Controlling Board

Secretary of State

Secretary of State's Office

Controlling Board Number

SOS0105067

Fiscal Year(s)

2027

Bill Number(s)

HB 96

Request Type: **Fund/Appropriation**

Status

Approved

Meeting Date

6/8/2026

Request Summary

The Secretary of State respectfully requests Controlling Board approval to establish appropriation authority in the amount of $2,500,000.00 for FY 2027 in fund 5RG0, ALI 050627 (ABSNT VOTER BALLT APPL MAILING) to pay the cost of printing and mailing applications for absent voter's ballots for the election to be held November 3, 2026.

Funding

Action Requested: **Establish Appropriation Authority**

Fiscal Year	Fund Code	ALI	Fund Amount
2027	5RG0 - Absent Voter Ballot Appl Mailing	050627 - Absentee Voter Ballot Application Mailing	$2,500,000.00

Explanation

This request is made pursuant to section 111.31 of the Revised Code and Section 395.10 H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly. This is a supplemental request to SOS0105069, which transfers cash in the amount of $2,298,595.16 from the Controlling Board Emergency Purposes/Contingencies Fund (5KM0) for the same purpose. Approximately eight million Absentee Ballot Application Request Mailer packets will be printed, addressed and delivered to an Ohio-based U.S. Postal Service (USPS) facility for mailing. The USPS postage costs are also included in this request. The maximum postage discounts allowed by the USPS will be utilized but postage costs are estimated to be $1.4 million. In order to secure sufficient envelopes and paper in time to conduct the mailing, it is necessary to provide advance notice to the successful printing vendor, who will be selected through a competitive procurement process administered through DAS State Printing. RR Donnelley offered the lowest printing cost for this project at $805,350.00 plus freight. Actual costs will not be known until numbers of packets and postage costs are determined later in the summer.

Additionally, in accordance with section 111.31 of the Revised Code, the Secretary of State's Office has provided the following information regarding the previous mailing of absentee ballots for the 2024 general election:

- The number of applications mailed was 8,321,722.
- The number of those applications that were returned to the sender as undeliverable or otherwise were determined to be undeliverable was 526,709.
- The estimated number of those applications that were completed and returned to the SoS or a board of elections is attached to this request.
- The number of absent voter's ballots cast by mail in the election for which the applications were used for voting was 1,066,815.

Attachments

Type	File Name *(link)*
Other	Statewide Absentee Ballot Application Estimates.pdf

Fund Questionnaire

1. *Identify the source of revenue that supports this request.*

   A cash transfer from the Controlling Board Emergency Purposes Fund, as requested in a separate SOS Controlling Board submission.

2. *Has the revenue been received?*

   No

   Please provide the ***anticipated*** receipt date of the revenue: **6/8/2026**

3. *Are federal funds being used?*

   No

   Explain the matching requirements:

4. *How will the additional appropriation and/or cash be used?*

   Maintain current service levels: **No**

   Expand an existing program or activity: **Yes**

   Begin a new program: **No**

5. *Provide the following information below relative to this budgetary adjustment. For each entry, include a short description of what the dollars will be used to accomplish.*

Account Category	Current Appropriation Authority	Requested Increase in Appropriation	Total Appropriation Authority
520 - Supplies and Maintenance	**$0.00**	**$2,500,000.00**	**$2,500,000.00**
What will the dollars accomplish?			

6. *Is there a planned use of expense account category 500 Personal Services?*

   No

   Will new staff be hired as a result of the additional funds?

Agency Contact

Leslie Piatt, Chief Financial Officer Phone: (614) 697 - 3165 Email: lpiatt@ohiosos.gov

Signatures

Frank LaRose Date 05/18/2026

Agency Director/Authorized Agent

Paul Disantis Date 06/08/2026

Controlling Board President