

April 30, 2025

Honorable Scott D. Wiener, Chair
Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee

Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee

Honorable Anna M. Caballero, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee

Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee

Notification of Receipt and Approval of an Unanticipated Cost Funding Request from the Secretary of State

Pursuant to Provisions 3 and 6 of Item 9840, 2024 Budget Act, we are transmitting the attached unanticipated cost funding request from the Secretary of State, which was received on March 20, 2025. At the time of the 15-day notification period, the Department of Finance was evaluating the proposal and this letter serves as the 15-day and 30-day notification.

The Secretary of State is responsible for printing and mailing Voter Registration Cards, Voter Notification Cards, the Voter Information Guide, and Text of Proposed Laws for each statewide election. These costs as well as parallel monitoring, printing and mailing voter registration cards, and election night reporting are funded through the Secretary of State's Special Items of Expense appropriation. The 2024 Budget Act, pursuant to Provision 2 of Item 0890-001-0001, authorizes \$10,615,000 for this purpose. The Secretary of State projects costs of \$19,202,000 in the current fiscal year, resulting in a shortfall of \$8,587,000. This shortfall is driven primarily by printing and mailing costs of the Voter Information Guide for the November 2024 general election. Costs associated with the Voter Information Guide have consistently increased in recent years due to paper shortages, and increased postage and mailing costs.

The Governor's Budget proposes an ongoing augmentation of \$4.5 million beginning in 2025-26 for this purpose. Finance will continue to evaluate this amount to better align the budget with actual costs in recent years.

Finance has completed the review and concurs with the request. Funding for this unanticipated cost request will be provided from Item 9840-001-0001, Augmentation for Contingencies or Emergencies, in the amount of \$8,587,000.

Finance requests an expedited review of the submission and a waiver of the 30-day waiting requirement since the costs have already been incurred for this purpose.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please call Jessie Romine, Principal Program Budget Analyst, at (916) 445-8913.

JOE STEPHENSHAW

Director

By:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Erika L.", with a stylized, cursive script.

ERIKA LI

Chief Deputy Director

cc: Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5
Honorable Christopher Cabaldon, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Subcommittee No. 4
Honorable Roger W. Niello, Vice Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee
Honorable Heath Flora, Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst (3)
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Christopher W. Woods, Senate President
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Joseph Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus, Office of Policy
and Budget
Paul Dress, Caucus Co-Chief of Staff, Assembly Republican Leader's Office
Katja Townsend, Capitol Director, Assembly Republican Leader's Office
Jason Sisney, Assembly Speaker's Office (2)
Mark McKenzie, Staff Director, Senate Appropriations Committee
Jay Dickenson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Shirley Weber, California Secretary of State
Tamara Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary of State
Jana Lean, Chief, Elections Divisions, Secretary of State
Joanna Southard, Assistant Chief, Elections Division, Secretary of State
Kristin Dagsher, Budget Section Manager, Fiscal Affairs Office, Secretary of State
Reginald Fair, Deputy Secretary of State, Operations