

**Howard County
Board of Elections**

Memo

To: Lonnie Robbins
From: Guy Mickley
cc: Brook Mamo, Jennifer Dennis
Date: 5/31/20
Re: SAO

The Board of Elections was tasked with conducting two additional elections in the FY20 budget cycle that were not included in the budget. Additionally, the Presidential Primary Election was turned into a Vote-By-Mail Election. This process, which was also done in the Special General Election in April, is a tremendous manual process which costs the election office in employee hours that far exceed the amounts budgeted.

Also, the State Legislature passed an emergency bill in March that makes all postage paid for any mail-in ballot that a voter would send in throughout the process. This money is split 50/50 with the locals and the State, but the up-front amount comes directly out of our Business Mail account at the Columbia Post Office.

On top of all of this, the Special Primary Election which was conducted in February, was the initial additional election that was not budgeted for in the current budget year. This election was a full polling place election for the 67 precincts contained in Congressional 7. This included spur-of-the-moment judge training, readying for a first-time connection to the State of Maryland from all polling places, and complete and full in-person voting which meant Logic and Accuracy testing and transportation of poll books, voting machines, and supplies. When all of this came back to the office, the staff was tasked with doing post-election maintenance on equipment in a one-month time frame that typically would have taken three to four months. Of course, COVID-19 changed processes at that point, and here we are today.

I am asking for the attached table of additional funding from the county to cover these additional expenses that have been incurred by the election office over the course of conducting three

separate elections in four months, two of which were conducted in a way that has never been done before in the State of Maryland.

The Board of Elections has always prided itself on being fiscally responsible and giving money back to the county at the end of the year. We have constantly tried to keep our budgets as flat as possible from year to year. We continued to try to keep costs down, even through this past four months of elections, but elections cost money. The culmination of that money is as follows:

Special Election (Primary and General)	\$486,100
Judges	161,935
Private Polling Places	1,800
Additional Temps/OT for Temps	100,000
Additional OT for State Employees	63,000
Additional Supplies for Special Election	15,000
Transport of Equipment Through State	30,600
State Contracted County Techs	17,852
Notice of Election to All Affected Voters	22,863
Postage for Notice of Elections	53,500
Ballot Printing	17,100
Mileage for Rovers (Election Day Techs)	1,650
Food for Election Day	800