

Legislative Review of Westchester County 2009 Proposed Operating Budget
 Department Budget Worksheet

County Department:	<u>Board of Elections</u>	Date of Presentation:	<u>11/17/08</u>
Commissioners Names:	<u>Reginald LaFayette & Carolee Sunderland</u>	Commissioner Phone:	<u>914-995-5700</u>
Committee with Oversight Responsibility for Dept:	<u>Government Operations</u>	Committee Chair:	<u>Ken Jenkins</u>
Prepared by (Committee Coordinator): <u>Barbara A. Dodds</u>			

Budget: Proposed 2009:	\$ <u>\$13,203,590</u>	Approved 2008:	\$ <u>\$11,588,501</u>	%Increase/Decrease:	<u> </u>
Staffing: # employees 2008:	<u>56</u>	Proposed staffing 2009:	<u>74</u>	% +/- Staffing:	<u>+20</u>
Sources of Funding: County:	<u>\$1,179,874</u>	State:	<u> </u>	Federal:	<u> </u>
				Grants:	<u> </u>
Mandated portion of department budget:	\$ <u> </u>	% of total dept budget:	<u> </u>	% of county budget:	<u> </u>

2008 DEPT. HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Did committee invite commissioner in this past year to discuss specific areas of concern? Describe.

The GO Committee met with the BOE Commissioners half a dozen times during the year. Topics discussed were: review of possible properties for sale to relocate the BOE, the cost and appropriateness of the 450 Saw Mill River Rd. location, and the purchase of new voting machines. Most recently committee members discussed the November 2008 election process at the budget review meeting.

Report on 2008: Highlight of dept's accomplishments (*Usually in executive summary of dept budget*)

Increased services, education and outreach for Spanish-speaking voters; improved resources and polling sites for use by handicapped; using new electronic handicap voting machines—storing, training of poll inspectors, educating voters and actually using them on election day; relatively successful voting process in the first year of full county responsibility for voting procedures and equipment including the record breaking over 75% voter turn out.

2009 Operating Budget

Impact of State budget cuts on dept: \$ 0

Specific cutbacks to accommodate reduced spending? Program areas most affected:

Due to new responsibilities there were increases in costs in the 2009 budget most of which was planned for in the 2008 budget.

What's expected public impact of proposed cuts? [EXAMPLES: Public won't notice? Closing sites in these locations? Less funding for specific programs. Consolidating program areas to economize.]

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QUOTES/COMMENTS

Quote from Oversight Committee Chair

“Of the 391 machines in place, only 180 votes were cast on them. Many people who tried to use them gave up and resorted to lever machines,” said County Legislator **Ken Jenkins**, Chair of the Government Operations Committee. “With the 75% voter turnout we had, total use of the new machines would have been a major catastrophe.”

Quote from Budget & Appropriations Chair

“The Elections Board’s proposed 2009 budget is troublesome because it’s a moving target,” said County Legislator **José Alvarado**. “The commissioners must budget as if all the electronic equipment will be operational for 2009 elections yet the state has yet to finally certify the machines the counties are authorized to purchase. It’s a case of hurry up and wait. From a planning perspective, the county’s Elections Board budget is at the mercy of the state which dictates the policy the counties must follow.”

Other Comment(s)/Quotes, Facts

\$1.6 million was budgeted in the 2008 Special Contingency Budget for HAVA has been included in the Board of Elections 2009 budget.