

Secretary of the State SOS12500

Permanent Full-Time Positions

| Fund | Actual FY 21 | Actual FY 22 | Appropriation FY 23 | Governor Recommended | | Legislative | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| | | | | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 24 | FY 25 |
| General Fund | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 88 | 88 | 88 |

Budget Summary

| Account | Actual FY 21 | Actual FY 22 | Appropriation FY 23 | Governor Recommended | | Legislative | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 24 | FY 25 |
| Personal Services | 2,587,060 | 2,677,062 | 3,193,510 | 3,595,070 | 3,642,878 | 4,095,070 | 4,122,878 |
| Other Expenses | 1,439,998 | 1,433,075 | 1,303,561 | 2,578,561 | 2,632,561 | 2,473,561 | 2,507,561 |
| Other Current Expenses | | | | | | | |
| Commercial Recording Division | 4,747,841 | 4,892,509 | 4,905,469 | 5,305,370 | 5,379,148 | 5,205,370 | 5,254,148 |
| Early Voting | - | - | - | - | - | 1,300,000 | 1,320,000 |
| Agency Total - General Fund | 8,774,899 | 9,002,646 | 9,402,540 | 11,479,001 | 11,654,587 | 13,074,001 | 13,204,587 |
| Additional Funds Available | | | | | | | |
| Carry Forward Funding | - | - | 2,150,000 | - | - | 1,800,000 | - |
| American Rescue Plan Act | - | - | - | - | - | 1,680,447 | 1,379,128 |
| Agency Grand Total | 8,774,899 | 9,002,646 | 11,552,540 | 11,479,001 | 11,654,587 | 16,554,448 | 14,583,715 |

| Account | Governor Recommended | | Legislative | | Difference from Governor | |
|---------|----------------------|-------|-------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 24 | FY 25 |

Policy Revisions

Provide Funding for Early Voting

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Early Voting | - | - | 1,300,000 | 1,320,000 | 1,300,000 | 1,320,000 |
| Total - General Fund | - | - | 1,300,000 | 1,320,000 | 1,300,000 | 1,320,000 |

Background

In the 2022 election via referendum voters empowered the legislature to create and set the conditions of early voting.

Legislative

Provide funding, in the amount of \$1,300,000 in FY 24 and \$1,320,000 in FY 25, to cover the costs of early voting for municipalities.

Reclassify a Position to a Licensing Analyst

Background

The Secretary of State's Office exists to support business development opportunities, and foster a more inclusive political process by educating, informing and engaging communities in youth and civic preparation.

Legislative

Provide for reclassifying a position to a licensing analyst within the Business Services division of the Secretary of State's Office. This position is being requested to provide additional support for the business services team providing investigations and ensuring proper registration.

Provide Funding to Support Early Voting Staffing Levels

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Personal Services | - | - | 500,000 | 480,000 | 500,000 | 480,000 |
| Total - General Fund | - | - | 500,000 | 480,000 | 500,000 | 480,000 |

| Account | Governor Recommended | | Legislative | | Difference from Governor | |
|---------|----------------------|-------|-------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 24 | FY 25 |

Legislative

Provide funding, in the amount of \$500,000 in FY 24 and \$480,000 in FY 25, to support staffing for early voting.

Provide Additional Funding to Cover Expenses

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Other Expenses | - | - | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| Total - General Fund | - | - | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |

Legislative

Provide funding, in the amount of \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year of the FY 24 - FY 25 biennium, to the Office of the Secretary of State to cover expenses.

Current Services**Remove Funding for 27th Payroll**

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|----------|
| Personal Services | (109,282) | (109,282) | (109,282) | (109,282) | - | - |
| Commercial Recording Division | (106,205) | (106,205) | (106,205) | (106,205) | - | - |
| Total - General Fund | (215,487) | (215,487) | (215,487) | (215,487) | - | - |

Background

The FY 23 Revised Budget included a total of \$128,456,014 for an extra 27th pay period for six appropriated funds. There are usually 26 pay periods in a fiscal year, but every 11 years there is an additional 27th pay period.

Governor

Remove funding of \$215,487 in both FY 24 and FY 25 to reflect 26 pay periods in each fiscal year.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Adjust Funding for Inflation

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------|------------------|------------------|
| Other Expenses | 80,000 | 100,000 | - | - | (80,000) | (100,000) |
| Commercial Recording Division | 100,000 | 125,000 | - | - | (100,000) | (125,000) |
| Total - General Fund | 180,000 | 225,000 | - | - | (180,000) | (225,000) |

Background

Inflation is defined as a rise in the general price level (or average price level) of all goods and services. The general price level varies inversely with the purchasing power of a unit of money. Therefore, when prices increase, purchasing power declines. These costs specifically relate to the cost of ongoing services and rising cost of materials.

Governor

Provide funding of \$180,000 in FY 24 and \$225,000 in FY 25 to account for inflationary increases.

Legislative

Funding is not provided

Provide Funding for Existing Wage Agreements

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------|
| Personal Services | 336,359 | 379,417 | 336,359 | 379,417 | - | - |
| Commercial Recording Division | 406,106 | 454,884 | 406,106 | 454,884 | - | - |
| Total - General Fund | 742,465 | 834,301 | 742,465 | 834,301 | - | - |

Background

The Governor's Recommended Budget provides net funding of \$237.2 million in FY 24 and \$394 million in FY 25, across six appropriated funds, to reflect current wage-related adjustments resulting from existing wage agreements.

Governor

Provide funding of \$742,465 in FY 24 and \$834,301 in FY 25 to reflect this agency's increased wage costs.

| Account | Governor Recommended | | Legislative | | Difference from Governor | |
|---------|----------------------|-------|-------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 24 | FY 25 |

Legislative

Same as Governor

Provide Funding for Salary Increases in PA 22-85

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| Personal Services | 79,483 | 79,483 | 79,483 | 79,483 | - | - |
| Total - General Fund | 79,483 | 79,483 | 79,483 | 79,483 | - | - |

Background

PA 22-85, *An Act Concerning the Compensation of Legislators and Constitutional Officers*, increased annual salaries for legislators, the governor, the lieutenant governor, and constitutional officers (secretary of the state, treasurer, state comptroller, and attorney general).

Governor

Provide funding of \$79,483 in FY 24 and FY 25 for salary increases.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Funding for Operating Costs of the Centralized Voter Registration System (CVRS)

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Other Expenses | 1,025,000 | 1,025,000 | - | - | (1,025,000) | (1,025,000) |
| Total - General Fund | 1,025,000 | 1,025,000 | - | - | (1,025,000) | (1,025,000) |

Background

The Centralized Voter Registration System is utilized by all towns in Connecticut. It is the exclusive means by which a town produces an official voter registry list. The system includes information contained in voter registration applications, indicates whether eligible voters participated in past elections and primaries, and whether they voted in person or by absentee ballot. This election history information is required to be updated by all towns within 60 days after each election or primary.

Governor

Provide funding of \$1,025,000 in FY 24 and FY 25 to upgrade the existing Centralized Voter Registration System. The additional funding will provide- for hosting, maintenance and existing licensing agreements to improve and maintain the system.

Legislative

Funding is not provided

Provide Funding for Maintenance of the Accessible Voter Ballot Marking System

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------|
| Other Expenses | 170,000 | 204,000 | 170,000 | 204,000 | - | - |
| Total - General Fund | 170,000 | 204,000 | 170,000 | 204,000 | - | - |

Background

The Accessible Ballot Marking System marks the ballot for voters who are unable to mark the ballot themselves. There is one required to be in each polling place and each EDR location in the state, and they require both regular maintenance and they need to be programmed for each election with the correct ballot style(s). System programming and maintenance, as well as the necessary licensing, come to about \$600,000; the funds recommended in the governor's budget represents the portion that has not previously been funded by the state

Governor

Provide Funding of \$170,000 in FY 24 and \$204,000 in FY 25 for The Accessible Voter Ballot Marking System.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Provide Funding for One Staff Attorney to Assist in Freedom of Information Act Requests

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| Personal Services | 95,000 | 99,750 | 95,000 | 99,750 | - | - |
| Total - General Fund | 95,000 | 99,750 | 95,000 | 99,750 | - | - |
| Positions - General Fund | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - |

Background

The Office of the Secretary of State has received 142 FOIA requests from 2017- September 2022. This number has consistently increased since 2017 with the high watermark of 35 in FY 23 (as of September 2022). The ability to fulfill these requests has been a growing challenge as there is currently only one attorney able to respond to them and that Attorney is charged with a myriad of other

| Account | Governor Recommended | | Legislative | | Difference from Governor | |
|---------|----------------------|-------|-------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 24 | FY 25 |

responsibilities. The Secretary of State's Office believes that the addition of this position will improve response times and allow greater specialization within the Office.

Governor

Provide one authorized position and funding of \$95,000 in FY 24 and \$99,750 in FY 25 for a Staff Attorney focusing on FOIA requests.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Carryforward

Provide Funding for One-Time Early Voting Expenses

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|------------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| Other Expenses | - | - | 1,800,000 | - | 1,800,000 | - |
| Total - Carry Forward Funding | - | - | 1,800,000 | - | 1,800,000 | - |

Background

PA 23-204 (Section 41(b)) and PA 23-205 (Sections 222,228, and 231) carryforward a total of \$339.6 million in unexpended balances from various FY 23 General Fund accounts for initiatives in FY 24 and FY 25.

Legislative

Provide \$1,800,000 in carryforward funding to offset additional municipal costs related to early voting. This is to be distributed in the form of grants to municipalities of up to \$10,500 per municipality to support additional costs. Section 41(a)(3) of PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 budget, implements this carryforward.

American Rescue Plan Act

Enhance Voter Access

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| ARPA - CSFRF | - | - | 1,680,447 | 1,379,128 | 1,680,447 | 1,379,128 |
| Total - American Rescue Plan Act | - | - | 1,680,447 | 1,379,128 | 1,680,447 | 1,379,128 |

Background

PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 budget, reallocates federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, resulting in the shifting of approximately \$608.2 million in funding from FY 22 and FY 23 to FY 24 and FY 25.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$1,680,447 in FY 24 and \$1,379,128 in FY 25 to support voter access. Section 48 of PA 23-204, the FY 24 and FY 25 budget, allocates these ARPA funds.

Totals

| Budget Components | Governor Recommended | | Legislative | | Difference from Governor | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 24 | FY 25 |
| FY 23 Appropriation - GF | 9,402,540 | 9,402,540 | 9,402,540 | 9,402,540 | - | - |
| Policy Revisions | - | - | 2,800,000 | 2,800,000 | 2,800,000 | 2,800,000 |
| Current Services | 2,076,461 | 2,252,047 | 871,461 | 1,002,047 | (1,205,000) | (1,250,000) |
| Total Recommended - GF | 11,479,001 | 11,654,587 | 13,074,001 | 13,204,587 | 1,595,000 | 1,550,000 |

| Positions | Governor Recommended | | Legislative | | Difference from Governor | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|----------|
| | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 24 | FY 25 | FY 24 | FY 25 |
| FY 23 Appropriation - GF | 87 | 87 | 87 | 87 | - | - |
| Current Services | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Total Recommended - GF | 88 | 88 | 88 | 88 | - | - |