



April 8, 2021

The Honorable Pat Kemp
Chair, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners
County Center, 2nd Floor
601 East Kennedy Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33602

RE: FY2022 and FY2023 Budgets for Supervisor of Elections Office

Dear Commissioner Kemp:

I'm enormously proud to conduct elections in Hillsborough County. Providing our citizens with the ability to participate in our democracy, ensuring that they can vote easily and with confidence, and reporting election results that our community can trust is a responsibility I take very seriously.

Each election cycle, we use data to anticipate new challenges and plan for continuous improvement. With population growth and voter engagement on the rise, we have budgeted to support a strong voter turnout in 2022. The momentum from a robust presidential election led to a stronger than usual midterm election in 2018, with 12% higher turnout and 151,000 more voters than 2014. We are prepared for that trend to continue.

Here are some other highlights of what the accompanying budget reflects:

- ***We are rapidly approaching one million registered voters.*** As our community grows, so does the work involved with ensuring that all voters have the information they need to vote successfully. This includes sending new voter information cards to all voters once redistricting has been completed, providing updates on any legislative changes that may affect voting, and maintaining a robust list maintenance program to keep our rolls as current as possible.
- ***Voting before Election Day is the new normal.*** In 2020, 85% of voters voted before Election Day. Our budget reflects a commitment to ensuring we have enough convenient, accessible in-person Early Voting sites to meet the needs of our large county – both in terms of geography and population. We are also preparing to handle a large volume of Vote By Mail requests, as well as the work involved with mailing, processing and tabulating those ballots.
- ***Elections are critical infrastructure that require robust security measures.*** Our budget includes a considerable investment in physical and cyber safeguards to ensure that our equipment, our people, our ballots and our results are not compromised.



In 2020, we successfully served more voters than ever before – amid a pandemic. The lessons we learned facing that challenge have made us stronger. For example:

- We revamped our poll worker recruitment and training processes, earning recognition from the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission. We now head into 2022 more efficient and more adept at managing change in this area.
- We strengthened ties with many community partners, including our local chambers of commerce, sports teams and other government agencies, who came together to help educate voters and give their staff a day off to vote or work the election.
- We fought the proliferation of misinformation with a communications program focused on establishing our office as Hillsborough County's trusted source of elections and voting information. Based on the unprecedented volume of positive feedback from voters, the campaign was a success that will serve us well as we move into 2022. We have since moved our website to a ".gov" domain to solidify our position as a trusted information source.

Throughout this election cycle, I was honored to serve as president of the Florida Supervisors of Elections, and I know that my colleagues were equally focused on providing exemplary customer service and support to candidates and voters. At the conclusion of the 2020 presidential election cycle, it was widely reported that Florida was a shining star, with the vast majority of our state's election results reported on election night. In the words of Secretary of State Laurel Lee, *"Florida ensured a safe and efficient voting process and all Florida voters, no matter how they chose to cast a ballot, or who they voted for, could be confident in the integrity of our elections system and the security of their vote."*

I appreciate the Board's continued support as I work with my team to achieve our vision to be the best place in America to vote.

Sincerely,


 Craig Latimer
 Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections

Attachments

CC: The Honorable Harry Cohen, Hillsborough County Commissioner, District 1
 The Honorable Ken Hagan, Hillsborough County Commissioner, District 2
 The Honorable Gwen Myers, Hillsborough County Commissioner, District 3
 The Honorable Stacy White, Hillsborough County Commissioner, District 4
 The Honorable Mariella Smith, Hillsborough County Commissioner, District 5
 The Honorable Kimberly Overman, Hillsborough County Commissioner, District 7
 The Honorable Cindy Stuart, Hillsborough County Clerk of Court & Comptroller
 Bonnie Wise, Hillsborough County Administrator
 Ajay Gajjar, Director of County Finance, Hillsborough County Clerk of the Circuit Court
 Kevin Brickey, Director, Management and Budget, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners

Supervisor of Elections, Hillsborough
County Fiscal Year 2022

Budget Certification

Thursday, April 8, 2021

To: Pat Kemp, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

I submit to you the following budget for the operation of the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Office for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022.

| Budget Category | Total |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Personnel Expenses | \$ 4,318,148 |
| Operating Expenses | \$ 9,189,324 |
| Capital Outlay | \$ 450,000 |
| Total Budget FY2022 | \$ 13,957,472 |



Craig Latimer, Supervisor of Elections

Before me, this 8th day of April, 2021, appeared Craig Latimer, Supervisor of Elections of Hillsborough County, Florida, who is personally known to me and who did not take an oath and who states that to the best of his knowledge and belief the above established amounts are reasonable and necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the Supervisor of Elections Office for the ensuing year.



Notary Public

Supervisor of Elections, Hillsborough
County Fiscal Year 2023


Budget Certification

Thursday, April 8, 2021

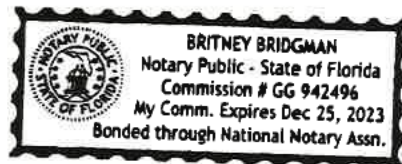
To: Pat Kemp, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

I submit to you the following budget for the operation of the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Office for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023.

| Budget Category | Total |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Personnel Expenses | \$ 4,447,692 |
| Operating Expenses | \$ 9,225,665 |
| Capital Outlay | \$ 350,000 |
| Total Budget FY2023 | \$ 14,023,357 |


Craig Latimer, Supervisor of Elections

Before me, this 8th day of April, 2021, appeared Craig Latimer, Supervisor of Elections of Hillsborough County, Florida, who is personally known to me and who did not take an oath and who states that to the best of his knowledge and belief the above established amounts are reasonable and necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the Supervisor of Elections Office for the ensuing year.




Notary Public