$442,165 | \$500,000 | \$541,455 | \$555,487 | 8.29% | 2.59% |
| 4S80 | 050610 | Board of Voting Machine Examiners | \$16,727 | \$14,400 | \$14,400 | \$14,400 | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| 5990 | 050603 | Business Services Operating Expenses | \$22,896,271 | \$25,540,878 | \$28,686,668 | \$29,281,310 | 12.32% | 2.07% |
| 5990 | 050629 | Statewide Voter Registration Database | \$452,805 | \$700,000 | \$705,000 | \$730,000 | 0.71% | 3.55% |
| 5990 | 050630 | Elections Support Supplement | \$3,225,000 | \$4,290,000 | \$4,458,687 | \$4,545,000 | 3.93% | 1.94% |
| 5990 | 050631 | Precinct Election Officials Training | \$0 | \$500,000 | \$0 | \$500,000 | -100.00% | N/A |
| 5990 | 050636 | County Election Officials Training | \$163,357 | \$240,000 | \$240,000 | \$240,000 | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| 5AS1 | 050639 | Data Analysis Transparency | \$0 | \$5,000,000 | \$0 | \$0 | -100.00% | N/A |
| 5FG0 | 050620 | BOE Reimbursement and Education | \$17,597,866 | \$950,937 | \$0 | \$0 | -100.00% | N/A |
| 5FH0 | 050621 | Statewide Ballot Advertising | \$700,043 | \$404,982 | \$0 | \$0 | -100.00% | N/A |
| 5RG0 | 050627 | Absentee Voter Ballot Application Mailing | \$0 | \$713,839 | \$0 | \$0 | -100.00% | N/A |
| 5SNO | 050626 | Address Confidentiality | \$20,238 | \$200,000 | \$375,000 | \$400,000 | 87.50% | 6.67% |
| 5ZE0 | 050638 | Electronic Pollbooks | \$3,887,312 | \$2,107,657 | \$0 | \$0 | -100.00% | N/A |
| Dedicated Purpose Fund Group Subtotal | | | \$49,401,786 | \$41,162,693 | \$35,021,210 | \$36,266,197 | -14.92% | 3.55% |
| R002 | 050606 | Corporate/Business Filing Refunds | \$69,060 | \$85,000 | \$85,000 | \$85,000 | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Holding Account Fund Group Subtotal | | | \$69,060 | \$85,000 | \$85,000 | \$85,000 | 0.00% | 0.00% |

**FY 2026 - FY 2027 Appropriations - As Introduced
All Fund Groups - Detail**

Main Operating Appropriations Bill

| Detail by Agency | FY 2024 | Estimate FY 2025 | Introduced FY 2026 | Introduced FY 2027 | FY 2025 to FY 2026 % Change | FY 2026 to FY 2027 % Change |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| SOS Secretary of State | | | | | | |
| 3AS0 050616 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) | \$5,273,289 | \$5,056,570 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | -98.02% | 0.00% |
| Federal Fund Group Subtotal | \$5,273,289 | \$5,056,570 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | -98.02% | 0.00% |
| Secretary of State Total | \$67,678,466 | \$60,394,263 | \$50,911,357 | \$52,661,471 | -15.70% | 3.44% |
| Main Operating Appropriations Bill Total | \$67,678,466 | \$60,394,263 | \$50,911,357 | \$52,661,471 | -15.70% | 3.44% |