

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Supplemental Budget & Appropriation Ordinance No. 4-2020

Introduced: May 27, 2020

Auditor: Owen Clark

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of Supplemental Budget & Appropriation Ordinance 4-2020 is an expenditure of \$468,100. The requested funds are unencumbered and available for transfer.

Purpose:

This legislation would establish \$486,100 of funding for unanticipated costs associated with Maryland's 7th Congressional District special primary and general elections.

Please see the Administration's testimony, provided by the Board of Elections, that details these expenditures by cost category.

Other Comments:

An amendment has been filed to SAO4-2020 that allocates the unanticipated Presidential Primary Election expenses (\$215,468) to be reimbursed from CARES Act funding. These were incurred due to the State changing the voting process to a mail-in vote as a result of COVID-19.

Based on our Office's inquiries to the Administration, we have been informed that:

- The Board of Elections currently has access to a \$200,000 earmark that will be carried forward into FY 2021 to cover unbudgeted costs from potential changes to the Presidential General Election.
- The State Legislature passed an emergency bill in March for voters not to pay for postage associated with mail-in ballots. This expense is split 50/50 with the locals and the State.
- There has been no movement for the Presidential General election from the Governor, who is expected to decide on the voting format by mid-June. The Board of Elections is proceeding as if the election will be in-person.