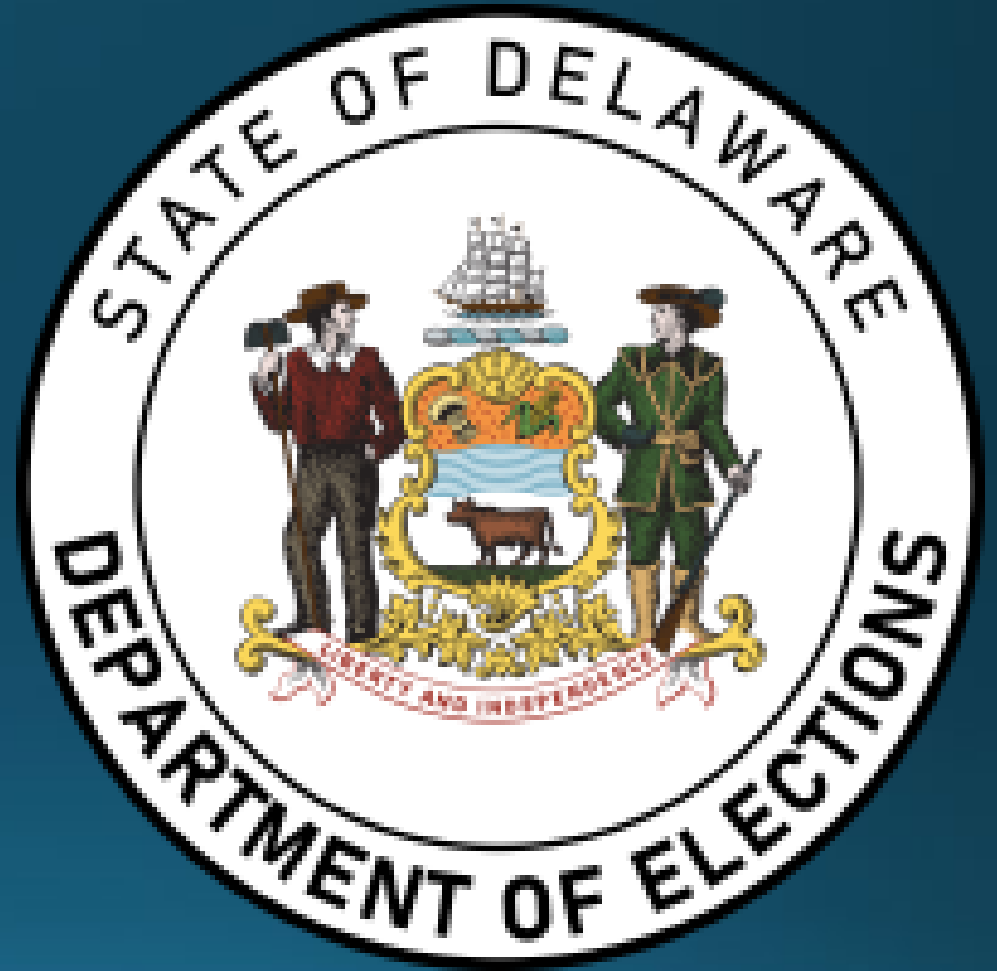


**Department of Elections
FY2025
Joint Finance
Committee Presentation**

February 6, 2024



Recommended Budget: New Initiatives

- Department accepts Governor's Recommended Budget
- Newly-funded initiatives
 - Additional Voting Equipment Needed For Growth in Sussex County
 - Supporting increased population and addition of Election Day polling places and Early Voting Centers
 - Relocation of polling places to more conveniently located and accessible locations
 - Purchase will include additional voting machines and Pollbooks
 - Current quantity of equipment purchased prior to most recent reapportionment



Recommended Budget: New Initiatives

- Replacement Box Trucks for New Castle, Kent and Sussex County Offices
 - Replacement of existing trucks at end of useful life
 - Needed for support of school, municipal, and outreach elections
- Replacement of Backup Batteries - Voting Machines
 - Current (original) Backup Batteries from original purchase reaching end of expected lifecycle
- Funding for On-Site Voting Machine Parts Inventory
- Increased Compensation For Election Officers
 - Initially allocated in Supplemental Bill for current FY (2024)
 - Needed to retain and attract workers given additional responsibilities and demands



Achievements

- Implementation of Automatic Voter Registration (AVR)
 - Enacted by SB 5 (151st General Assembly)
 - Launched in June 2023
 - Building on strong partnership with DMV & DTI
 - Extensive work on technical deployment and development of voter education materials
- Candidate Background Check and Address Verification
 - Comprehensive review and reorganization of candidate filing materials
 - Communication efforts



Achievements

- Ongoing Review of Security Enhancements
 - Ongoing review of completed items and evaluation of potential additional enhancements
- Communications
 - Continued growth of presence on social media platforms
 - Work in collaboration with GIC for Elections presence on State homepage around key deadlines
 - Work with commercial vendors (Comcast/affiliated systems) for mass media messaging around deadlines and new initiatives (e.g. AVR)



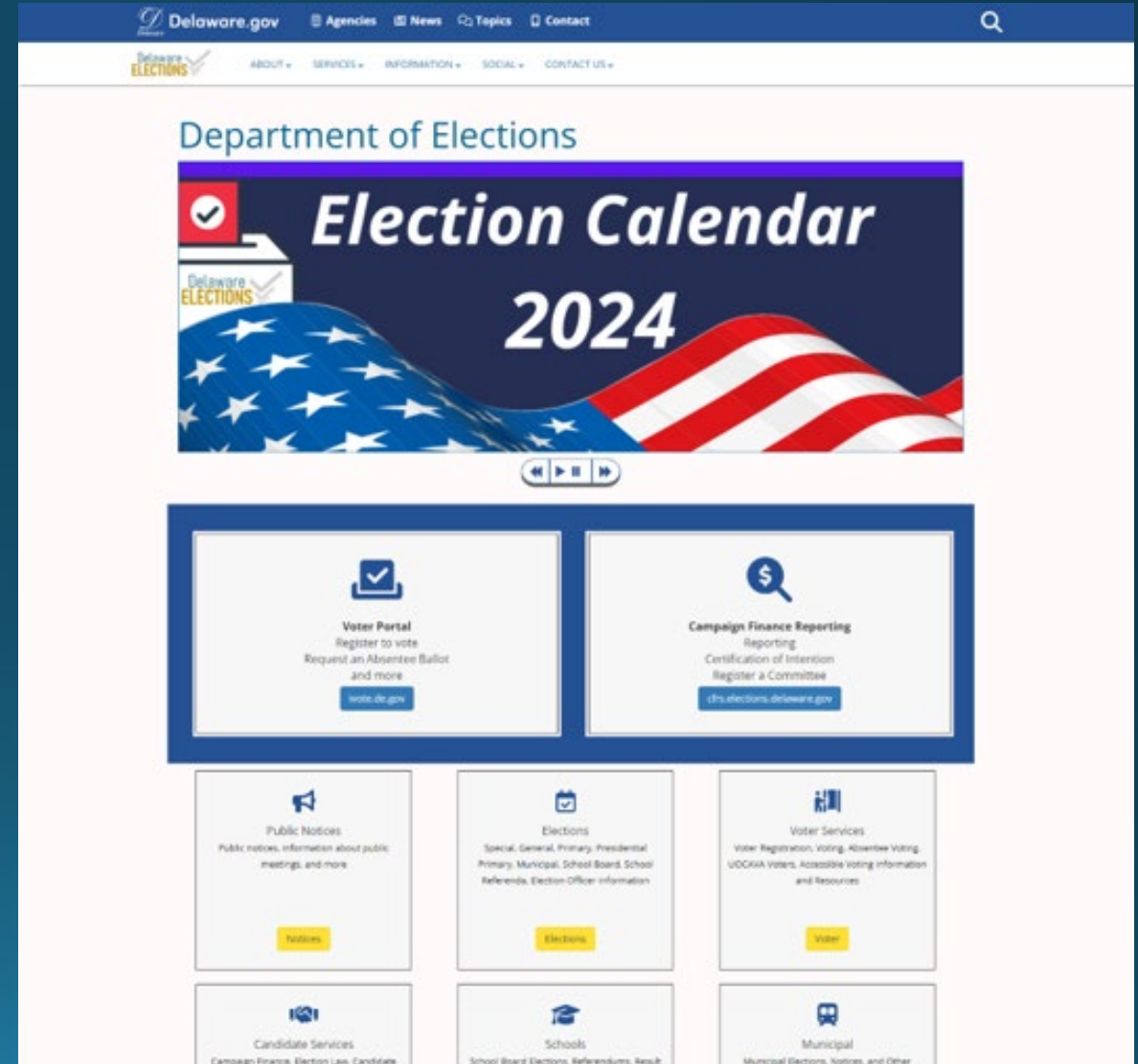
Achievements

- Accessibility Improvements
 - Working in partnership with CLASI/DLP
 - Participation in/sponsorship of LIFE Conference
 - Accessibility review of all polling locations
 - Relocation of polling places (accessibility focus)
 - Development of enhanced signage, parking, and accessibility plans for polling places
 - Ongoing demonstrations of voting accessibility options (voting machines, absentee voting)
 - National Federation of the Blind (NFB) local chapters
 - Comprehensive website update with a focus on accessibility improvements



Department Website Relaunch

- Common Look & Feel 4 (CLF4)
- Search Functionality
- Comprehensive Review of 600 webpages
- Accessibility Enhancements



Website Relaunch

- Move to State CLF4 (Common Look and Feel 4)
 - More modern appearance consistent with other State agencies
 - Adopted a graphical interface model
 - Reorganized content and menu structure based on usage data and feedback
- Revamp of Search Functionality
 - Accessing and searching only site content
- Comprehensive Review of Nearly 600 Pages
 - Standardizing URL/page naming conventions



Website Relaunch

- Significant Accessibility Enhancements
 - Worked in Partnership with DTI's Digital Accessibility Senior Manager Norman Jester
 - Audio presentation of content on the site
 - Use of AMP tool to assess and remediate accessibility issues
 - Use of NVDA for automated and human testing
 - JAWS tool license for further accessibility testing
 - Many issues identified have been resolved
 - Some ongoing issues are “legacy” pages from earlier sites (e.g. archived election results)



Campaign Finance

- Campaign Finance Training
 - Providing in-person and web-based options
 - Training sessions in all counties and City of Wilmington
 - Review and expansion of topics based on feedback and questions received
- 90%+ filing rate for 2023 Annual Reports
- Code updates (passed in 2021) have provided additional flexibility regarding fines for failure to file required reports/resolving unfiled reports
- Additional follow-up/enforcement efforts
- Dual focus: Code compliance and customer service



iVOTE.de.gov

- Delaware's online voter registration and information system permits a voter to:
 - register to vote & update/cancel voter registration
 - update their address, name, and party affiliation
 - request a polling place card
 - complete an absentee ballot application
 - find their polling place
 - Google Maps location service/driving instructions
 - view their sample ballot
 - obtain info regarding their elected officials



iVOTE.de.gov

- Continued enhancements
 - Pending integration in my.delaware.gov
 - Working in partnership with DTI on project
 - Common appearance with other State services accessed via this portal
 - Continued upgrades to security (two-factor authentication, additional options for identity verification)
 - Continuous review of logic and flow of the tool



Voter Registration

- Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) provides access to multiple resources:
 - those who have passed away out-of-state
 - registered to vote in another state
 - voters moving in-state (DoE also receives this info from DMV)
 - duplicate registration records (DoE continually checks for duplicate records/data entry errors)
 - ERIC is funded by member states (formula based on registered voter population) and is non-partisan
- National-Level Resources for Voter List Maintenance
 - Utilizing USPS National Change of Address info for non-ERIC member states
 - All returned mail utilized



Outreach & Training

- **Municipal Elections and Training**
 - Ongoing enhancement of support for Municipal Elections
 - Continued expansion of municipal election info on website
 - Comprehensive Election Support (equipment/documents/Election Officer training/voter registration data)
- **Organized Voter Registration (OVR)**
 - Training materials revamped and content expanded
 - Scheduled and on-demand training for OVR registrars
 - Focus on ensuring OVR groups are certified and trained



Outreach & Training

- **Voting Machine Demonstrations, Voter Registration & Election Officer Recruitment**
 - Exhibitor and Sponsor of Delaware State Fair
 - Exhibitor and Sponsor at LIFE Conference
 - Participation in Job Fairs Statewide
 - High School Career Fairs (Delaware State University and DTCC Dover)
 - DOL, State & Community Career Fairs
 - Voter outreach events focused on outreach to voters with disabilities
 - LIFE Conference
 - DAFB Caregiver Symposium
 - Department of Elections NCC Warehouse & Training Center for NFB, Northern Delaware & CLASI - training and hands-on practice in using accessibility features of voting equipment



Current & Upcoming Projects

- Completion of Kent County Office project/expansion
 - Expanded office/dedicated training/meeting/early voting site
- Completion of Sussex County Office projects
 - Seaford facility: expanded warehouse/dedicated training/meeting/early voting site
 - Georgetown: reconfigured for storage/training/early voting areas
 - Painting/lighting enhancements
- NCC Warehouse/Training Center
 - Reevaluating space allocation



Voter Information & Voter List Maintenance

- Implementing Provisions of HB82
 - Reformatting current mailing format
 - Including additional voter information
 - Highlighting how a recipient of a mailing for a former resident may return item received
 - Returned mail pieces initiates address verification/voter list maintenance process
- Automation efforts for address verification mailings



National Affiliations

- Delaware is represented on:
 - Elections Infrastructure-Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC)
 - Elections Committee of National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)
 - National Association of State Election Directors Board of Directors
 - Election Center (Nat'l. Assoc. of Elections Officials)
 - Chair, Postal Committee
 - USPS Mailers Technical Advisory Committee
 - Election Assistance Commission (EAC)
 - Standards Board
 - Local Leadership Council





Thank you!
The Department is happy
to answer any questions!

