

Commissioners

**MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ**, Chair  
**WILLIAM J. KRESSE**, Commissioner/Secretary  
**JUNE A. BROWN**, Commissioner  
**CHARLES HOLIDAY, JR.**, Executive Director



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** The Honorable Jason Ervin  
Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations

**From:** Charles Holiday, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Chicago Board of Election Commissioners

**CC:** Elizabeth Beatty  
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

**Date:** November 8, 2023

**Re:** Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

**ID#:** 39-01 – M/WBE Vendors

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The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on October 27, 2023, to discuss the proposed 2024 budget.

- **Ald. Burnett and Villegas requested the revised M/WBE vendor percentages and spending.**

Please see the Board's revised M/WBE vendor percentages and spending below:

	Total Spend 2022		Total Spend 1/1/2023 through 7/31/2023	
<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>\$11,504,424.25</b>		<b>\$22,461,789.55</b>	
<b>WBE</b>	<b>\$ 1,788,929.63</b>	<b>15.50%</b>	<b>\$ 1,704,040.53</b>	<b>7.60%</b>
<b>BLACK MBE</b>	<b>\$ 287,675.38</b>	<b>2.50%</b>	<b>\$ 124,481.68</b>	<b>0.60%</b>
<b>ASIAN MBE</b>	<b>\$ 1,100,004.35</b>	<b>9.60%</b>	<b>\$ 642,825.50</b>	<b>2.90%</b>
<b>HISPANIC MBE</b>	<b>\$ 18,170.00</b>	<b>0.20%</b>	<b>\$ 12,222.68</b>	<b>0.10%</b>

Wherever possible, the Board will continue to work towards increased equity for our MBE contractors. The Board welcomes the outreach and input that the City and elected officials can provide in reaching new and additional MBE vendors (specifically Black-owned business) ahead of several upcoming RFPs for printing and cartage for the 2024 Presidential Elections.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

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**From:** Charles Holiday, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Chicago Board of Election Commissioners

**CC:** Elizabeth Beatty  
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

**Date:** November 9, 2023

**Re:** Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

**ID#:** 39-02 – Additional Early Voting Sites

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The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on October 27, 2023 to discuss the proposed 2024 budget.

- **Ald. Lee requested a cost estimate of adding a second Early Voting site to all 50 Wards**

Please see below for the estimated costs related to materials, equipment, and staffing related to an additional 50 Early Voting sites per each election. Please note: these 50 additional sites would also be active and staffed on Election Day from 6:00am to 7:00pm as vote centers.

**The total is currently estimated to be \$9,658,375.00 additional for each election** (*these estimates are subject to change due to price increases, inflation, vendor bids and costs, etc.*)

Additional 50 Early Voting Sites	
	Per Election
Additional Telephones	\$3,000.00
Additional MIFI's	\$70,000.00
Additional Jetpacks	\$70,000.00
Electrical Setup at Sites	\$70,000.00
Early Voting Officials (staffing)	\$2,500,000.00
Additional EV Advertising/Legal Notices	\$75,000.00

Additional 50 Early Voting Sites	
Laptops	\$65,000.00
Curtains	\$100,000.00
Tables & Chair Rental	\$200,000.00
Banners	\$5,000.00
Electronic Poll Books testing & Support	\$325,000.00
Touchscreen Voting Machines	\$450,000.00
Additional ADP Costs	\$8,300.00
Cartage	\$1,500,000.00
Paper	\$60,000.00
Supplies	\$14,900.00
Ballot Markers	\$18,000.00
Ballot Paper	\$150,000.00
Thermal Paper	\$6,000.00
Memory Cards	\$6,000.00
ESC Seals	\$37,000.00
Equipment training & testing & machine movement	\$11,000.00
Imagecast voter smart cards	\$15,000.00
Additional Election Supply Carriers (ESC)	\$75,000.00
Flags	\$900.00
Campaign Free Zone Cones	\$300.00
Envelopes 1,2,3,3P,4 & 5, forms, demonstration ballots	\$75,000.00
Privacy Screens (Ballot & Provisional)	\$14,000.00
Extension cords and power strips	\$2,000.00
Ballot scanners	\$1,500,000.00
Ballot Drop Box and Ballot Boxes	\$80,975.00
Seal accountability forms	\$50,000.00
Additional handbooks	\$20,000.00
Touchscreen printers	\$150,000.00
Touchscreen voting booths	\$75,000.00
Ink & Toner for all locations	\$120,000.00
Tables and Chairs Delivery & Pickup	\$200,000.00
Additional University sites (3-4)	\$36,000.00
Additional trainers/temp staff for warehouse support/temp staff for office support/security for locations/vendor labor and support	\$1,500,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,658,375.00</b>

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

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**From:** Charles Holiday, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Chicago Board of Election Commissioners

**CC:** Elizabeth Beatty  
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

**Date:** November 8, 2023

**Re:** Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

**ID#:** 39-03 –Website Design

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The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on October 27, 2023 to discuss the proposed 2024 budget.

- **Ald. Vasquez requested a look at the initial design of revamped BOE website**

Please see below for the design of the new homepage for ChicagoElections.Gov:



Search

English

- Voting
- Poll Workers
- Getting on the Ballot
- Districts & Maps
- News
- Election Results
- About the Board

# Empower Your Vote: Welcome to the New Chicago Elections Website!



## Vote by Mail

Prefer the ease and comfort of voting from home? Learn about and apply to Vote By Mail!



## Change Address or Change Name

Are you already registered to vote and need to change your name or address? Click here to update your voter registration record.



## Have questions? Visit our FAQ!

Find answers to questions like: Who's eligible to vote in the next election? Do I have to show my ID to vote? What is a Provisional Ballot?

## Unlock Your Voting Power! Check Your Voter Information Ahead of the Next Election.

- Verify your voter registration
- Locate your precinct polling place for Election Day
- View your sample ballot
- Check the status of your Vote By Mail request

First Name

Last Name

Street Address

City

Select a State

Zip Code

Submit



**Check Voter Registration**



**Early Voting**



**Vote By Mail**



**Drop Boxes**



**Becoming a Poll Worker**

## Keep up to Date on Election News

Chicago Board of Elections Job Fair - Friday, September 15 from 10:00am to 2:00pm

September 01, 2023

Proclamation of Final Results for the April 4, 2023 Municipal Run-Off Election in the City of Chicago

April 25, 2023

With Severe Weather Predicted for Election Day on April 4th, Chicago Board of Elections Urges Voters to Early Vote

April 2, 2023

Chicago Board of Elections Urges Voters to Return Their Vote By Mail Ballot As Soon As They Can

March 27, 2023

[View all News Items](#)



## Got a voting question? Check our FAQ

Our Voting FAQ offers fast facts and key dates ahead of the next election - empower yourself with the knowledge you need for a smooth and happy voting experience.

What is the Chicago Board of Elections?

How are results tabulated?

Where can I register to vote?

How do I vote by mail?

Can I vote if I'm out of the country?

What if I've moved since the last election?

## Need Further Assistance? We're Here for You!

Contact Us Today



69 West Washington Street  
Suites 600/800  
Chicago, IL 60602  
(312) 269-7900

### Voting

Register to Vote  
Vote By Mail  
Drop Boxes  
How to Vote

### Poll Workers

Election Day Judges  
Election Coordinators  
Early Voting Officials  
Poll Watchers

### About the Board

Board Meetings  
Meet the Commissioners  
Job Opportunities  
FOIA Requests

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As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.



Commissioners

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**From:** Charles Holiday, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Chicago Board of Election Commissioners

**CC:** Elizabeth Beatty  
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

**Date:** November 9, 2023

**Re:** Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

**ID#:** 39-04 – Ranked Choice Voting Cost Savings

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The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on October 27, 2023 to discuss the proposed 2024 budget.

- **Ald. Vasquez requested findings that could be shared about cost savings of using Ranked Choice Voting instead of runoffs**

The Board has not completed a detailed cost analysis of Ranked Choice Voting at this time, nor has been provided one by the Illinois State Board of Elections or other government entities proposing the change. There are several possible methods and procedures related to Ranked Choice Voting proposals, and without any clear direction on the style or method proposed for Chicago or Illinois, we are unable at this time to speculate on potential costs. The Illinois Legislature recently created a task force to look into these costs and are expected to present their findings by the end of 2025.

We must dispel the assumption that election authorities such as ours can implement ranked choice voting in a smooth and expedient manner without extensive community feedback or any discussion of additional funding to support such large changes to our system of voting.

While there could be potential cost-savings in eliminating the Municipal Runoff and Supplementary Election in Chicago, the Board would like to stress the importance of and need for first investing in a substantial budget towards this project, which would include, but is not limited to updating voting equipment and software, increasing staffing, new non-English language access resources, new poll worker training, voter education resources and community services, and advertising.

This would be a very big change for Chicago's voters and would need an appropriate financial investment to ensure its success – it should not be considered only as a cost-savings measure. We should work to proactively address concerns from voters, especially those in underserved areas, so that no one is dissuaded from exercising their right to vote.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

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**From:** Charles Holiday, Jr.  
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**CC:** Elizabeth Beatty  
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

**Date:** November 8, 2023

**Re:** Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

**ID#:** 39-05 – Voting Security

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The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on October 27, 2023 to discuss the proposed 2024 budget.

- **Ald. Hadden requested information on additional security preparations for polling locations**

To address security concerns and risks for the safety of our poll workers and our city's voters, the Board relies on its trained team of Election & Polling Place Investigators. Investigators are off-duty or retired law enforcement officers, which include Chicago Police, the Cook County's Sheriff's Office, Illinois Department of Corrections officers, and local police agencies. No Election Judge should try to handle any potentially dangerous situation on their own, and that's why we have a safety net of these investigators. We have over 400 investigators hired for each election - investigators have many roles on Election Day, including:

- Helping ensure that all polling places open at 6:00am.
- Monitoring assigned precincts during scheduled check-ins on Election Day to maintain a secure and orderly election process
- Responding to specific complaints as dispatched from the Board's Election Central and remove judges or poll watchers if needed.
- Ensuring that polls close on time and help return ballots and Election Materials to Election Receiving Stations, if needed.

In addition to this team of hired investigators, the Chicago Police Department has police officers at fixed posts and roving teams on Election Day to do regular checks outside and inside of polling places in the city, in particular at places of worship and public schools.

There are localized security teams at public and private polling place locations throughout the city, which includes existing security staff, camera systems, and other precautionary systems at Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Public Libraries, Chicago Park District, private condominium associations, places of worship, and more.

During an active election, Secure Drop Boxes for Vote By Mail ballots are locked and watched under security and picked up right as polls close daily to be counted, locked again, and transported back to Central Count at 69 W. Washington at the end of each day.

Cybersecurity is also an important component of Election Day to combat any possible bad actors. No voting machine is ever connected to the internet, the first most important step to prevent hacking. We also have an all-paper ballot system in Illinois, so there is always a paper trail. There is no email voting system in Illinois.

The Board has proactively upgraded its cybersecurity around all of its election operations, including investing in:

- Increased firewalls for Board servers, backup hardware, desktop and laptop computers, and all additional software
- Increased website and email security
- Software upgrades – endpoint, intrusion detection & prevention, log monitoring, and anti-virus
- Penetration tests and phishing campaigns
- Cyber security trainings for staff and personnel
- Network security consulting services & configuration support
- Physical security upgrades to Board offices including security cameras

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

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**CC:** Elizabeth Beatty  
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

**Date:** November 8, 2023

**Re:** Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

**ID#:** 39-06 – 2015, 2019, 2023 Municipal Election Spending

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The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on October 27, 2023 to discuss the proposed 2024 budget.

- **Ald. Martin requested the City budgeted totals for CBOEC for 2015, 2019, and 2023 and estimated funding for Supplemental Run-Off Elections**

FY23 Total Budgeted Funds from the City of Chicago: **\$56,602,820**

FY19 Total Budget Funds from the City of Chicago: **\$34,186,369**

FY15 Total Budget Funds from the City of Chicago: **\$25,555,957**

If removing appropriations for permanent personnel, annual non-Election related contracts, basic supplies, and rental space that would occur even without an election held, the approximate costs for the FY15, FY19 & FY23 Supplemental Run-Off Elections are:

FY23 Estimated Costs for the Run-Off Election (*minus personnel and fixed costs*): **\$19,810,987**

FY19 Estimated Costs for the Run-Off Election (*minus personnel and fixed costs*):  
**\$16,800,724.50**

FY15 Estimated Costs for the Run-Off Election (*minus personnel and fixed costs*):  
**\$12,277,978.00**

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**CC:** Elizabeth Beatty  
Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

**Date:** November 8, 2023

**Re:** Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

**ID#:** 39-07 – Media Vendors

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The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on October 27, 2023 to discuss the proposed 2024 budget.

- **Ald. Lee requested a list of the Board's media vendors and plans to reach out to more in 2024**

Over the last four elections in the City of Chicago, the Board has partnered with the below media vendors and news publications:

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - Chicago Tribune        | - Nadig Newspapers            |
| - Chicago Sun-Times/WBEZ | - Chicago Latina Magazine     |
| - Block Club Chicago     | - Univision Radio             |
| - Daily Line Chicago     | - Negocios Now                |
| - Chicago Reader         | - La Voz Chicago              |
| - Windy City Times       | - Impremedia                  |
| - Chicago News Weekly    | - Chinese World Journal       |
| - La Raza                | - Chicago Chinese News        |
| - El Dia Newspaper       | - Chinese of Chicago          |
| - Lawndale News          | - Chicago China News & Digest |

- Sinovision
- VOC Media
- Sing Tao Daily
- TV Asia
- Hi INDIA
- Desi Talk Chicago
- India Bulletin
- India Tribune
- Punjab Times
- Bol Pakistan News
- Weekly Pakistan News
- Syed Rizvi
- Prachi Jaitly
- Kyocharo Newspaper
- Korean Media Group
- KCBS TV
- Pinoy Newspaper
- Polish Alliance Radio
- Polish Daily News
- Polvision TV & Radio
- Polnet Communications
- Polish Highlanders
- WD Promotions
- Monitor Publishing
- B & B Duo Productions
- Radio Deon
- Midwest GAP Enterprise

In 2024, the Board intends to contract with these additional publications for advertising:

- The TRiiBE
- South Side Weekly
- Chicago Defender
- Chicago Crusader
- Chicago Star Media
- WVON Radio
- Hoy
- Chalkbeat Chicago

The Board welcomes additional ideas and contacts from the Chicago City Council.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.

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**Date:** November 9, 2023

**Re:** Request for Information from Annual Appropriation Committee Hearing

**ID#:** 39-08 – Corporate Fund

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The following information is provided in response to questions posed at our department's hearing on October 27, 2023 to discuss the proposed 2024 budget.

- **Ald. Martin requested confirmation of Board budget coming from the Corporate Fund throughout the years**

The Board is fully funded (100%) through the Corporate Fund for all fiscal years.

As always, please let me know if you have any further questions.