
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Administration and Elections

Purpose and History

The Office of the Secretary of State was created in 1857 in Article IV, Section 22, of the Iowa Constitution. The duties of the Office are spelled out in Iowa Code chapter 9. The mission of the Office of the Secretary of State is to provide access to information about businesses in Iowa conveniently and economically, ensure election integrity and access to voting for Iowa citizens, and encourage Iowans to become civically engaged.

Elections and Voter Registration Division

The Secretary of State serves as the State Commissioner of Elections. The primary functions of the Elections and Voter Registration Division are to coordinate and supervise all elections in Iowa, promote voter education and participation, and provide training to local election officials. As the supervisor of elections, the Office conducts the statewide canvass of votes and certifies the results of Iowa and federal elections, including preliminary results on the night of the primary and general elections. The Division oversees the activities of county election commissioners, prescribes uniform election practices and procedures, prescribes necessary forms required for the conduct of elections, and publishes a summary of proposed constitutional amendments. The Office also appoints the Board of Voting Machine Examiners and coordinates its activities. In addition, the Office is charged with implementation of the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

The Secretary of State is also the State Commissioner of Voter Registration and is responsible for administration of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. The Secretary (or designee) chairs the Voter Registration Commission. The Office is responsible for the maintenance of the statewide voter registration in conjunction with county commissioners.

Funding — State General Fund

The Secretary of State receives an annual appropriation from the General Fund for operational costs for elections and voter registration activities.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [9](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [721](#)

Budget Unit Number

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More Information

Iowa Secretary of State: sos.iowa.gov

Iowa State Association of County Auditors: www.iowaauditors.org

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