

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Statement of Purpose

The goal of the Board of Elections Office is to always serve the public in an efficient and courteous manner and to provide well-planned and managed elections with immediate results. We will conduct fair, honest, and impartial elections that encourage and provide easy access for all registered voters.

Outcomes

1. Prepare for and conduct the following scheduled elections:
 - a. City of Hickory Primary Election – October 9, 2007
 - b. Municipal Elections for eight cities and towns – November 6, 2007
 - c. Primary Election – May 6, 2008
2. Increase awareness of early voting locations and times with emphases placed on a new site located in Sherrill's Ford beginning with the May 2008 Primary Election.

Board of Elections

Organization: 140050

	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Current	2007/08 Requested	2007/08 Approved	Percent Change
Revenue					
Federal	\$603,755	\$0	\$120,000	\$120,000	0%
State	1,259	0	0	0	0%
Charges & Fees	60,835	0	134,700	134,700	0%
General Fund	294,709	428,028	405,948	518,548	21%
Total	\$960,558	\$428,028	\$660,648	\$773,248	81%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$201,957	\$203,828	\$236,448	\$236,448	16%
Supplies & Operations	154,382	224,200	424,200	536,800	139%
Capital	604,219	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$960,558	\$428,028	\$660,648	\$773,248	81%
Employees					
Permanent	4.00	4.00	4.50	4.50	13%
Hourly	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0%
Total	4.02	4.02	4.52	4.52	12%

Budget Highlights

The cost of operating the Board of Elections varies annually on the basis of the number and type of elections scheduled for the year. During Fiscal Year 2007/08, the County will hold municipal primary elections in November 2007 and a general election primary in May 2008. The municipalities are responsible for paying for the cost of holding their elections but the county must pay the ongoing costs of operating the Elections Office.

The budget includes funding to provide increased opportunities for citizens to vote in an effort to reduce and hopefully eliminate voting lines. Operating hours and staffing of one-stop sites are increased at all sites and an additional one-stop site is will be opened at the Sherrills Ford Fire and Rescue Base.

A permanent .50 Election Specialist Position is added based on increased workload for the department particularly immediately prior to and following each election. Catawba County now has 97,000 registered voters as compared to 85,000 ten years ago.

State and Federal actions required us to change our voting equipment in Fiscal Year 2005/06. The new voting equipment is more expensive to operate than our previous equipment requiring purchase of printed ballots, equipment programming for every election, and transportation costs due to the increased weight of the equipment.

The budget includes a \$120,000 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) grant to purchase electronic poll books for each precinct. This technology should alleviate Election Day problems by decreasing lines, ensuring the correct ballot style is given to each voter, increasing the accuracy of voting records, and balancing the number of voters to the ballots issued.