



STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

FY2027

**Presentation to the
Joint Finance Committee**

February 10, 2026





DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) : FY 2027



Department Accepts GRB and would like to discuss two requests for funding not recommended:

- **Campaign Finance System (CFRS) Upgrade**
 - Background for this request
 - Anticipated short -term and long -term needs
 - Considerations regarding current generation of CFRS
- **Additional Early Voting Locations**
 - Background regarding this request
 - Trends in early voting adoption



FY 2027 Funding Priority: 2026 State Primary & General Elections and Early Voting



- Core statutory requirement for the Department
- Reflects increased election officer stipends recently adopted
- Funding request reflects evolving voter behavior and continued adoption of early voting opportunities
- Department strives to limit costs as much as possible



FY 2027 Funding Priority: Election Operating Systems Updates

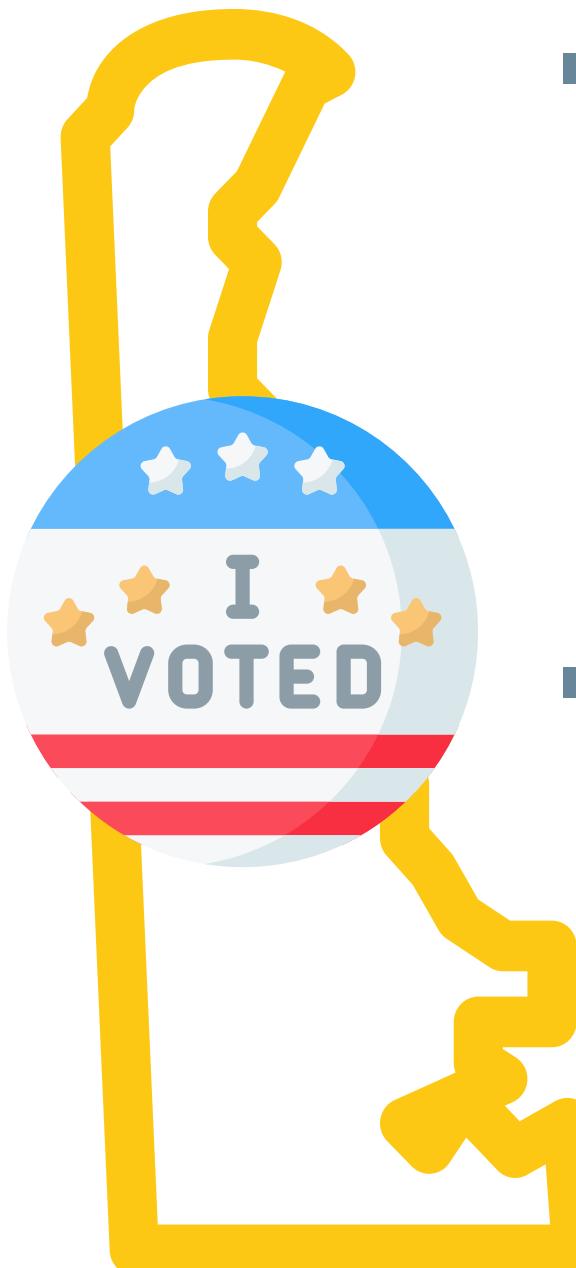
Voter Registration and Election Management System (Power Profile)



- Department is utilizing original version of PowerProfile initially deployed in 2019
- Significant system updates now available to increase efficiency/ease of use for Department staff, essential with growing voting population
- Updates to software will permit self-service options for public interaction (e.g. election officers signing up for/schedule changes for pre-election training)



FY 2027 Funding Priority: Increased Leased Facility Costs



- The Department requests funding to cover the known increases (escalators) incorporated into leases of commercial space used by Department offices
- The Department also seeks funds to cover increases in Common Area Maintenance (CAM) and custodial/janitorial costs for the leased Kent County office/warehouse space



FY 2027 Funding Priority: DTI Security Costs & Information Technology



- DTI Security Costs : Partial funding for this request, and remaining challenge is potential for uncertainty of availability of federal fund
- Information Technology Costs: Requested funds are sought to provide physical security equipment replacements as recommended due to lifecycle of equipment and available enhancements, and hardware and software upgrades per DTI recommendations



FY 2027 Funding Priority Not Recommended

:

Election Operating System Updates to Campaign Finance Reporting System (CFRS)



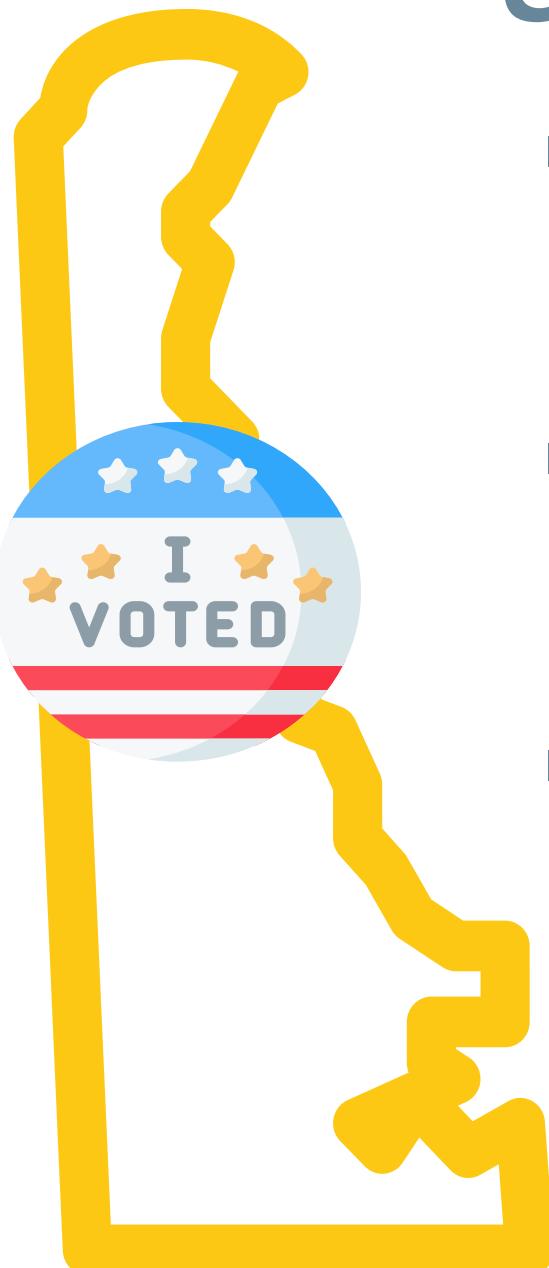
- Department is utilizing original version of the CFRS software acquired in 2013 and deployed in 2015.
- Updated software will permit self-service options for users that now require staff /vendor support.
- Maintaining and enhancing current version of system is becoming cost -prohibitive.
- Upgrade will entail move from a static system to a Software as a Service model.





FY 2027 Funding Priority Not Recommended

Election Operating System Updates to Campaign Finance Reporting System (CFRS)



- Legislative priorities focusing on greater transparency regarding campaign finance data
- Enhancements will only be possible with a significant upgrade to CFRS
- Current system architecture is not capable of supporting these enhancements, and the cost to explore implementing such changes, if possible, would be exorbitant vs. incorporating them into a next-generation system



FY 2027 Funding Priority Not Recommended: Early Voting Implementation/Expansion Options

- Although funding not recommended for additional sites, the Department continues to explore the most fiscally prudent approach to maximize early voting access for upcoming election cycles
- This request was responsive to the enthusiastic adoption of early voting by Delaware's voters
- Utilization of early voting became widespread statewide in the 2024 General Election
- Highest level of adoption of early voting in Sussex County through 2024 election cycle



Accomplishments : FY 2026

Facilities Upgrades



- Expansion of New Castle County Warehouse
 - FY2026 funding to allow for a 15,000 sq. ft. expansion of current DOE warehouse space
 - Working with property owner and construction team on design and construction of addition
 - Training Center Enhancements
 - Audiovisual upgrades to enhance election officer training, staff training and meetings in all facilities are now in place



Accomplishments : FY 2026

Full-time/Dedicated Deputy Attorney General (DAG)



- After identifying need for additional legal support, funding was secured for the position
- New DAG began service in January 2025
- Permits Department to shift our approach to a more proactive posture
- Insight and expertise on legislative and policy areas
- Adding capacity for campaign finance enforcement activities



Accomplishments : FY 2026

Department of Elections Vehicle Upgrades

- Deployment of new box truck vehicles to county offices
- Vehicles feature fuel-efficient trucks featuring a host of modern driver safety/accident-avoidance features
 - Existing trucks are being evaluated for long-term viability as additional/backup vehicles if fiscally prudent
 - Additional vehicles available (overall) permit additional community outreach and educational activities





Accomplishments: FY 2026

Campaign Finance

- Continued expansion of campaign finance training
 - Offering additional training sessions and locations
 - Continued enhancement of campaign finance enforcement efforts (working with full-time DAG)
 - Continued 1:1 work with committees with outstanding unfiled reports to resolve issues
 - Additional written follow-up communications with committees with outstanding unfiled reports
 - Additional actions against non-filers via Justice of the Peace Court filings





Accomplishments: FY 2026

Voting Equipment Maintenance & Upgrades for Polling Places

- Voting machines updated to most current version of federally certified/approved software
- Voting machine backup batteries replaced (due to reaching end of recommended service life)
- Addition and deployment of voting equipment to support additional election day polling place locations in Sussex County, and additional early voting sites statewide
- Establishment of on -site equipment parts inventory
- Continued work on polling place accessibility





VOTER INFORMATION & OUTREACH



- 2024 Voter Information Campaign
 - On budget, producing better than expected results
 - Topics: voter registration & voting information
 - In-house, Effectv, and AB&C collaborative materials and efforts
- Effectv: 7 PSAs created & aired on 51 networks streaming & traditional cable services
 - Campaign Summary:
 - Video ads delivered 952,088 times with premium content
 - 92% of viewers watched full 30s video ad
- AB&C: Advertisements and Voter Information Mailer
 - Campaign Summary:
 - More than 8.0 million total impressions delivered to the public!
 - Direct mailer to every registered voter (790,000 voters)
 - Mailing enhanced with information detailed in HB82 (2023)
 - Social Media, Online Media/Newspaper ads, Radio, Billboard



VOTER INFORMATION & OUTREACH

- Voter Education & Outreach materials
 - Voter information flyers, brochures, videos updated for 2026
 - Voter education & outreach webpage <https://elections.delaware.gov/voter/outreach> : 
- Outreach events:
 - registering voters, recruiting poll workers, voting info., mock/student elections, voting machine demos, events focusing on accessibility features of machine and info for voters with disabilities
 - LIFE Conference, Youth in City Government (Wilmington), Delaware State University student election, Delaware State Fair, and many more!
- Direct mailings:
 - Notice to new registrants – enhanced with election dates, ways to vote, etc.
 - Voter Information Postcard to all registered voters in July
- Strengthening partnerships with State agencies & nonprofits, other organizations
 - OGOV, Lt. GOV, Government Information Center, DHSS newsletters
 - CLASI, League of Women Voters, Nonprofit VOTE & More
 - Schools, Sororities, civic groups, etc.
- Advertising & media releases: PSAs, Social media, online news media, radio, out-of-home ads (billboards)



Elections Security

- **Elections Security Group (ESG)**
 - A national model of state and local collaboration with federal partners
 - State resources are being called upon primarily given recent changes in the federal approach
 - ESG remains committed to working across jurisdictional lines to deliver most effective approach
 - Strong and resilient collaboration and partnership with United States Postal Service
 - Regular communication with Election Mail liaison





Accuracy and Transparency

- Elections continues to utilize multiple tools to maintain accurate voter rolls
 - Ongoing effort with focus on process improvements
 - Numerous tools in place, including Department's role as a founding member of ERIC: <https://ericstates.org>.
 - Encourage sending any returned undeliverable items to the Department to initiate the address verification process
 - Making it simpler and more convenient for mail received no longer resides at address and return items to the Department, initiating address verification process





Managing Costs in Technology

- Recent voting equipment software upgrade save more than \$110,000
 - Reducing costs while not impacting the content of the upgrade
- Reviewing all aspects of operations for potential savings:
 - Software licensing: lower cost and more effective approaches/leveraging cost savings via DTI collaboration
 - Equipment leases (copiers/printers/multifunction devices)
 - Use of automation tools for website content updates and status monitoring





VOTING ACCESSIBILITY



- Department of Elections Website/Digital Accessibility
 - DOE IT & CRO working to redesign to [Lighthouse](#) digital design
 - Updated webpages to begin rollout in May 2026
 - ADA WCAG 2.1AA standard inherent in [Lighthouse](#) design elements
- Polling Place & Early Voting Site Accessibility
 - Department county offices reviewed each accessibility issue itemized in [CLASI's Disability Rights Delaware 2024 General Election Accessibility Report](#)
 - Offices have noted and acted upon each concern preparing for upcoming elections.
 - DOE engaging with facilities that the DOE uses as voting locations (schools, service/community centers, churches) to remedy accessibility issues that are existent obstacles to facilities' primary public functions.
 - DOE finalizing a progress report for CLASI detailing DOE's response to each issue
 - **DOE actively engaging in collaborative partnership with CLASI to improve voting accessibility with the end goal of a fully accessible voting experience for all DE voters.**



*State of Delaware
Department of Elections*

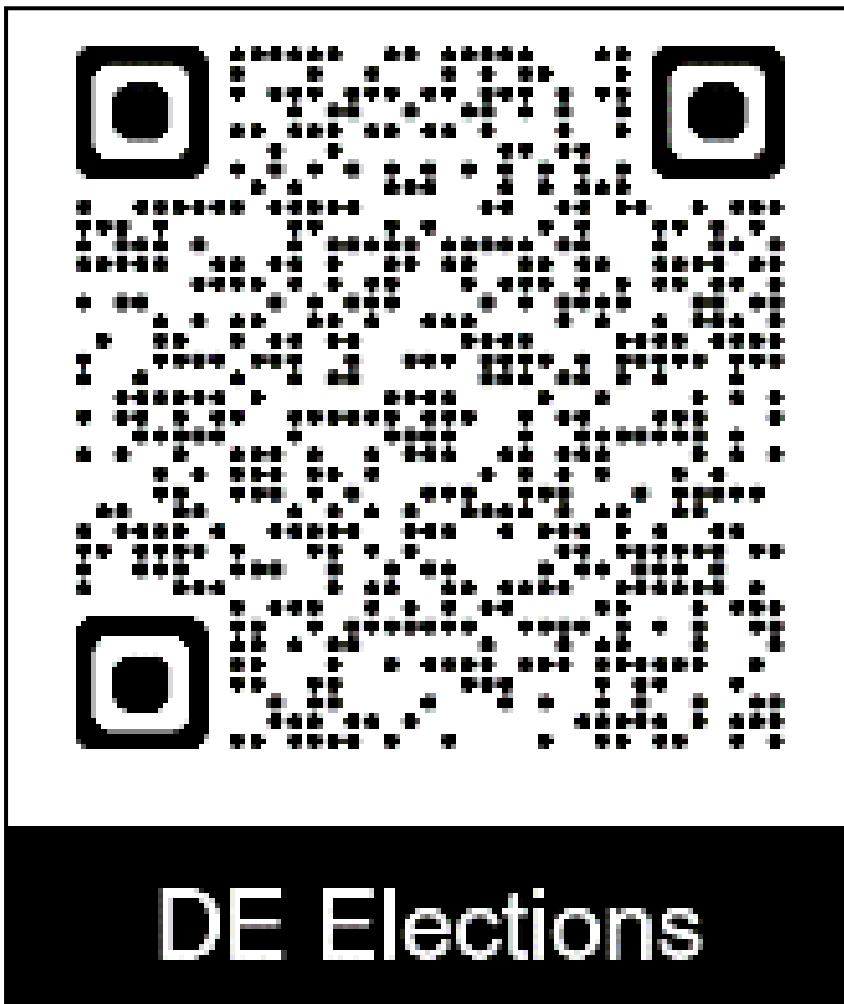
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**Department of Elections
Voter Registration,
Voting & Election Information**



elections.delaware.gov

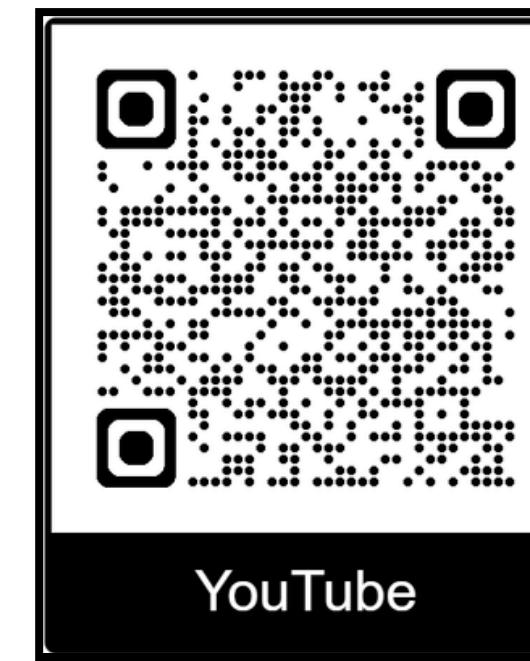
**Department of Elections
Voter Portal**



ivote.de.gov



Department of Elections on Social Media





STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

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

