

**Secretary of State
Budget No. 108
Senate Bill No. 2002**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 legislative appropriation	35.00	\$7,042,124	\$17,832,075 ¹	\$24,874,199 ²
2021-23 legislative appropriation	<u>33.00</u>	<u>5,521,552</u>	<u>8,305,574</u>	<u>13,827,126</u>
2023-25 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2021-23 appropriation	2.00	\$1,520,572	\$9,526,501	\$11,047,073

¹This amount includes \$8,500,000 of one-time funding. Excluding this amount, the agency's ongoing other funds appropriation is \$9,332,075.

²This amount does not include any transfers of appropriation authority from the Office of Management and Budget funding pools for targeted market equity adjustments, retirement contribution increases, or new and vacant FTE positions.

Item Description

Full-time equivalent changes - The Legislative Assembly approved 35 FTE positions for the Secretary of State for the 2023-25 biennium, an increase of 2 FTE positions from the 2021-23 biennium. The Legislative Assembly added 1 FTE election specialist position and 1 FTE technology support position.

Targeted market equity - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$82.5 million, of which \$45.1 million is from the general fund, to the Office of Management and Budget for a targeted market equity pool to be distributed to state agencies.

New and vacant FTE funding pool - The Legislative Assembly reduced \$530,295 of 2023-25 biennium appropriation authority for the Secretary of State for the new and vacant FTE funding pool, of which \$370,950 was for new FTE positions and \$159,345 was for estimated vacant salary savings. Of the total, \$316,569 was from the general fund and \$213,726 was from other funds.

Tribal government administrative costs - Senate Bill No. 2002 includes \$25,000 in the grants line item from the general fund for providing grants to each federally recognized tribal government located within the state during the 2023-25 biennium. The Secretary of State may provide grants of up to \$5,000 to each tribal government to reimburse administrative costs incurred by each tribal government to issue addresses and identifications for voting purposes. This is an ongoing appropriation from the general fund and was initially added to the Secretary of State's appropriation for the 2021-23 biennium.

Status/Result

The status of the new FTE positions is shown below.

- A strategic communications advisor position was filled in November 2023.
- A licensing notary lead worker position was filled in January 2024.

The Secretary of State received \$86,809, including \$78,428 from the general fund and \$8,381 from federal funds, for targeted market equity increases. Equity increases were provided to 12 employees.

The Secretary of State has received \$294,125 from the new and vacant FTE funding pool, including \$135,000 from the general fund and \$159,125 from federal funds, to fill 2 new FTE positions. Through January 2024, the Secretary of State had estimated vacant FTE position savings of \$197,921. The office used \$33,654 of the savings for accrued leave payouts. The number of vacancies in the office has ranged from six to two with an average monthly vacancy rate of 3.86 FTE positions.

The Secretary of State did not provide any grants to tribal governments to reimburse administrative costs during the 2021-23 biennium.

As of April 2024, the Secretary of State has not received any requests for reimbursements from any tribal government.

One-time funding - The Legislative Assembly provided \$8.5 million of one-time funding for the Secretary of State as follows:

	Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund	Federal Funds	Total
Campaign finance system and contracted services for a website redesign	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
Information technology system enhancements	500,000		500,000
Election reform (Help America Vote Act funds)		\$1,000,000	1,000,000
Election management system (federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund)		5,000,000	5,000,000
FirstStop system upgrade (State Fiscal Recovery Fund)		1,000,000	5,000,000
Total	\$1,500,000	\$7,000,000	\$8,500,000

The following is a summary of the status of the Secretary of State's one-time funding as of February 29, 2024:

Campaign finance system and contracted services for a website redesign	The campaign finance system project has been combined with the request for proposal for a new election management system (below). The Secretary of State has begun its website redesign, but has not expended any funds on the project.
Information technology system enhancements	The Secretary of State has not yet spent any of the funds for information technology system enhancements, but the agency anticipates spending all the funds by the end of the biennium for ongoing software support and maintenance, increased Information Technology Department application hosting costs, and one-time enhancements to FirstStop, central indexing, and other software systems.
Election reform	The Secretary of State intends to use the Help America Vote Act funds for ongoing election system maintenance.
Election management system	A request for proposal for the election management system is pending responses, with a goal of awarding the project by December 2024. The Secretary of State has expended \$2,116 on the project and anticipates requesting authority to continue the appropriation and project into the 2025-27 biennium.
FirstStop system upgrade	The Secretary of State has spent \$129,300 and anticipates project completion in the spring of 2025.