BUDGET ISSUES AND DETAILS

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17 proposed budget of $14.8 million for the Department of Elections is $4.1 million, or 21.7 percent, lower than the FY 2015-16 budget of $18.8 million. This reduction is due to one less election scheduled in FY 2016-17 than in FY 2015-16 and consequently lower operating costs.

The FY 2017-18 proposed budget of $14.6 million for the Department of Elections is $0.2 million, or 1.0 percent, lower than the proposed FY 2016-17 budget of $14.8 million. This reduction is due to lower one-time costs in FY 2017-18 as compared to FY 2016-17.

CONDITIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION

A recent state law change establishes conditional voter registration, giving Californians the right to register to vote through Election Day and to vote using a provisional ballot if the registration is deemed valid. The law takes effect on January 1 after the full implementation of VoteCal, the federally mandated statewide voter database. VoteCal will become operative in 2016; thus the June 2018 election will be the first scheduled election for which the Department will administer conditional registration and voting.

The proposed budget funds the impact to operations, which includes changes to accommodate registration and voting through Election Day.
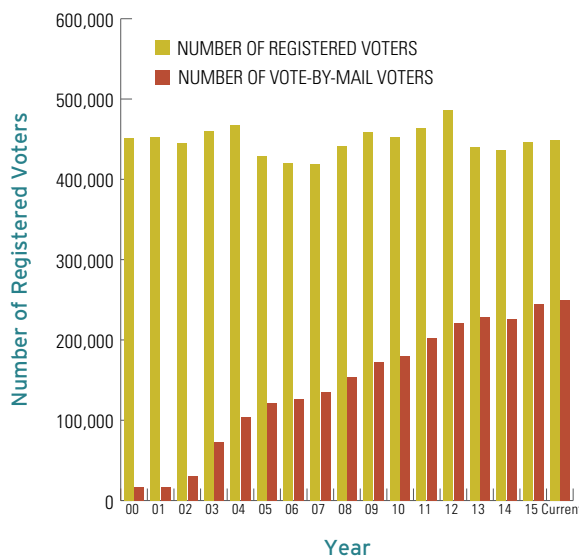
TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS

The California Secretary of State (SOS) is in the process of deploying VoteCal, a new statewide voter registration system, in order to fully comply with requirements of the Federal Help America Vote Act of 2002. This new system will become the State's system of record after the June 2016 election, and the SOS and county elections officials will collectively use VoteCal to manage the voter information for all Californians. VoteCal will replace the current California voter registration database and provide a single, uniform, centralized voter registration database to improve voter registration processes and allow voters to register online.

The SOS and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) are establishing the Motor Voter Program. Once regulations are implemented, the DMV will be required to send the SOS the electronic records of each person obtaining or renewing a driver's license or state identification card or providing an address change to DMV. In most cases, the DMV record will constitute a completed affidavit of registration and the person will be registered to vote. This program will likely expand voter rolls, leading to expansion of many Department programs serving new registrants.

As the City's current voting system nears end-of-life, the proposed budget includes $300,000 towards planning and development of a new voting system based on open source software. If completed, San Francisco would be the first City

NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS AND VOTE-BY-MAIL VOTERS

While the number of registered voters has fluctuated since 1999, a growing share of registered voters has chosen to vote by mail since the passage of AB 1520 in 2001 which allowed any registered voter to vote by mail. Recently enacted AB 1461 provides for automatic voter registration through the Department of Motor Vehicles beginning 2017.

to do this. Development of an open source voting system would enable the City to own the voting system's software and to have a choice of publicly releasing it under open source license. Additionally, other jurisdictions as well as the general people could use, participate, and improve the software.
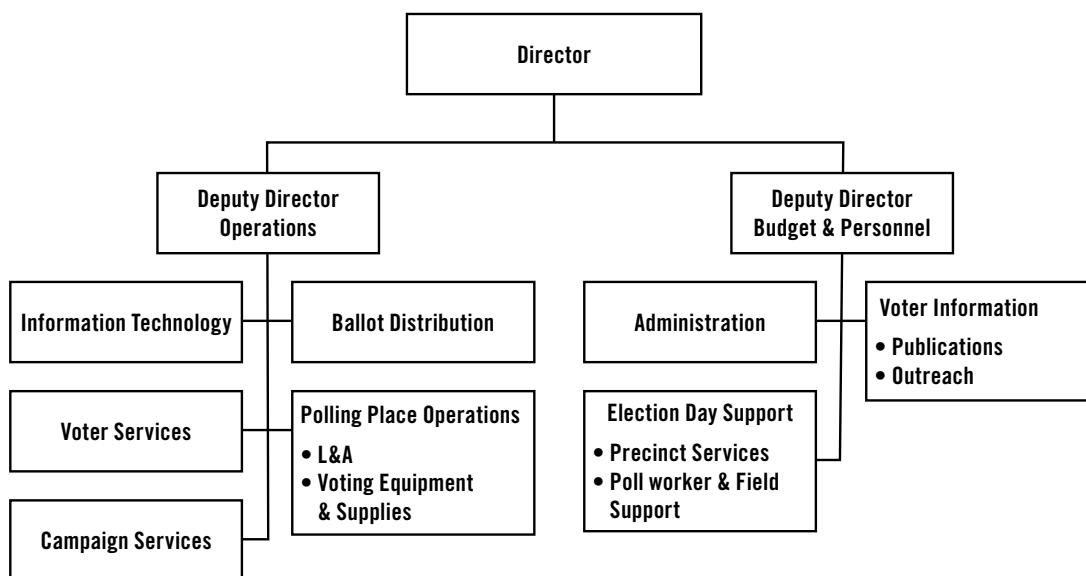
SAN FRANCISCO FELLOW: DATA VISUALIZATION

For the upcoming FY 2016-17 budget, the Department will participate in San Francisco Fellows. A San Francisco Fellow will assist the Department with data visualization through the presentation of data in a pictorial or graphical format. The Departments serves many different customers, and while some prefer to receive the information through reports and spreadsheets, others visualize large amounts of complex data

when the data is conveyed through charts or graphs.

WAREHOUSE RELOCATION

The Department warehouse is currently located at Pier 48 Shed B, and the Department will relocate its warehouse to Pier 31 in FY 2016-17. The relocation will require extensive planning, in collaboration with the Port, Department of Public Works, and Real Estate Division, in order to relocate over 2,000 voting machines, related equipment, and materials used at approximately 600 polling places. Additionally, the Department will refine warehouse process logistics to adapt to the new facility. Processes include conducting voting machine maintenance; staging equipment and materials for polling place delivery; and the post-election canvass.

ELECTIONS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

OPEN SOURCE VOTING SYSTEM

As the City's current voting system is aging, the Department of Elections is exploring an opportunity to develop a new voting system based on open source software. If completed, San Francisco would be the first city to do this. Development of an open source voting system would enable the City to own the voting system's software and have a choice of publicly releasing it under an open source license. Additionally, other jurisdictions as well as the general public could use and improve the software. The proposed budget supports initial project planning and scoping of this project.