

Team 101: Positioning North Carolina for Successful Elections

House Elections Committee • February 28, 2023



NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

2022 Election Facts

- May 17: Primary (*change of date*)
- July 26: Municipal General Elections, Runoffs, & Second Primaries
- November 8: General Election, more than 3,790,000 ballots cast (51.14%)
- December 6: Runoff for Nash Co. Public Schools Board of Education
- Most registered voters ever: 7.4+ million

2022 Election Facts

- Continued use of online absentee request form, portal
 - 2022 General Election: 64% of all ABM requests through portal
- Continued use of Intelligent Mail Barcoding and BallotTrax
 - More than 400,000 North Carolinians have ballot tracking accounts
- Judicial Voter Guide sent to 4.7 million households

2022 Election Facts

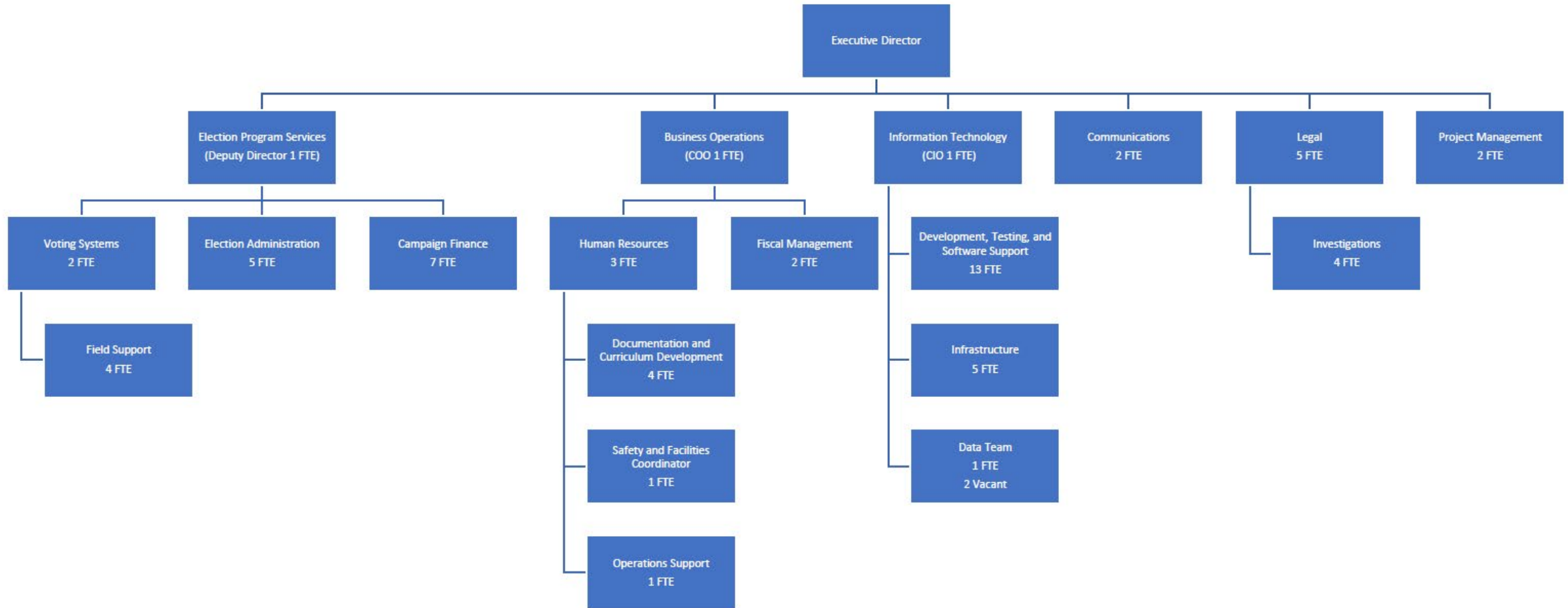
- September 9: Absentee-by-mail ballots
 - 262,000+ requests (137,000+ in 2018)
 - 187,600+ absentee-by-mail ballots cast (97,500+ in 2018); 5% of votes cast
- October 20-November 5: One-stop early voting period
 - One-stop sites: 359 (307 in 2018)
 - 2 million+ one-stop votes cast; 53% of votes cast
- November 8: Election Day
 - 2,655 precincts open
 - Nearly 1.6 million ballots cast (42% of votes cast)
 - Last results upload: 12:45 a.m.

Key Roles of State Board of Elections

- Supervision of the conduct of all elections
- Training and oversight of county boards of elections and staff
- Maintenance and security of statewide voter registration system and supervision of list maintenance by county boards
- Maintenance and security of the statewide IT platforms for checking in voters, processing absentee ballots, candidate filing, ballot preparation, petition processing, assigning voters to districts/mapping, election results reporting
- Maintenance of campaign finance reporting system, auditing of committee reports, administration of penalties for violations
- Appointing county board members, hearing appeals of county board protests and challenge decisions, canvassing elections in State's jurisdiction
- Certifying voting systems for use in NC elections
- Investigating election fraud and irregularities as well as campaign finance violations

State Board's Service Focus

Our customers are the counties and
the voting public.



Election Program Support to Counties/Public

Voting Systems and Field Support

(5 FTE + 1 time-limited expiring June 2023)

Responsibilities: immediate response for elections operations emergencies in the counties, regular on-the-ground support for county operations, coding and proofing of thousands of ballot styles, voting equipment certification, testing, and training.

Election Administration

(4 FTE + 1 time-limited expiring Feb. 2023)

Responsibilities: leading counties through implementation of election processes and new laws, ensuring uniformity. Staff are subject matter experts in candidate filing, canvass/reconciliation, and absentee voting.

Campaign Finance

(7 FTE)

Responsibilities: providing guidance to county board staff and the regulated community, auditing reports for all committees that file with the State Board, managing penalty assessments and other noncompliance issues.

Document and Curriculum Development

(4 FTE)

Responsibilities: managing legally required training for State and county elections officials and standardized forms and documents used to administer elections.



Election Technology Support to Counties/Public

Development, Testing, and Software Support

(9 FTE + 4 time-limited positions expiring in June 2023)

Responsibilities: Create, maintain and improve the computer applications used to run elections in all 100 counties. Elections, voter registration, list maintenance, and campaign finance all require these systems to be operational.

Infrastructure and Cybersecurity

(3 FTE + 2 time-limited expiring in June 2023, 1 contract)

Responsibilities: maintain and secure the networks and systems that support elections throughout the State. NC elections are run on centralized networks, requiring constant maintenance and security vigilance.

Database Administration and Management

(1 FTE + 1 time-limited position expiring in June 2023)

Responsibilities: ensuring that elections data is regularly updated, accurate, and transparent to the public. Auditing and developing other safeguards to ensure election integrity.

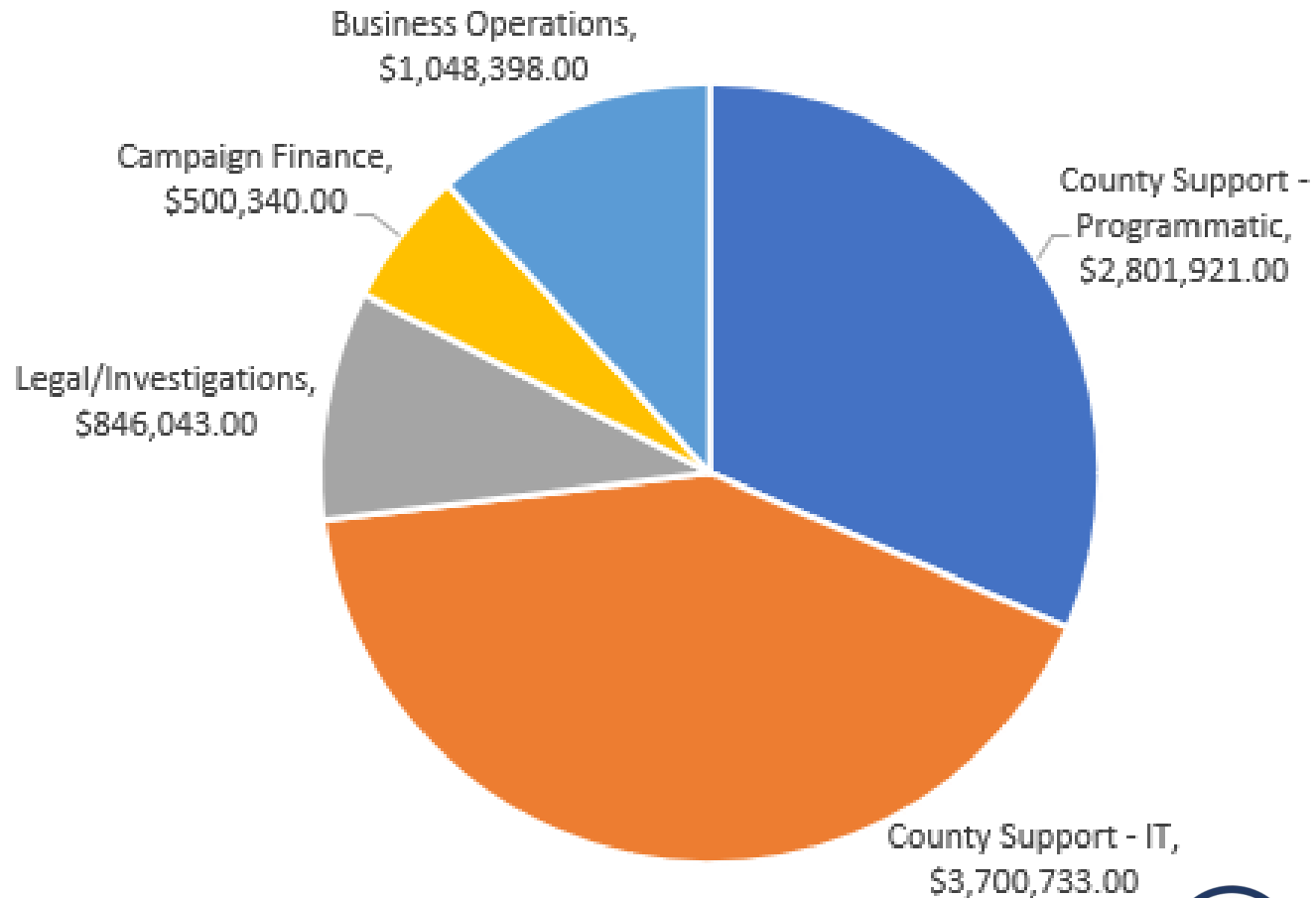
Communications

(1 FTE + 1 time-limited position expiring in June 2023)

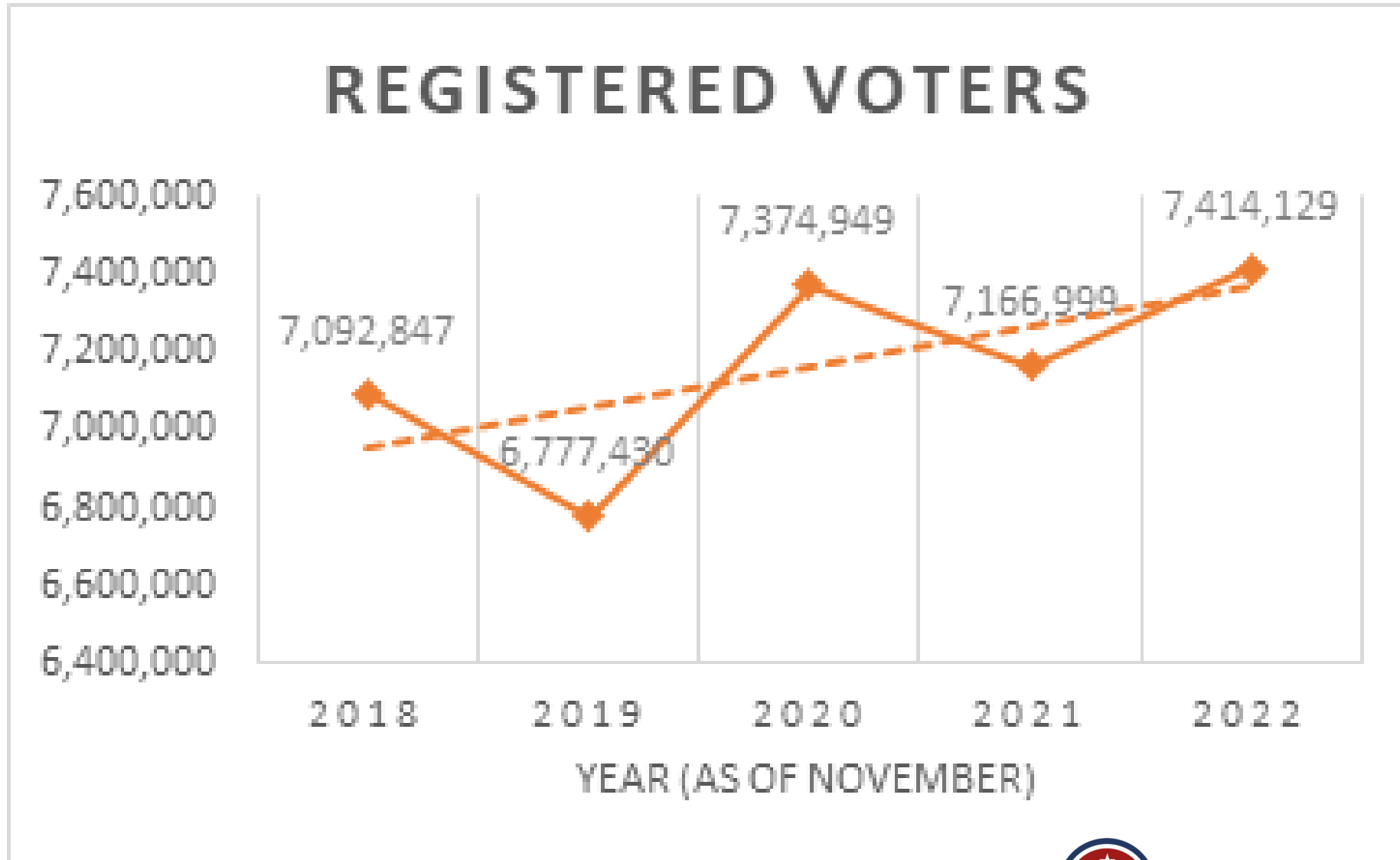
Responsibility: educating the public on NC's voting process and data. Ensuring transparency and responsiveness to the public and election stakeholders.

Budget by Area – FY 2022-2023

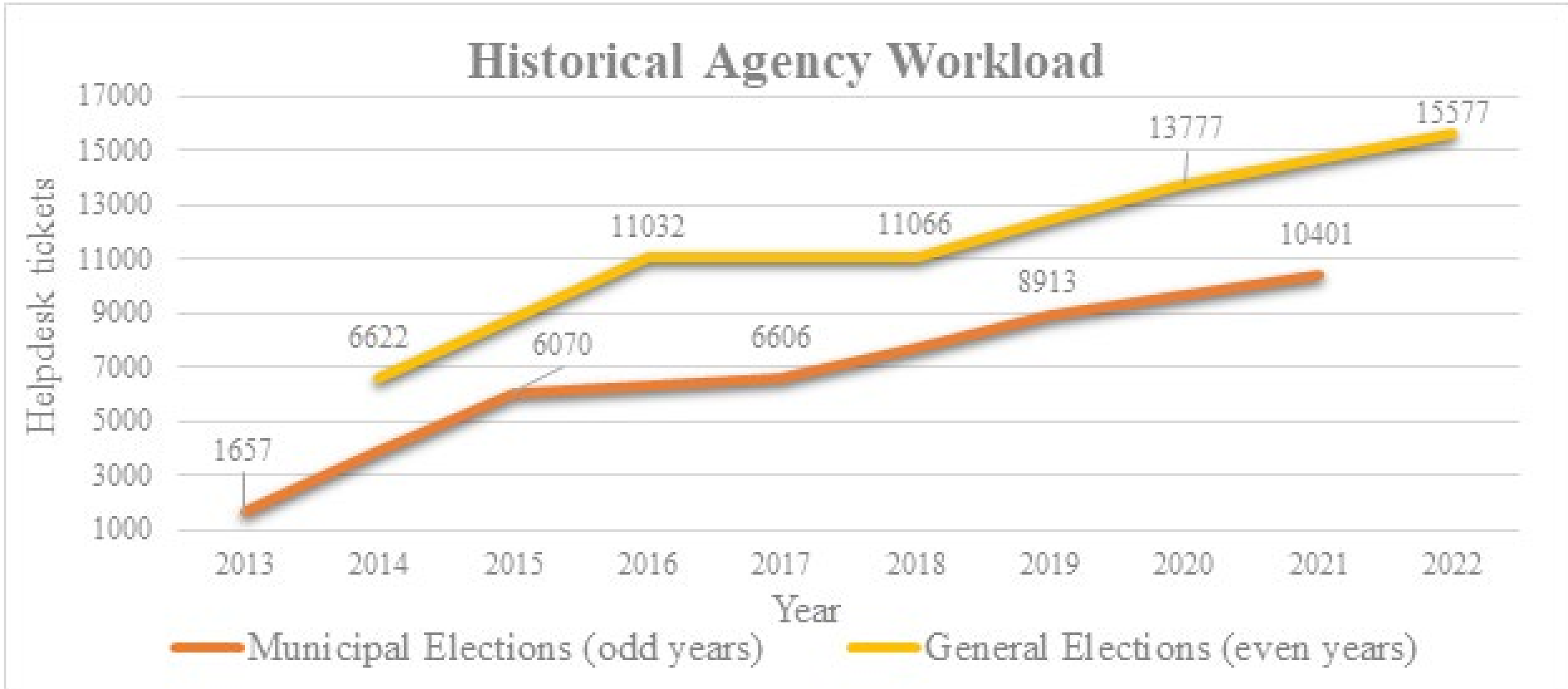
State Board of Elections
General Fund Budget by Category



Increase in registered voters from 7.1 M to 7.4 M

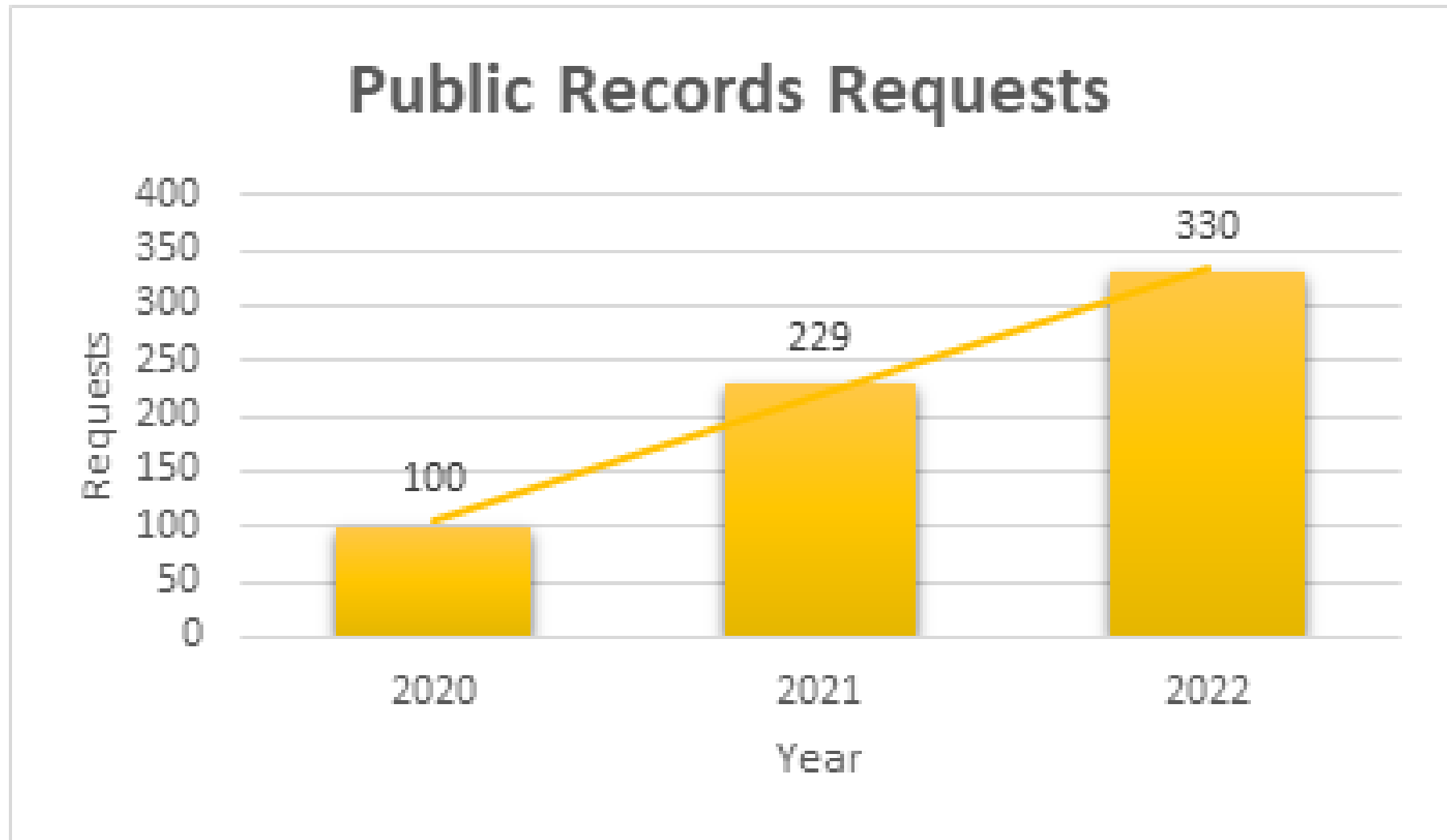


Over 40% increase in Support Requests from 2018 to 2022

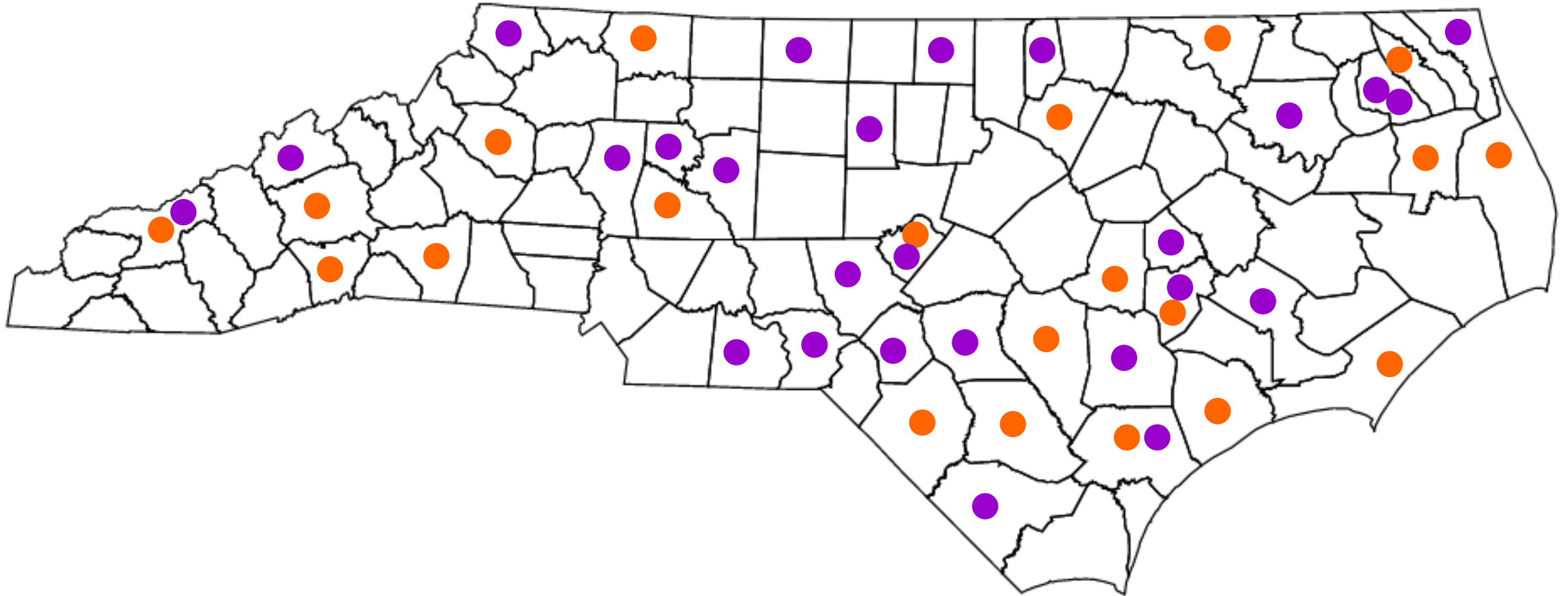


Post-2020, increase in public records and data requests

In addition, nearly 400 data requests and questions yearly on average in the last three years.



Nearly 50% Change in County Elections Directors Since 2019



- Director hired between January 2019 – December 2020
- Director hired between January 2021 – February 7, 2023

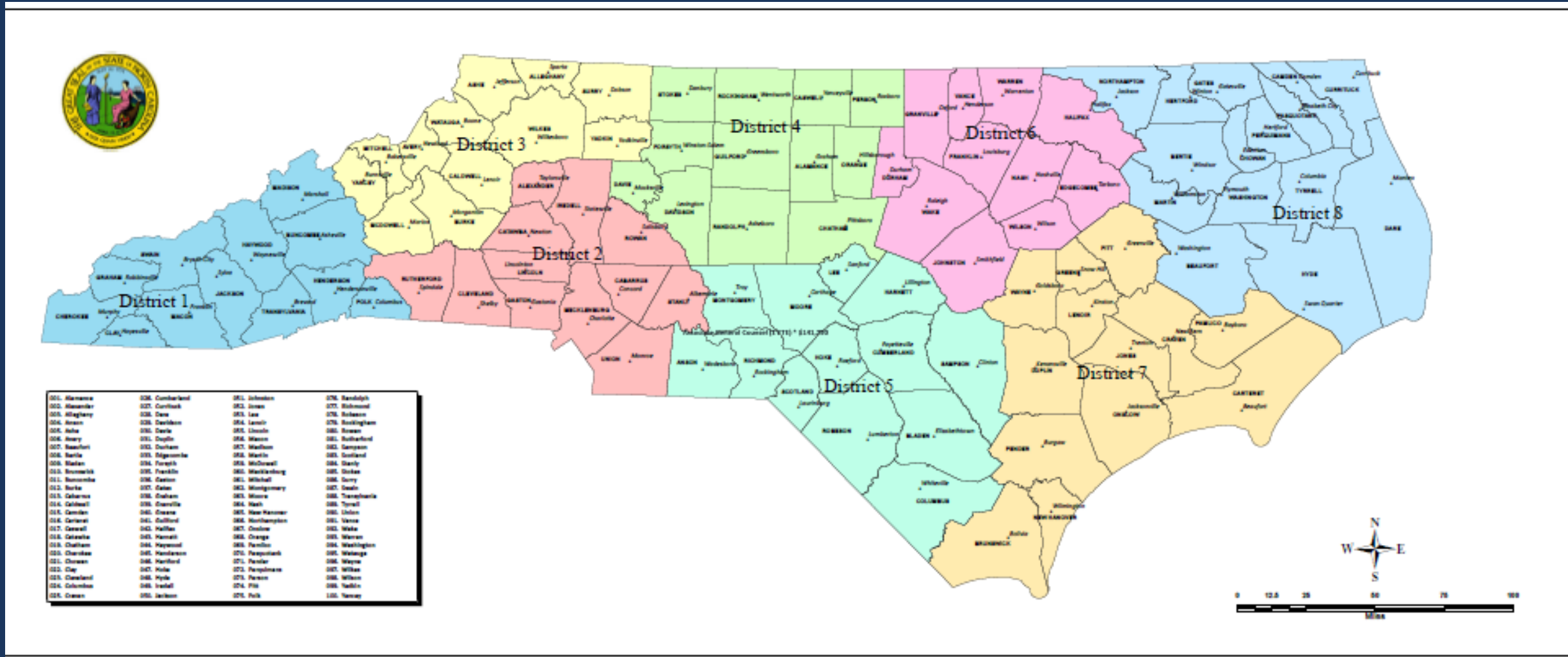
How Can the State Serve Its Elections Customers?

- Recurring funding is needed to ensure key services are in place for the 2024 elections and beyond.
- Investment in system modernization is fundamental to ensuring counties have the technology resources they need for the future.
- Legislation that improves administration.

Budget Requests to Ensure Successful Elections

- Absentee Ballot Portal and ballot-tracking services
- Cybersecurity Officer and security tools/services
- In-person Voting Specialist (Photo ID)
- Associate General Counsel/Legislative Liaison (Photo ID)
- Web Manager (Photo ID)
- Campaign Finance Auditors (2 FTE)
- Regional Field Support (*Security & Support Techs – 5 FTE*) (*Photo ID*)

Proposed Regions with 8 FTEs

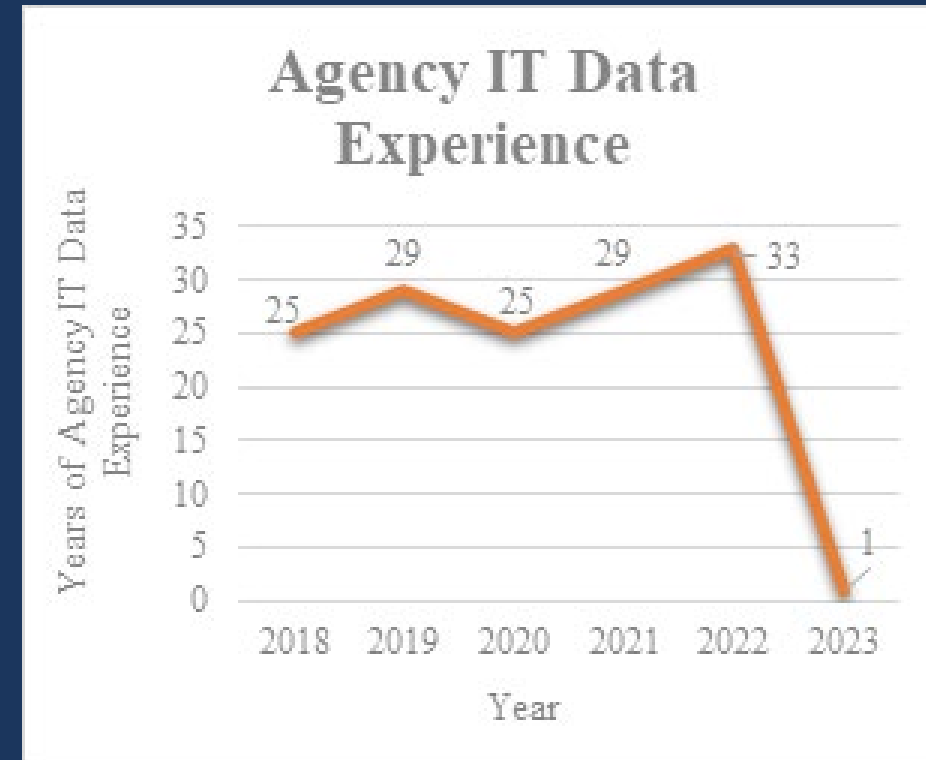
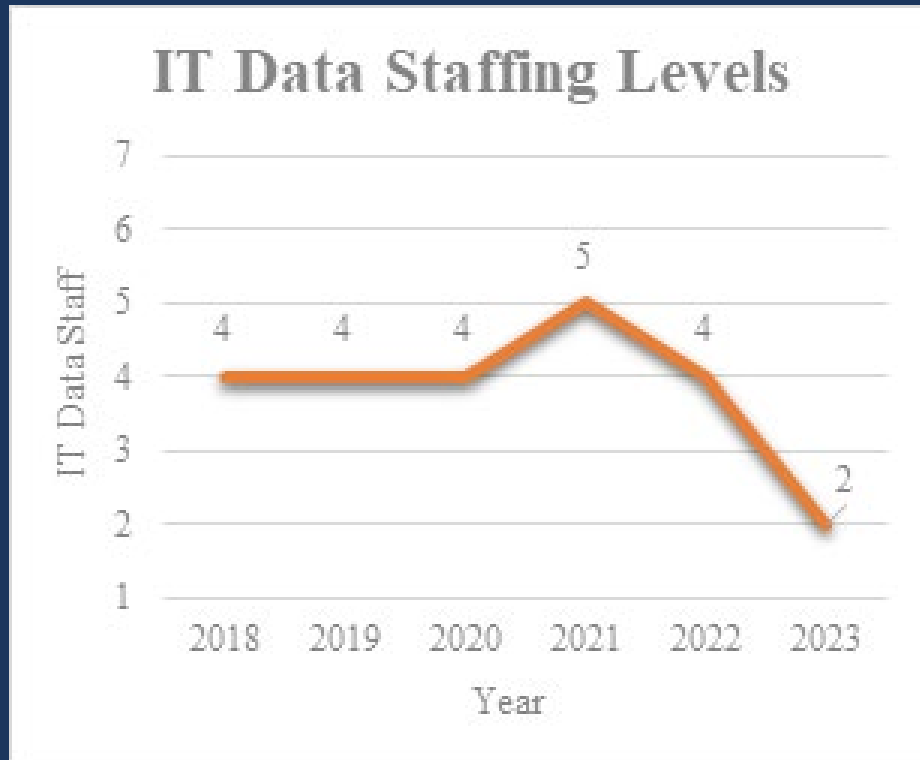


Budget Requests to Ensure Successful Elections

- IT Development, IT Infrastructure, Data Managers (6 FTE) (photo ID)
 - Support 800+ users (mostly in counties) of applications with support and training.
 - Responsible for coding legislative or legal changes into SEIMS system.
 - Update and audit elections and registration data
 - Respond to increasing requests for elections data

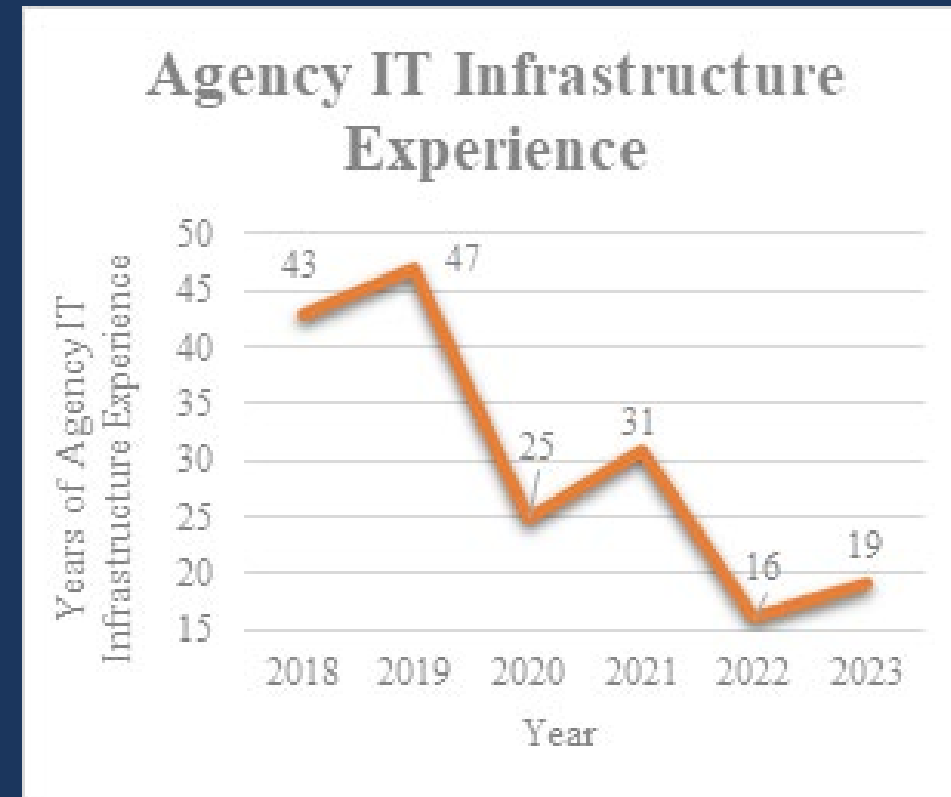
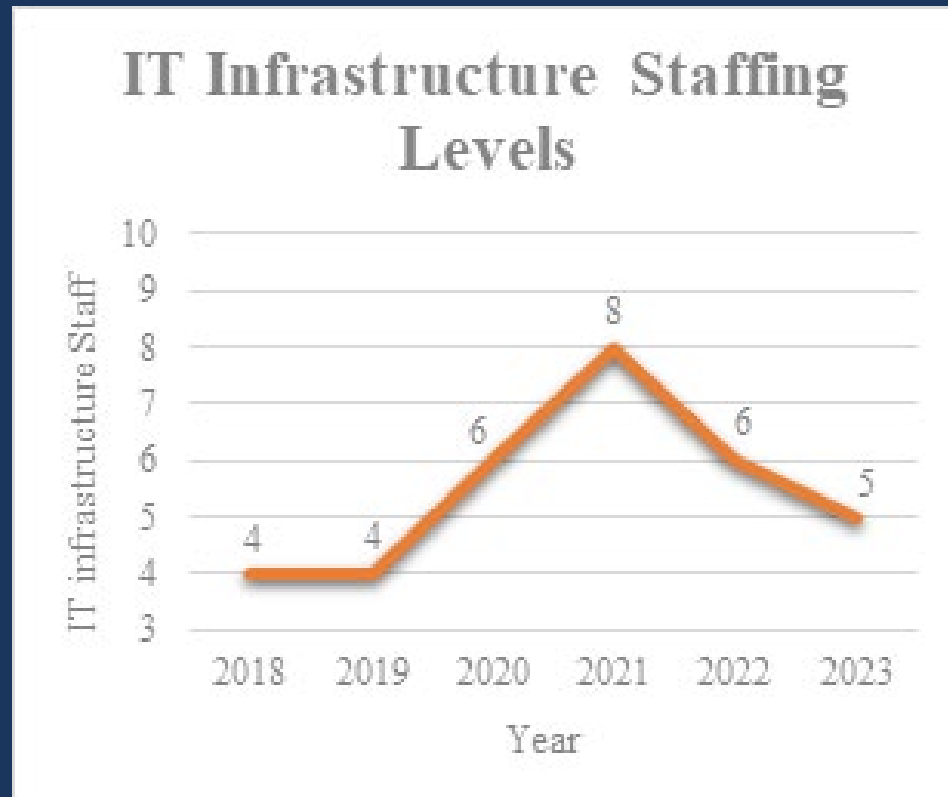
Budget Requests to Ensure Successful Elections

- Data Team (2 FTE)



Budget Requests to Ensure Successful Elections

- Infrastructure Team (2 FTE)



Budget Requests to Ensure Successful Elections

- Capital Improvement/IT Reserve: New State Election Information Management System (SEIMS) \$13,606,411
 - In-house software products: Backbone of every election process and campaign finance reporting
 - Voter Registration
 - Ballot Preparation
 - Petition Processing
 - Election Night Reporting
 - List Maintenance
 - Voter Check-in
 - Absentee Processing
 - Voter Geographical Assignment... & more
 - Candidate Filing
 - Campaign Finance Reporting
 - Provisional Ballot Processing
- Developed starting in 1998
- Antiquated, inefficient, and vulnerable to defects
- Primary users of the system: county staff, poll workers, and treasurers

Legislative Considerations for Successful Elections

- Voting System Proprietary Information Review
- Clarifying the Counting of Write-in Votes in Special District and School Board Elections
- County Board Certification of Cross-County Municipal Contests
- Increase the Threshold for Reporting Certain Contributions and Independent Expenditures
- Prohibit Payment Per Signature for Petitions
- Lengthen Time for Boards of Elections to Review Petition Signatures
- Define Intimidation of Voters and Election Officials
- Authorize One County Board to Conduct Election for a Small Number of Voters in Another County
- Permit consideration of a campaign finance waiver before the filing of a contested case at OAH.

Legislative Considerations for Successful Elections

Photo ID Implementation?

- Positions **highlighted** on previous slides are critical to implementation success
- State Board also recommends funds for:
 - Paid advertising
 - Additional statewide mailings to remind voters
 - Contracted design work for voter-facing materials

Preparations for Succession Elections: 2024 & Beyond

- Telling North Carolina's story
 - Consistency yields understanding
 - Transparency
- More voters, more participation
- More turnover
- Strengthen security – cyber, technology, and physical
- Modernize
- More and consistent funding

Thank You!



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