

ELECTIONS 2009 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Assigned Target: \$944,583

Permanent Ongoing Reductions/Revenues		
Proposal Name	\$	FTE
In-house Mail Sorting and Ballot Tracking (Reduction)	\$ 205,000	
Regional Voting Center (RVC) Consolidation (Reduction)	\$ 587,088	
Postage Reduction (Reduction)	\$ 225,000	
Overtime Reduction (Reduction)	\$ 150,000	
Printing Reduction (Reduction)	\$ 173,000	
Miscellaneous Services Reduction (Reduction)	\$ 49,500	
Reduced Space Needs (Reduction)	\$ 62,545	
Reduced Call Center Staffing for Primary and General Election (Reduction)	\$ 203,346	
TOTAL IMPACT	\$ 1,655,479	

Permanent Ongoing Reductions/Revenues

In-house Mail Sorting and Ballot Tracking. This proposal incorporates funding for the newly purchased mail handling equipment manufactured by Pitney Bowes into the budget. The equipment provides the county with the ability to bring in-house the sorting and batching of ballots that was previously contracted out. The system provides ballot tracking and accountability, with the ability for voters to track their ballot throughout the election process. The system provides functionality that was identified by council as a requirement for the transition to vote-by-mail.

Regional Voting Center (RVC) Consolidation. This proposal provides funding for two 20-day RVCs during countywide elections. The reduction scales back funding from the prior level of one 20-day RVC and eleven 4-day RVCs.

Postage Reduction. This reduction proposal reflects postage savings from Vote by Mail (VBM). With VBM implementation, voter list maintenance will occur with each countywide election. New voter registration cards will no longer be required to be mailed for list maintenance. Voter registration cards will still be sent for other purposes, but the volume will decline significantly.

Overtime Reduction. With the consolidation of Elections at the Earlington facility and the security systems in place, it is no longer necessary to provide Sheriff's Deputies for Elections security. Previously, security staffing was required on a 24/7 basis once ballots began arriving until certification was complete. The use of armed deputies augmented a lack of security infrastructure at the temporary ballot processing facility. The new facility includes significant security measures that will either prevent, or detect and record physical security threats. A single Sheriff Deputy will continue to have a presence during operating hours when voted ballots are being processed.

Printing Reduction. This proposal reduces the available budget for printing for primary and general elections.

Miscellaneous Services Reduction. This proposal reduces the available budget for miscellaneous services in support of the primary election.

Reduced Space Needs. This proposal eliminates the budget for long-term leasing of office space that is no longer needed.

Reduced Call Center Staffing for Primary and General Election. This proposal reduces staff hours to support the call center for both the Primary and General elections. Information is available via the web and by automated information directories. Wait time for those seeking staff assistance via telephone will increase.