

2019



Legislative Reference Bureau

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ELECTION COMMISSION

2019 Proposed Plan and Executive Budget Review

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Budget Hearing: 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 8, 2018

Last Updated: October 2, 2018

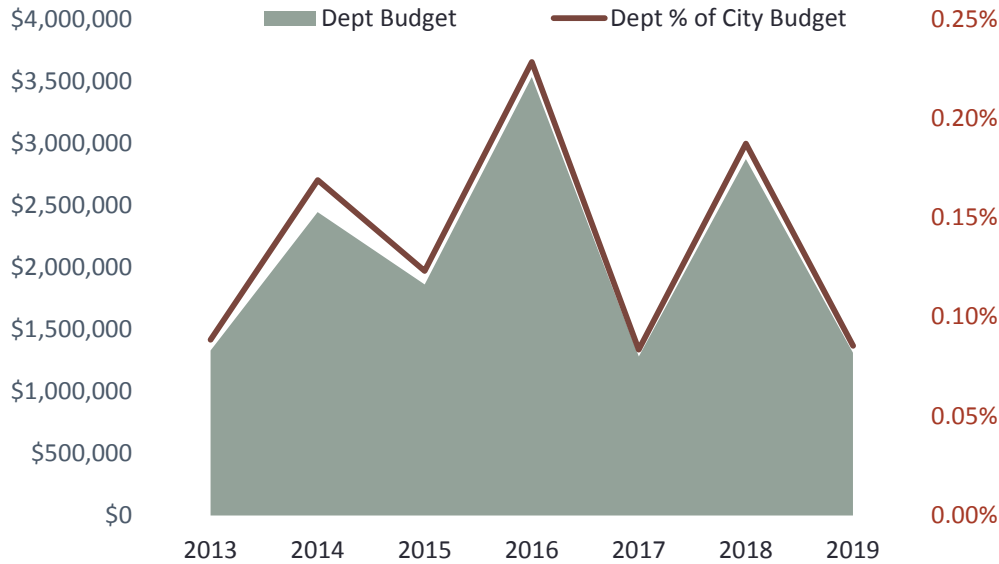
Version 1.0



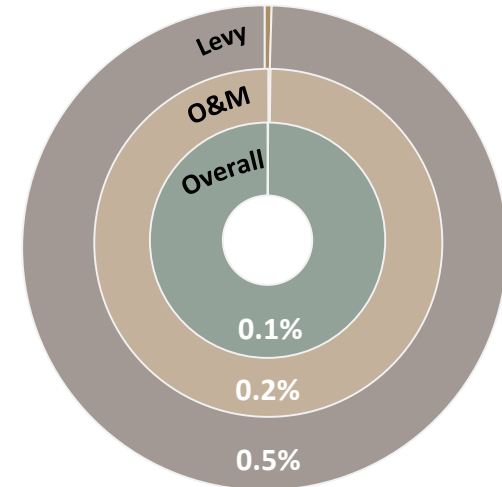
\$1,311,702
Proposed 2019 Budget

-\$1,560,267
Change in Proposed Budget

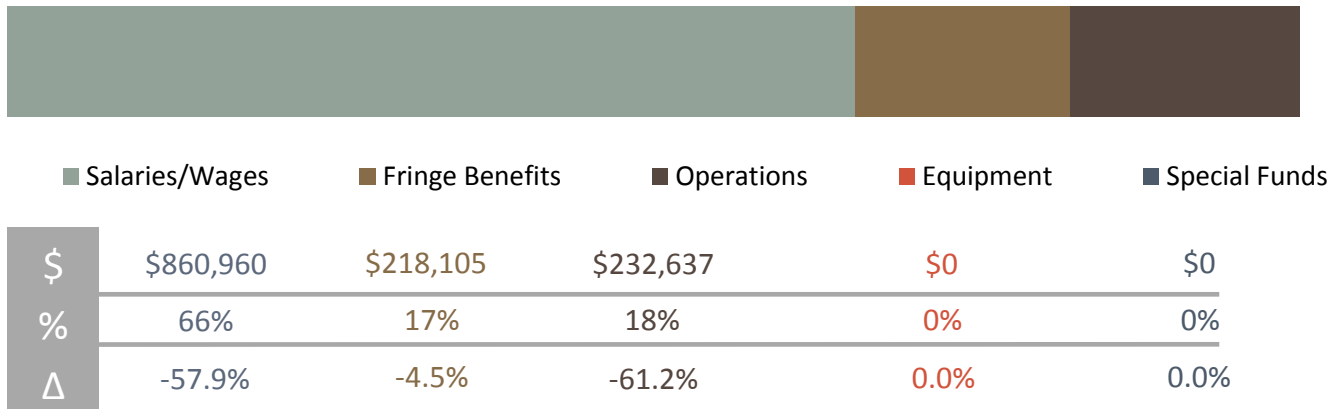
-54.3%
% Change in Proposed Budget



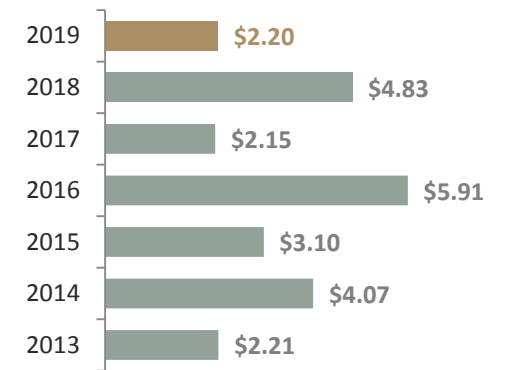
Departmental Budget Impact



Departmental Budget Appropriation Category



Budget per Capita



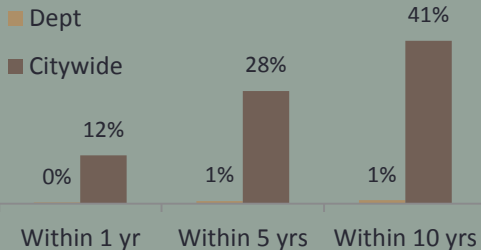
54.3%

Decrease in department's budget

\$1,183,106

Decrease in Salaries and Wages for department, down 57.9%

Retirement Eligible



-745

Change in Positions

1

Current Vacancies

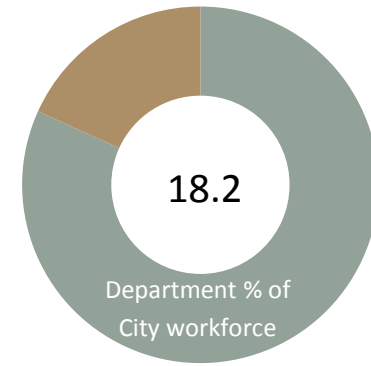
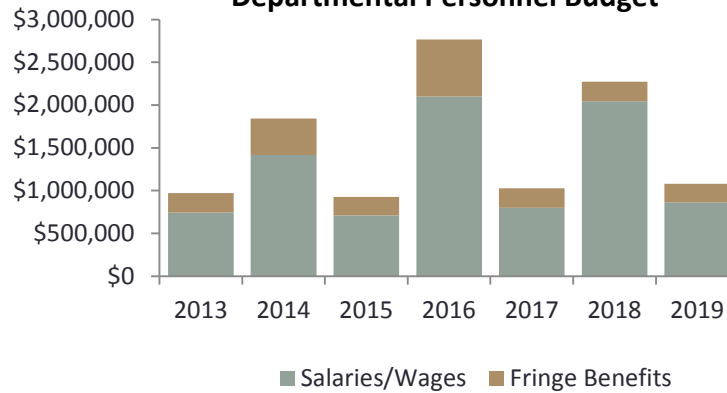
-32.9%

% Change in Positions

0

Voluntary Separations

Departmental Personnel Budget

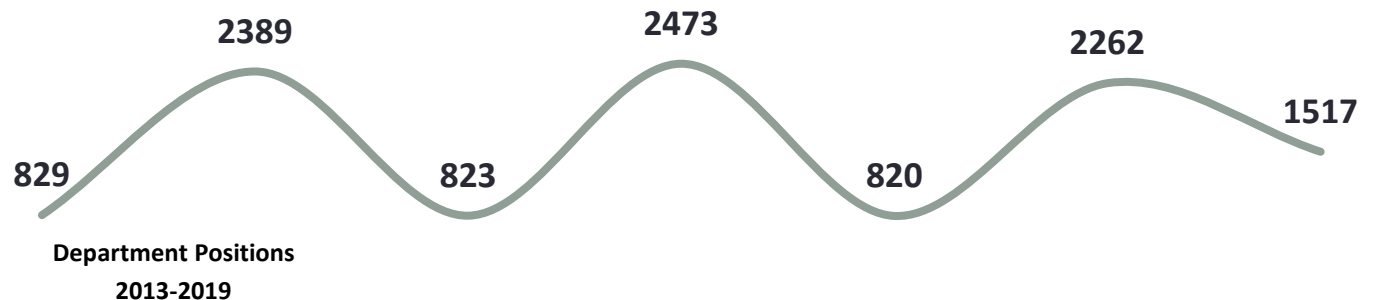


Staffing Vacancies

- Program Assistant 1/Early Voting Coordinator position is vacant. In 2018, the funds for this position have paid for auxiliary positions used as site supervisors at early voting sites. The position authority for this position will continue through 2019, but is not funded in the budget and will remain vacant.

Staffing Update

The number of authorized positions decreases from 2,262 to 1,517 due to the decrease in the number of elections in odd-numbered years.



900

Approximate number of polling stations in the city

557

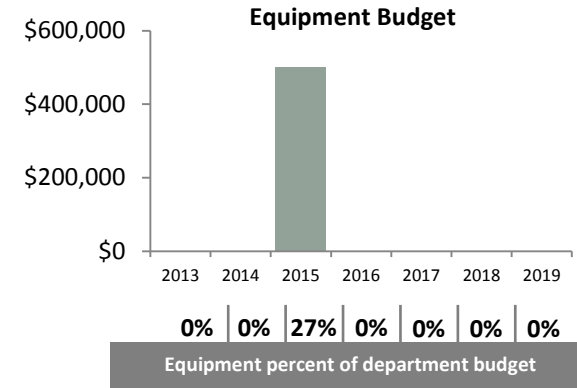
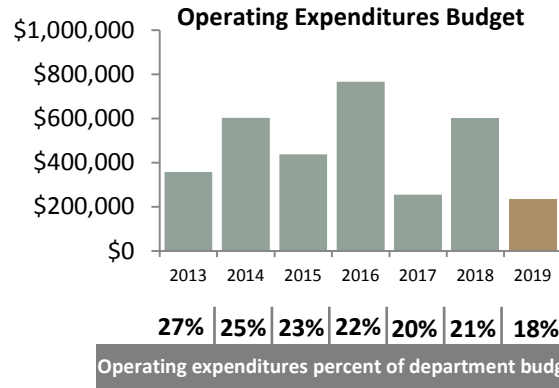
Authorized positions proposed for 2019.

\$286,894

Decrease in operating expenditures

275,0000

Number of voters in registration database



2019 ELECTION DATES AND 2019 ELECTIONS PROJECTED TURNOUTS

- February 19 Spring Primary Projected turnout of 35,000
- April 2 Spring Election Projected turnout of 50,000

- State: Supreme Court Justice, Circuit Court
- Local: Municipal Judge (Branches 2 and 3) MPS School Board, Districts 1, 2, 3, 8 and at-large

Special Purpose Accounts

The department has no special purpose accounts.

Grants

This department receives no grant funding.

Capital Requests

There are no proposed capital programs or projects.

I. Strategies for Voter Photo ID Requirement

The Election Commission has adopted the following strategies to increase awareness and understanding of Wisconsin's voter photo ID requirement.

- Distribution of informational flyers through water utility bills, posting on sanitation carts, at access points to city services (e.g. MPL, MHD, Treasurer's Office) and door-to-door through collaborations with community groups like Safe & Sound, League of Women Voters, Vote Riders, etc.
- Attendance at community-based events, town hall meetings, church groups, etc.
- Widespread media promotion, including television, radio and print (over 57 media contacts, including Telumundo WI).
- Social media, including the city's website, EC's website, Facebook, and Twitter.
- Ensuring community leaders, elected officials and other key stake holders were disseminating accurate information.
- Promoting the state's "Bring it to the Ballot" website.

II. Impact of Voter ID Law

The Commission believes the impact of Wisconsin's photo ID requirement is still significant, particularly among students and people in poverty, but less-so than in the 2016 Presidential Election. This is largely due to the outreach and education efforts of the Election Commission, but also numerous voting rights groups, such as the League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County, VoteRiders, the ACLU and others which regularly share information and assist individuals with securing photo IDs.

III. Voter Registration Strategies and Efforts

The Election Commission launched the following strategies to encourage or protect voter registration:

- The development and citywide distribution of a *Registering & Voting in Milwaukee* tri-fold brochure.
- *MyVote (online registration) buckslips* that were mailed with City of Milwaukee water bills and distributed throughout the city.
- MyVote door hangers, distributed by HACM, Safe & Sound and other community organizations.
- Voter registration kiosks at Milwaukee Public Library locations (13), in the rotunda of City Hall, at MHD Keenan Health Center, the YWCA, Social Development Commission, the 16th Street Community Health Clinics, the Milwaukee Public Market and other locations.
- Email blasts sent by exporting the emails of all registered voters from WisVote (voter registration database) to share election news and encourage recipients to confirm their voter registration status and address on MyVote.
- Social media videos that have included the basics of voting – voter registration, how to mark a ballot, what to expect at the polling place, how to become a poll worker. The first video, related to voter registration, received over 5,000 views on Facebook in the first 30 days.
- The use of MyVote email signature.
Commission staff's email signatures contain a MyVote promotion and logo hyperlink.
- The use of City departments.
City departments have volunteered to be voter registration centers (libraries, health centers), while others display Election Commission brochures and buckslips in their lobbies and at outreach events.
- The engagement of nonprofit organizations.
The Election Commission reached out to community nonprofits to encourage their involvement. Some organizations have posted MyVote signage in their computer labs, others have distributed the door hangers or buckslips when conducting outreach. Some, such as the YWCA, have created their own kiosks.
- The use of events to promote MyVote.
The Commission collaborated with community organizations, the Mayor, and Common Council members to promote elections and voting. It also promoted MyVote, especially given the recent ERIC deactivations and four-year maintenance.

- Data Management Quality Control

The Commission completed an analysis of the impact of the state's data maintenance and purge processes to ensure accuracy and challenge irregularities.

IV. Recruitment and Retention of Bilingual Workers

The Election Commission has a full-time Bilingual Election Worker Coordinator whose duties focus on:

- Establishing and maintaining professional relationships with leaders in the Latinx community to help advertise election worker opportunities to community members.
- Asking current bilingual election workers to help recruit other bilingual people to apply as election workers by using their personal networks.
- Recruiting by attending community events and through social media.
- Maintaining professional relationships with current bilingual election workers in an effort to strengthen the election workers' connection to the Election Commission
- Conducting "How to Vote on Election Day" or "Voting 101" classes in the odd-numbered years in the Spanish-speaking community, especially to people who are completing U.S. citizenship classes.

V. Initiatives and Programs

After each General Election, the Election Commission conducts an SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) evaluation of the department's role as an election administrator and develops a strategic plan of goals and objectives. A comparable process will occur after the 2018 Fall Midterm. Additionally, the department will continue to focus on targeted outreach and public education initiatives related to photo ID, voter registration, and election worker recruitment.