

NORTH DAKOTA  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
MICHAEL HOWE

# HB 1002

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS – GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

*Michael Howe, Secretary of State*

*3/6/2025*



# THE STARTING POINT FOR DEMOCRACY & TRANSPARENCY

We Serve, Guide, & Engage Citizens Through  
Elections, Business, & Official Records

# AGENCY FUNCTIONS

## DIVISIONS & SERVICES



### **ELECTIONS**

- Election Administration Oversight
- Campaign Finance

### **BUSINESS SERVICES**

- File Point for 46 Entity/Records
- Public Search

### **LICENSING & NOTARY**

- License/Register Professions
- Commission Notaries Public

### **CENTRAL INDEXING**

- Lien Filing & Search

### **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

- System Support & Interfaces

### **FISCAL & ADMINISTRATIVE**

- Official Records – Lobbyists
- Fiscal & Operations

### **COMBATIVE SPORTS**

- Oversight of Combative Contests



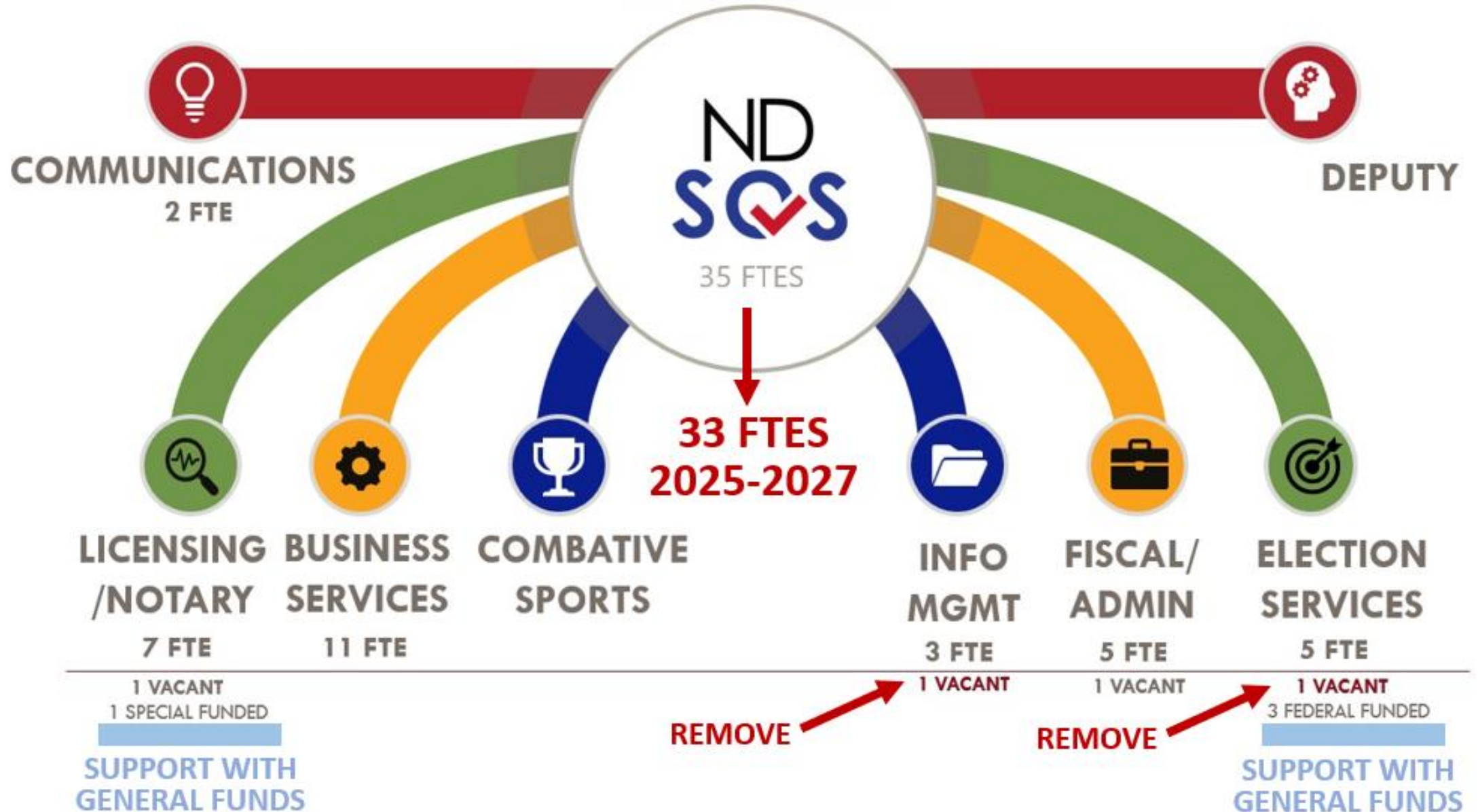


**Voters**                      **Candidates**  
**Local Government**  
**Business**                      **Licensees**  
**Lending Community**  
**All Citizens**



2023-2025

SECRETARY



# SECTION 1

## REVIEW OF ADJUSTMENTS / ENHANCEMENTS

### **SALARIES & WAGES - \$587,108**

- Removes 2 FTEs (1 special/1 federal) – 35 FTE → 33 FTE
  - Special funds used for salary → shift to operating
- General Fund Support for 3 FTEs (formerly special funds)
- FTE Pool Changes
- Base Payroll Changes & Health Insurance
- Salary Increase at 3%/3%



# SECTION 1

REVIEW OF ADJUSTMENTS / ENHANCEMENTS

## NEW & VACANT FTE POOL - \$148,177

- 70% of FTE Pool Moves to New Line



# SECTION 1

## REVIEW OF ADJUSTMENTS / ENHANCEMENTS

### OPERATING EXPENSES - \$2,171,051

- → Restores Special Fund Salary to Operating Line
- One-Time – \$700,000
  - AS400 Server Costs – \$200,000
  - Central Indexing Upgrade 1.0 to 4.0 – \$500,000



# SECTION 1

## REVIEW OF ADJUSTMENTS / ENHANCEMENTS

### OPERATING EXPENSES - \$2,171,051

- IT License/Maintenance Support - \$1.06M
  - FirstStop, Election Mgmt, Camp. Finance - \$650,000
  - Central Indexing - \$410,000
- NDIT Funded Increase - \$22,506
- NDIT Data Hosting Increase - \$170,000

# SECTION 1

## REVIEW OF ADJUSTMENTS / ENHANCEMENTS

### GRANTS – NO CHANGE

- \$25,000 – Grants Available to Tribes for ID Efforts for Voting

### PETITIONS – NO CHANGE

- \$8,000 – Petition Review – postcards/postage (est. for 1)
- Request Funding through Emergency Commission as Needed



# SECTION 1

## REVIEW OF ADJUSTMENTS / ENHANCEMENTS

### ELECTION REFORM - \$4,397,006

- → Restores Federal Fund Salary to Election Reform Line
- One-Time Funding/Authority
  - SIIF – Replace Poll Pads & Cradle Points – \$2.8 M
  - Authority – DES Election Security Grant – \$100,359
  - Authority – HAVA 2025 Anticipated Award – \$1 M

# ELECTION EQUIPMENT

SECRETARY OF STATE APPROVES VOTING SYSTEMS



## POLLPADS – ELECTRONIC POLLBOOKS

Vendor - KNOWiNK

## CHECKS VOTER IN AT POLLING LOCATION

Ensures One Person = One Vote

Updates Central Voter File – Checks in Voter

Knows which voters voted by mail

Sends check-in info to PollPads in the State



## PRINTS BALLOT TICKET

Voter uses ticket to get correct ballot



**CONNECTED TO OTHER POLLING LOCATIONS IN NORTH DAKOTA =**

**→ SECURE portal - encryption**

**→ SIGNAL ACTIVE with secure access**



# SECTION 1

## REVIEW OF ADJUSTMENTS / ENHANCEMENTS

### ELECTION REFORM - \$4,397,006

- NDIT Election IT Increases - \$80,000 (Poll Pad/Cradle Points)
- HAVA – State Match Requirement for 2025 - \$200,000
  - On-going funding allows for match both years of biennium
  - Senate provided \$200,000 last biennium (Applied to 2024 HAVA)

# SECTION 1

## REVIEW OF ADJUSTMENTS / ENHANCEMENTS

### PUBLIC PRINTING - \$271,335

- Removes \$271,335 from NDSOS
  - → Shifts Funding to Legislative Council Budget



# SECTION 2

## ONE-TIME FUNDING – EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET

### ONE-TIME FUNDING DETAIL

- \$2.8 M – Poll Pads & Cradle Points (SIIF)
- \$700,000 – IT - Central Index Upgrade/AS400 Support (SIIF)
- \$100,359 – Authority – DES Election Security Grant
- \$1 M – Authority – HAVA 2025 Anticipated Award

# SECTION 3

CREATES NEW BUDGET LINE ITEM

## NEW AND VACANT FTE POOL

- Creates New Line Item for FTE Pool
- Must Request from OMB to Use



# SECTION 4

## STATE INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUNDING

### **\$3.5 M – TOTAL SIIF FUNDING**

- \$2.8 M – Poll Pad & Cradle Point Replacement
- \$500,000 – Central Indexing Upgrade
- \$200,000 – AS400 Server Support

# SECTION 5

TRANSFER AUTHORITY - HAVA

## **\$600,000 – Transfer Authority for HAVA Match**

- Allows for movement of General Funds to Election Fund to meet HAVA Match
  - Must be in Election Fund for interest requirements



# SECTIONS 6 THRU 13

STATUTE CHANGE – PUBLIC PRINTING TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## Updates Statute to Transfer Public Printing

- Moves \$271,335 to Legislative Council
- Updates statute references to “Legislative Council” rather than Secretary of State

# SECTIONS 14

SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR SOS

**UPDATES THE SALARY FOR SECRETARY OF STATE**





# SECTIONS 15 & 16

CARRY-FORWARD ONE-TIME ITEMS – LAST BIENNIUM

## ARPA – SECT. 15 - \$6 M

- Election Management System - \$5,000,000 (Jan. '26)
- FirstStop Upgrade - \$1,000,000 (Mar. '26)

## SIIF – SECT. 16 - \$1.5 M

- Campaign Finance System - \$1,000,000 (Jan. '26)
- IT System Enhancements - \$500,000 (May '26)

	2025-2027 Legislative Base Level	House Version 1002	\$ Increase/ (Decrease) Compared to Legislative Base
Salaries and Wages	6,366,407	6,953,515	587,108
New & Vacant FTE Pool	-	148,177	148,177
Operating Expenses	4,984,331	7,155,382	2,171,051
Grants	25,000	25,000	-
Petition Review	8,000	8,000	-
Election Reform	4,830,808	9,227,814	4,397,006
Public Printing	271,335	-	(271,335)
<b>Total Line Items</b>	<b>16,485,881</b>	<b>23,517,888</b>	<b>7,032,007</b>
<b>By Funding Source</b>			
General Funds	7,141,710	9,440,819	2,299,109
Federal Funds	4,195,655	5,395,994	1,200,339
Special Funds	5,148,516	8,681,075	3,532,559
<b>Total Funding Source</b>	<b>16,485,881</b>	<b>23,517,888</b>	<b>7,032,007</b>
<b>FTE</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>(2)</b>



# POTENTIAL BUDGET IMPACT BILLS

BILLS WITH APPROPRIATIONS FOR NDSOS

## SB 2230

– \$600,000 to Support Voter Education on Measures

## HB 1507

– \$53,000 to Create New Entity – Coop. Financial Inst.

NORTH DAKOTA  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
MICHAEL HOWE

ND  
SQS