

BALTIMORE COUNTY
FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET ANALYSIS

BOARD OF ELECTIONS (005)

BUDGET SUMMARY				
\$ in Thousands				
PROPOSED CHANGE	GENERAL	SPECIAL	TOTAL	% Change Prior Year
FY 2015 - 2016 Change	\$ 1,823.3	-	\$ 1,823.3	43.1%
Potential Reduction	886.6	-	886.6	
BUDGET TRENDS				
FY 2014 Actual	\$ 3,193.0	\$ -	\$ 3,193.0	
FY 2015 Approp.	4,226.4	-	4,226.4	32.4%
FY 2016 Request	6,049.7	-	6,049.7	43.1%
With Potential Reduction	\$ 5,163.1	-	\$ 5,163.1	22.2%

PERSONNEL				
PROPOSED CHANGE	GENERAL		SPECIAL	
	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME	FULL-TIME	PART-TIME
FY 2015 - 2016 Change	0	0	0	0
Potential Reduction	26	12	0	0
BUDGET TRENDS				
FY 2014 Actual	26	12	0	0
FY 2015 Approp.	26	12	0	0
FY 2016 Request	26 ¹	12 ²	0	0

¹ State positions (funded by the County)

² County positions

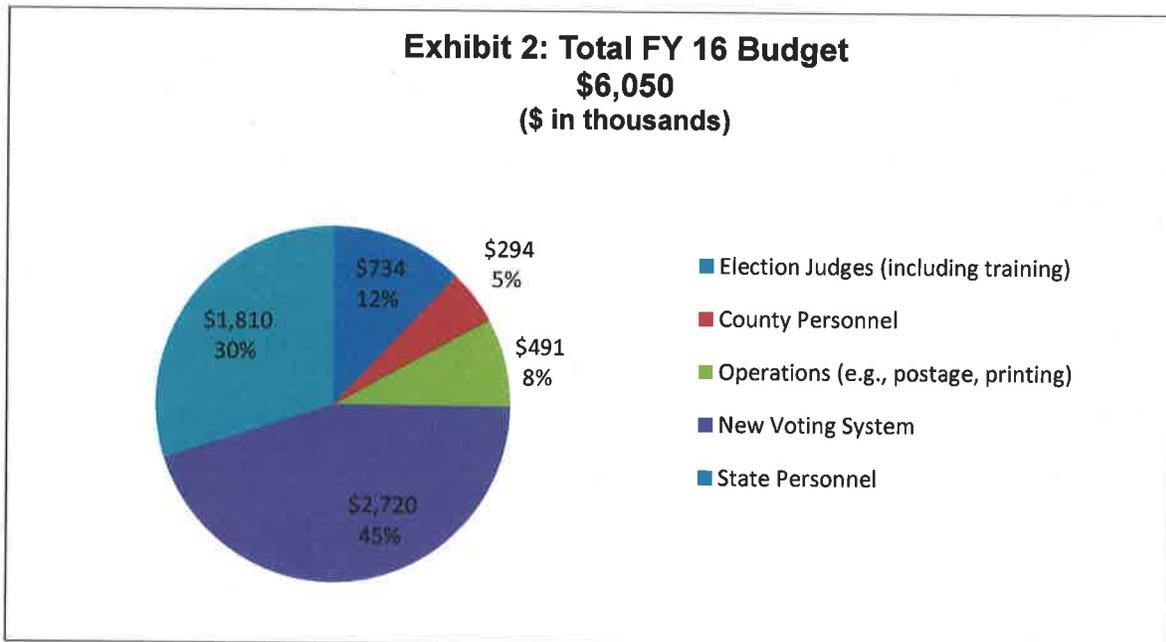
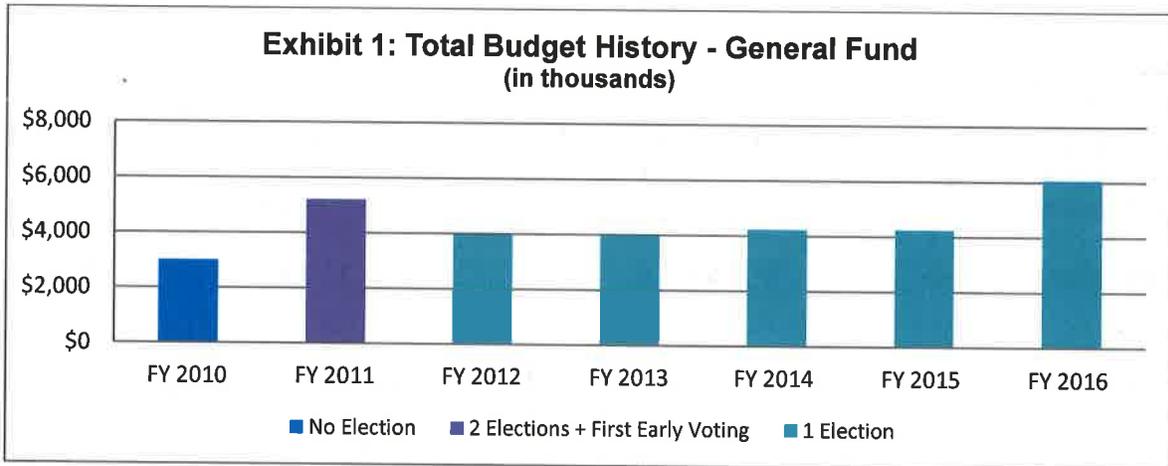
VACANCY DATA

Positions Vacant as of April 22, 2015*	1	1	0	0
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* Provided by the Board of Elections (1 State position and 1 County position)

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BUDGET SUMMARY: The proposed FY 2016 budget for the Board of Elections totals \$6.0 million, an increase of \$1.8 million, or 43.1%, over the FY 2015 budget. The increase is primarily attributable to costs related to the new voting system. Nearly half (45%) of the proposed budget funds the County's share of the new voting system (\$2.7 million); another 35% of the budget funds State (\$1.8 million) and County (\$294 thousand) personnel costs; and the remaining 20% (\$1.2 million) covers costs related to the upcoming presidential primary election (April 26, 2016). See Exhibits 1-3 for additional detail.



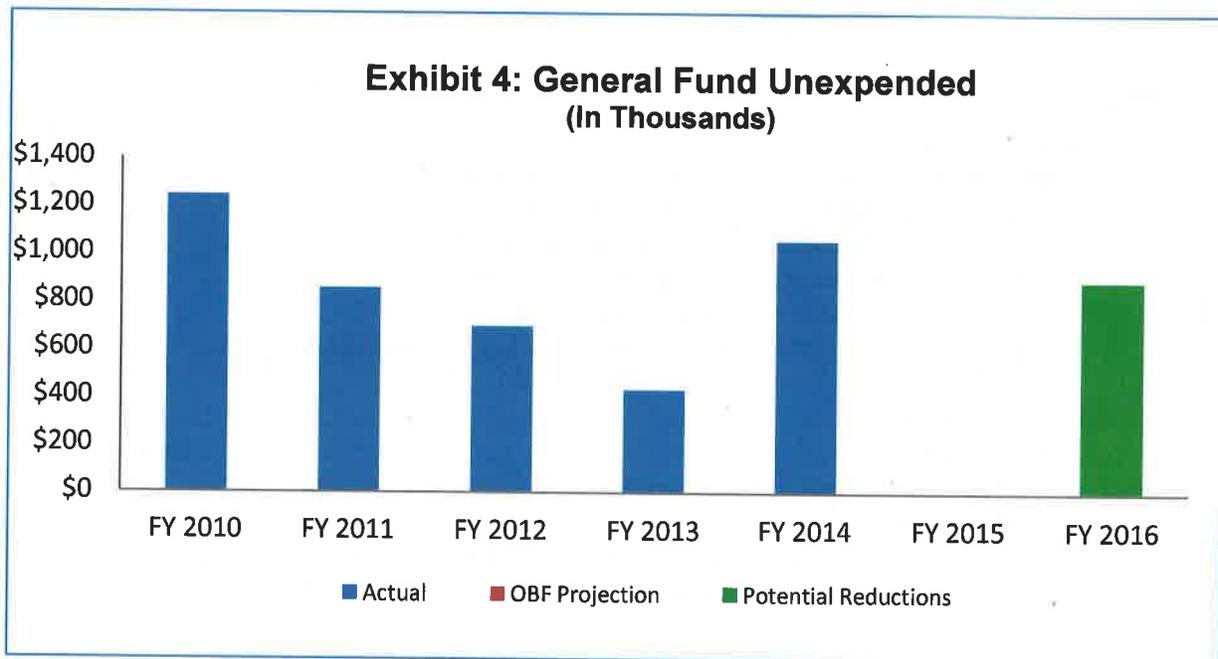
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Exhibit 3			
FY 2016 Proposed Budget (\$ in 000's)			
How Much it Grows:	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
2015 Appropriation	\$4,226	--	\$4,226
2016 Request	<u>6,049</u>	--	<u>6,049</u>
\$ Increase	\$1,823	--	\$1,823
% Increase	43.1%	--	43.1%
Where it Goes:			
Personnel Expenses			\$202
Salary Reimbursements & Benefit Payments for State Employees			203
Salaries for 2,629 Election Judges, including 120 for early voting (456 chief, 456 provisional & 1,717 other judges).....			7
3% COLA (excludes election judges and temporary help)			6
FY 2015 Bonus (excluded election judges and temporary help).....			(6)
Temporary Help (change in usage from short term to short- and long-term help)			(8)
Operating Expenses.....			1,621
New Voting System			1,584
Related Costs (e.g., printers, ballots, voting booths, etc.) ..			1,259
Equipment Lease			325
Voter Registration System (software upgrades, licenses, maintenance, etc.)			93
Other Related Voting & Voter Registration System Costs (e.g., contractual services)			47
Training Services (reduced level of contractor usage due to in-house development of training materials and assistance with training)			(30)
Current Diebold Voting System Costs (support and maintenance)			(84)
Other Changes			11
Total:			\$1,823

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POTENTIAL BUDGET REDUCTIONS:

This analysis identifies a total of \$886,647 in potential budget reductions, which represents 14.7% of the Board's proposed FY 2016 General Fund budget. From FY 2010 through FY 2014, the Board ended the fiscal year with a minimum of \$400,000 in unexpended funds. In FY 2015, the Office of Budget and Finance estimates that the Board will fully expend its appropriation, in part because the FY 2015 budget did not anticipate commencement of lease payments for the new voting system, which became known in December 2014 (after budget adoption).



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1. Decrease Professional Services (0301) \$791,628

The proposed FY 2016 budget includes \$3,521,032 for professional services, including \$2,719,942 for the new voting system (equipment lease and related costs) and the voter registration system (system upgrades, etc.). According to State law, voting system costs are to be split between the State (50%) and the local boards of elections (50%), with each county's cost share based on its percentage of the voting-age population relative to the total voting-age population in Maryland (14.08% for Baltimore County). A comparison of the State Board of Elections' (SBE) FY 2016 county billing schedules, which reflect annual costs for the new voting system, to a County budget justification schedule provided by the Office of Budget and Finance (OBF), disclosed that certain costs are double-budgeted in the proposed FY 2016 budget and other costs are not applicable for FY 2016. This over-budgeting resulted from OBF's reliance on two SBE supplemental FY 2016 budget requests, one of which replaced the other and then was reduced significantly due to a decision by the State Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to finance the bulk of costs through a capital lease.

The potential reduction to this line item would eliminate:

- Duplicate funding for ballots (\$93,599) and printers (\$268,150);
- Funds not needed for servers (\$4,952) and system support services (\$41,257), since such costs will be funded by the State in FY 2015; and
- A portion of funding for carts (\$46,035), voting booths (\$68,266) and printers (\$269,369), since the bulk of these costs will be financed through the State Treasurer's Office.

The potential reduction would maintain:

- Sufficient funding of \$10,000 to cover FY 2016 interest costs related to the financed equipment (carts, voting booths, and printers);
- Full funding according to SBE's revised billing schedule for preprinted and blank ballots (\$47,942), thumb drives (\$54,554), and privacy sleeves (\$2,999); and
- Full funding of all costs approved as part of the SBE's initial budget request (\$1,812,819).

This potential reduction would align the County's FY 2016 budget to the State's revised FY 2016 spending plan.

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2. Reduce Service Contracts (0318)

\$82,019

The proposed FY 2016 budget includes \$1,113,920 for service contracts, including \$1,109,920 in salaries and overtime for 26 State employees. This budget amount assumes projected turnover savings totaling \$15,000, or 1.4% of salaries. There is currently 1 vacant State Data Specialist position (vacant as of April 1, 2014), remaining from 5 vacant positions noted on the Board's organization chart dated January 20, 2015. The Board generally experiences turnover in its 12 State Data Specialist positions throughout the year, and frequently at least one of these positions is vacant at year-end. The Board advised that it plans to fill the current vacancy within the next few months. However, an analysis of actual spending over the past four years indicates that this line item has been over-budgeted, with actual expenditures averaging 92.6% of the budget. Accordingly, this potential reduction reduces funding for this line item to \$1,031,901 based on the 4-year average spending as a percentage of the budget amount. This potential reduction provides for an increase of more than \$19,000 over the FY 2015 projected expenditure of \$1,012,836.

Schedule of Historical Spending - Service Contracts				
Fiscal Year	Budget/ Request	Actual/ Estimated/ Reduced Amount	% of Budg/Req.	Over/(Under) Appropriation/ Reduction
2012	\$1,026,707	\$977,060	95.2%	(\$49,647)
2013	\$1,003,009	\$920,261	91.8%	(\$82,748)
2014	\$997,652	\$880,110	88.2%	(\$117,542)
2015	\$1,064,161	\$1,012,836 ⁽¹⁾	95.2%	(\$51,325)
Average	\$1,022,882	\$947,567	92.6%	(\$75,316)
2016	\$1,113,920	\$1,031,901 ⁽²⁾	92.6%	(\$82,019)
<p>Notes:</p> <p>⁽¹⁾ Office of Budget and Finance's projection.</p> <p>⁽²⁾ Based on the 4-year average of actual/estimated spending as a percentage of budget amount. Note that the Board continually has turnover within the Data Specialist positions, which historically are primarily responsible for these savings.</p>				

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3. Decrease Reproduction (0531) – Budgeting Error \$13,000

The proposed FY 2016 budget includes \$156,000 for reproduction, including costs for in-house printing of election judge manuals, letterhead, and confirmation cards, outside printing, and mailing of specimen ballots and voter notification cards. However, the Board of Elections' calculation contained a mathematical error totaling \$13,000. This error resulted in \$13,000 being budgeted unintentionally for FY 2016.

SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM/POLICY INITIATIVES AND/OR CHANGES

4. New Voting System \$2.7 million

The FY 2016 proposed budget includes \$2.7 million for all costs related to a new voting system with a voter-verifiable paper record, as mandated by the General Assembly in 2007. On December 17, 2014, the State Board of Public Works approved a \$28.1 million contract with Election Systems & Software, Inc. (ES&S) to lease an innovative and secure paper ballot scanning and vote tabulation system. The system will be leased from January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2017, with two 2-year renewal options. The cost of the new voting system will be split between the State (50%) and the local boards of elections (50%), with each county's share of the cost based on its percentage of the voting age population relative to the total voting age population in Maryland (14.08% for Baltimore County). Total costs for the new system through FY 2021 currently approximate \$56.9 million.

The new voting system will replace the current Diebold touch-screen voting system that has been used by the County since CY 2004, and it will be in place for the 2016 presidential primary election (April 26, 2016).

The contract with ES&S covers the delivery, installation, implementation, support and maintenance of the hardware, software, and equipment associated with precinct-based scanning devices, ballot marking devices, secure ballot box receptacles, high-speed scanning devices, and a voting system election management system. The State Board of Elections will separately

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procure other items related to the new voting system, such as voting booths, carts, ballot printing, and ballot-on-demand printers.

During early voting, all voters will use the new touchscreen ballot marking devices similar to the current touchscreens that have been used for a decade. These devices will print voters' selections on a paper ballot card, which the voters will then review and insert into an optical scanner and tabulator device. The ballots will automatically drop into a secure ballot box.

On Election Day, some voters, including those with disabilities, will use the touchscreen ballot marking devices to mark and print their ballots; however, the majority of voters will mark pre-printed paper ballots by hand due to limited availability of the touchscreen ballot marking devices. All voters will review their marked paper ballots (i.e., ballot card or ballot) and insert them into an optical scanner. The ballots will automatically drop into the secure ballot box.

The Board advised that paper sleeves to cover the ballots from the voting booth to the optical scanner will be offered to all voters.

The touchscreen ballot marking devices are necessary during early voting to simplify the process of making all ballot styles for a particular county (or Baltimore City) available at each early voting center within the county, since as many as 110 different ballot styles need to be available to voters. This would not be workable with pre-printed paper ballots. However, on Election Day when most polling places only need one or two ballot styles, using pre-printed paper ballots is practical and cost effective.

Since a contract for key components of the system was not in place until mid-year (December 2014), the County will make only 2 lease payments with a combined total of \$160,080 for FY 2015; these costs were not included in the FY 2015 proposed budget. The proposed FY 2016 budget includes approximately \$324,000 for the County's cost of the new system equipment.

The Board advised that the State Board of Elections anticipates selling the current Diebold voting system components. Since the system was purchased primarily with federal grant funds (under the Help America Vote Act (HOVA)), with limited funds from local jurisdictions, any funds from the sale will be returned to the federal government.

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According to a recent study by the Schaefer Center for Public Policy ("Wait Time Observations from the Maryland 2014 General Election" report), the 2016 presidential election cycle will present significant challenges to the State and local boards of elections in administering the election and managing the election process at the early voting and precinct polling locations. Specifically, voter turnout for the 2016 presidential general election is likely to exceed 75% of registered voters which will strain the boards' resources in processing voters and increase the wait times. Additionally, deployment of the new voting system will require new election administration rules and procedures, revised and enhanced election judge training, and extensive voter education efforts. The Board also advised that due to the change to a paper-based system, additional types and numbers of election judges will be needed to manage the election process.

The Board should be prepared to discuss:

- ***Plans for educating voters about the new voting system; and***
- ***Methods to ensure the confidentiality of voter choices and security of voter ballots.***

5. Office Relocation

The Board of Elections' main office relocation from Bloomsbury Avenue in Catonsville to Gilroy Road in Hunt Valley has been delayed from February 2015 to September 2015. The County recently conveyed (April 6, 2015 Council Meeting) the Bloomsbury Avenue property, which was formerly owned by Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) and known as Catonsville Junior High School, back to BCPS. As a result of these circumstances, Board staff will continue to occupy the building while BCPS commences construction, which is expected to occur in early June 2015.

The Board advised that the construction will affect operations, as parking will be limited and the reception area and handicap entrances will need to be relocated; however, the public will still have access to the Board's offices during construction. The Board also advised that it will no longer have use of the first and second floors once construction begins, which is where voting equipment and supplies are stored. Since renovations at the new location in Hunt Valley have not yet begun, equipment and supplies will need to be moved to a temporary warehouse location.

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The new location will allow all Board staff to be located on a single floor and will provide on-site warehouse space. However, due to space constraints, the Board will not be able to provide on-site election judge training. Instead, the Board will continue to utilize its three existing training sites (Oregon Ridge Park Lodge in Cockeysville, the Sollers Point Multi-Purpose Center in Dundalk, and the Back River Community Center in Essex) and two newly added training sites (Perry Hall and Owings Mills Libraries).

The Board should be prepared to discuss:

- ***Reasons for the relocation delay;***
- ***Associated costs and funding sources for storing the equipment and supplies in the interim; and***
- ***The effect of the school system's Bloomsbury facility construction activities on the Board's interaction with the public.***

OTHER ISSUES:

6. Voter Registration and Turnout

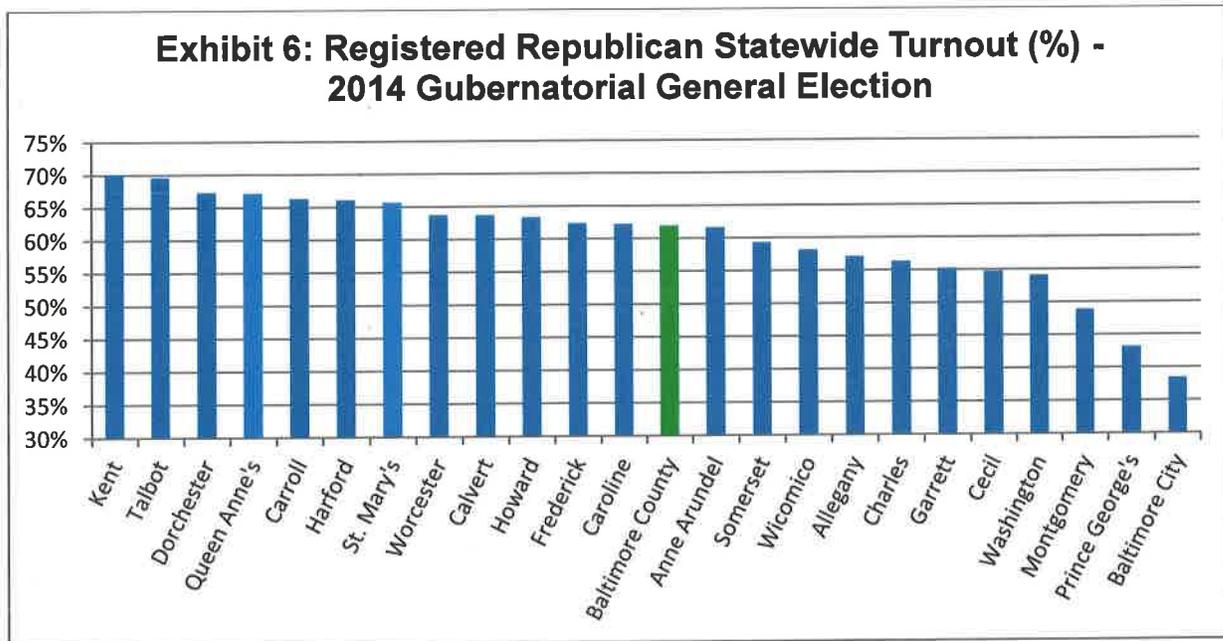
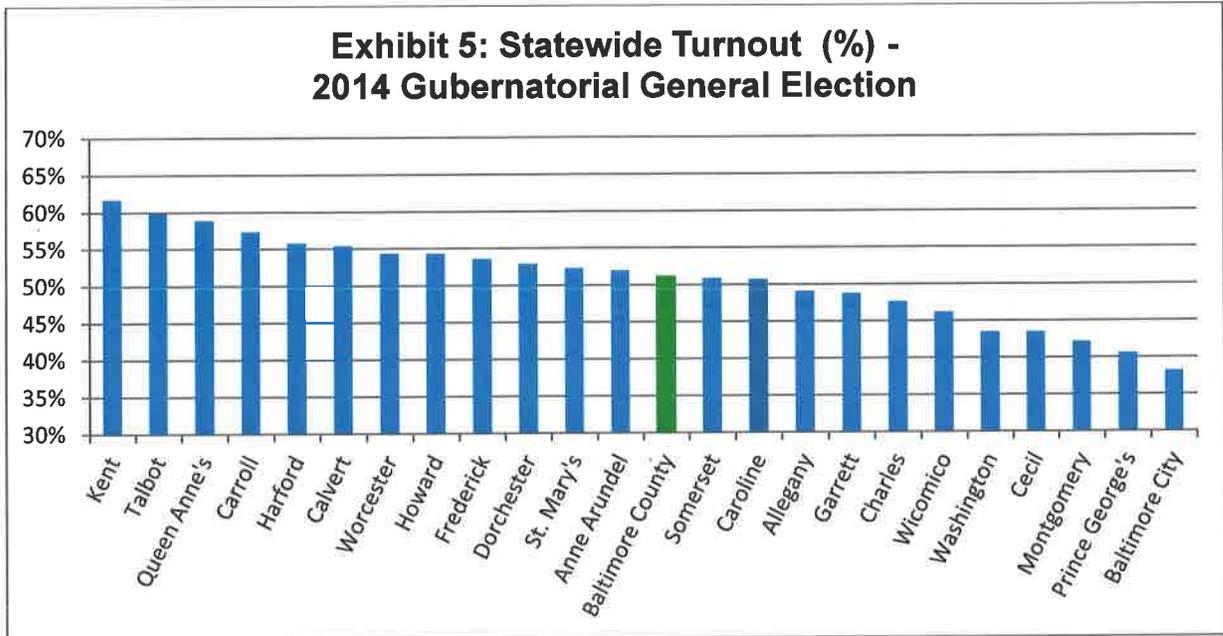
The Board's FY 2016 Managing for Results plan includes voter outreach goals to increase the number of registered voters and to increase voter turnout. The Board reported that 80% of eligible County residents are registered to vote and that it continually strives to increase the percentage of registered voter turnout to 100%.

Per the "Wait Time Observations from the Maryland 2014 General Election" report (dated January 15, 2015 and issued by the Schaefer Center for Public Policy), only 47.1% of registered voters turned out to vote in the 2014 Maryland gubernatorial general election. This was the lowest percentage of turnout for a gubernatorial general election reported since complete data has been available and reported, with the previous low at 54.3% in 1986.

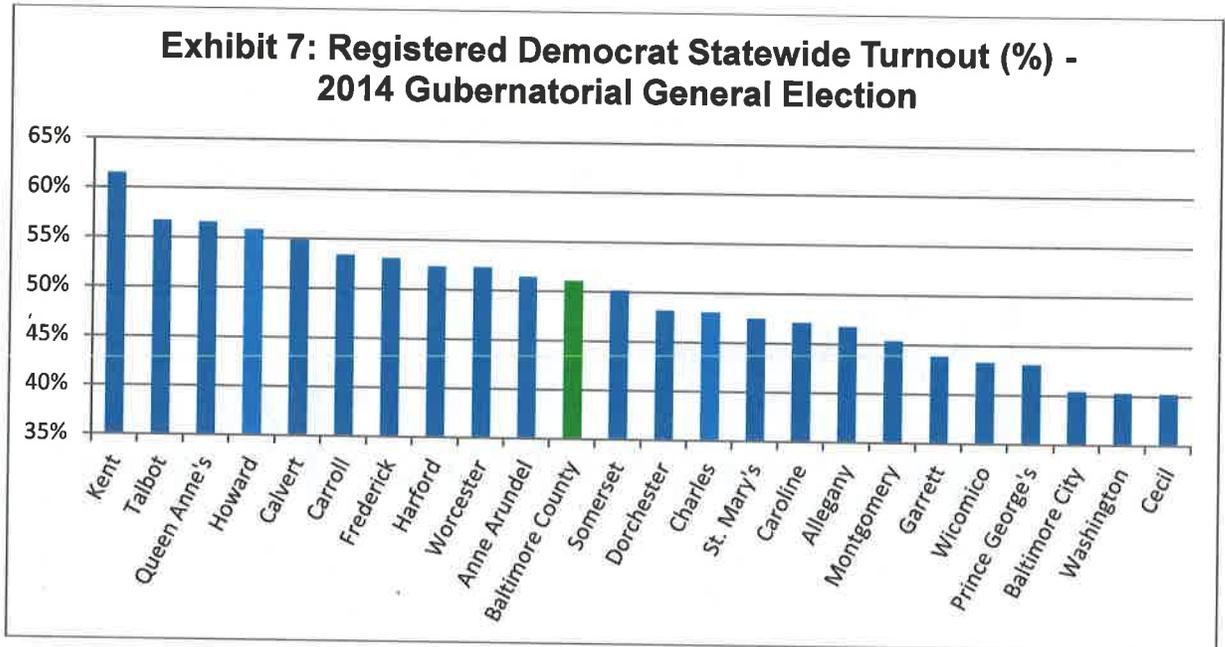
Based on data published by the State Board of Elections, the following charts (Exhibits 5-7) reflect voter turnout among the 24 Maryland jurisdictions for the 2014 gubernatorial general election. Baltimore County ranked 13th for voter turnout (51.1%), 13th for Republican voter

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turnout (61.9%), and 11th for Democratic voter turnout (51.0%).

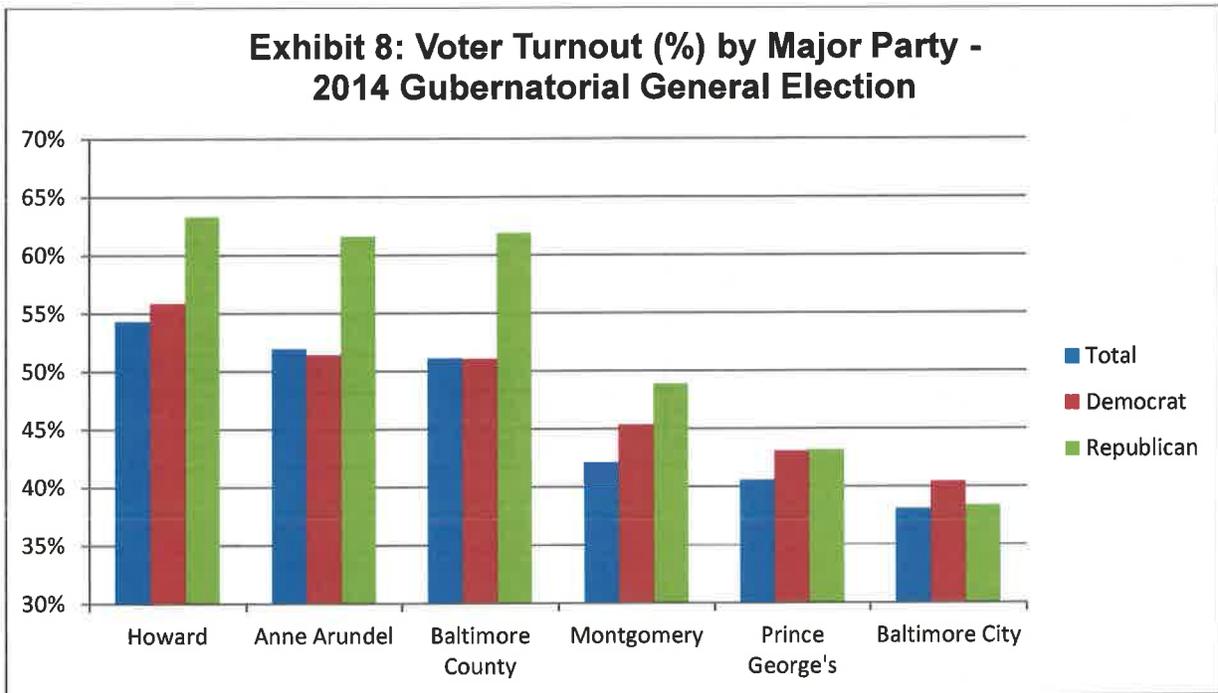


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The following chart (Exhibit 8) reflects voter turnout by major party among the six jurisdictions with the largest number of eligible voters; Baltimore County ranked 3rd.



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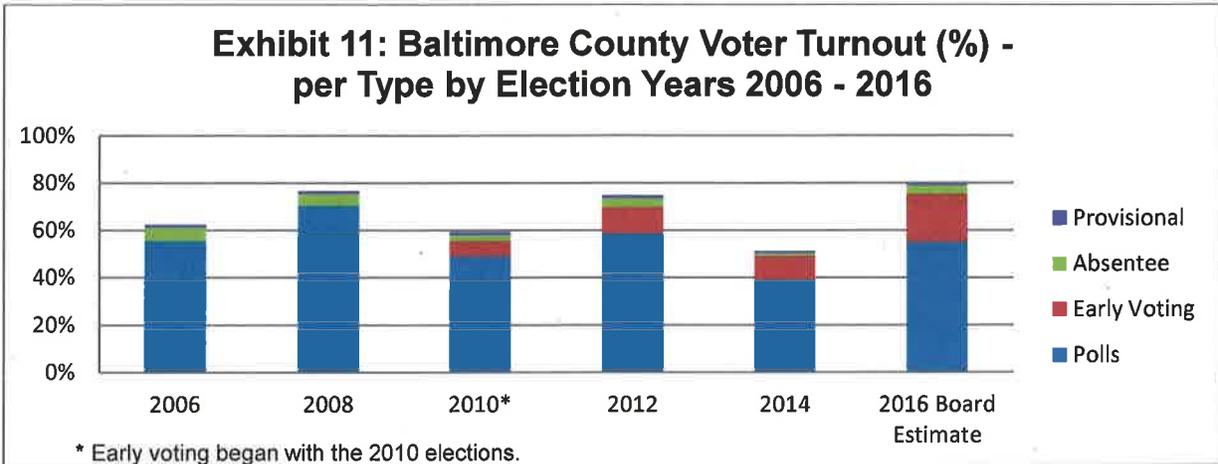
The following charts (Exhibit 9 and 10) reflect early voter turnout by Councilmanic District for the 2014 gubernatorial primary (June, 24, 2014) and general (November 4, 2014) elections. Voter turnout more than doubled both in total and for each Councilmanic District from the primary to the general election.

Exhibit 9											
Early Voting Turnout - Primary Election (By Councilmanic District) - June 24, 2014											
Councilmanic District	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Total Early Voters	Eligible Actives	% Eligible Actives
1	389	352	161	156	443	428	536	668	3,133	55,899.00	5.6%
2	436	487	234	203	513	504	547	747	3,671	64,042.00	5.7%
3	298	258	118	95	241	312	427	419	2,168	65,753.00	3.3%
4	948	694	297	262	871	831	937	1,221	6,061	63,954.00	9.5%
5	426	376	178	146	459	455	490	673	3,203	60,782.00	5.3%
6	246	211	81	64	260	271	284	363	1,780	60,244.00	3.0%
7	400	319	127	99	269	301	308	446	2,269	55,388.00	4.1%

Exhibit 10											
Early Voting Turnout - General Election (By Councilmanic District) - November 24, 2014											
Councilmanic District	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Total	Eligible Actives	% Eligible Actives
1	914	904	406	319	973	931	1,109	1,434	6,990	69,633.00	10.0%
2	1,004	1,028	525	399	1,067	1,052	1,180	1,484	7,739	77,301.00	11.1%
3	860	759	323	252	840	883	959	1,313	6,189	81,826.00	8.9%
4	1,659	1,488	641	483	1,622	1,647	1,656	2,394	11,590	73,902.00	16.6%
5	1,121	1,009	502	472	1,167	1,243	1,267	1,702	8,483	75,414.00	12.2%
6	683	567	279	192	628	663	735	918	4,665	74,149.00	6.7%
7	972	860	389	299	791	767	837	1,243	6,158	68,905.00	8.8%

Although voter turnout was 75.4% for the 2012 presidential general election, the Board expects it will increase for the 2016 presidential general election (November 8, 2016), as noted in the chart below (Exhibit 11), due to the scheduled senatorial races (new 6-year term). The Board also advised the presidential elections historically have a much higher voter turnout than gubernatorial elections.

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The Board should be prepared to discuss:

- ***Expected voter turnout for the 2016 presidential primary and general elections; and***
- ***Anticipated initiatives to be undertaken to increase voter turnout, including strategies used by jurisdictions with higher voter turnouts.***

7. Election Judge Recruitment, Retention and Training

The proposed FY 2016 budget includes \$734,373 to hire and train election judges, including \$535,573 for 2,509 election judges for the presidential primary election (440 chief judges, 440 provisional judges, and 1,629 other judges) and \$168,800 for 120 election judges for early voting (16 chief judges, 16 provisional judges, and 120 other judges). The Board advised that it is considering the re-titling of certain assistant judge positions to reflect the specific duties of each position (e.g., poll book judge, voting unit judge, greeter).

Baltimore County presently compensates election judges at the rate of \$225 per day for chief judges and \$162.50 for provisional and assistant judges (implemented July 1, 2007), as well as \$40 to attend training (i.e., 3 hour training class). The Board advised that it would like to see the daily pay rate increased for election judges, as it has been losing judges to other jurisdictions paying higher rates (e.g., Prince George's, Queen Anne's and Caroline counties pay a rate of \$300 per day for chief judges with Prince George's County also paying \$50 for training) and because election judges work long hours (e.g., 12-14 hours). The Board would also like to

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increase the pay for election judges to attend the training class as the Board expects to increase the length of the class by 1 hour, from 3 to 4 hours. The Board further advised that in 2014, 450 judges did not show up to work on Election Day.

A comparison of Baltimore County's salary rates to the rates paid by the other 23 Maryland jurisdictions (based on the most recent survey conducted by the Board of Elections in April 2013) follows:

County	Chief Judge	Book/Unit Judge	Technical/ Provisional Judge	Training	Closing	Supply Pick Up	Stand-By	Personal Cell Phone Use	Mileage
Talbot	\$ 325.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 25.00					
Caroline	300.00	225.00	225.00	25.00			\$ 25.00		
Prince George's	300.00	200.00	200.00	50.00					
Queen Anne's	300.00	200.00	200.00	25.00					
Worcester	275.00	195.00	165.00	50.00		\$ 25.00			
Cecil	250.00	150.00	150.00	25.00					
Harford	250.00	175.00	175.00	75.00		50.00			
Wicomico	240.00	195.00	195.00	30.00			100.00		
Baltimore County	225.00	162.50	225.00	40.00					
Dorchester	225.00	175.00	175.00	25.00			50.00	\$ 10.00	
Somerset	225.00	200.00	175.00	30.00		25.00			
Howard	220.00	165.00	165.00	Chiefs \$45, Others \$30					
Anne Arundel	200.00	150.00	150.00	Chiefs \$50, Others \$25					
Baltimore City	200.00	150.00	400.00	20.00					
Carroll	200.00	150.00	165.00	25.00					
Garrett	200.00	125.00	125.00	30.00					
Kent	200.00	175.00	175.00	30.00		30.00			
Montgomery	200.00	150.00		Chiefs \$50, Others \$30	\$ 75.00				
Washington	200.00	150.00	150.00	25.00		chiefs paid mileage			when working out of precinct
Allegany	175.00	150.00	150.00	0.00					
Calvert	150.00	125.00	125.00	25.00					
Frederick	150.00	125.00	125.00	Chiefs \$50, Others \$35					
St. Mary's	150.00	125.00	125.00	30.00		30.00			
Charles	140.00	125.00	140.00	25.00		30.00			

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The Board anticipates that 75% of election judges will return for the 2016 presidential primary election; however, it continually has difficulty recruiting Republican judges since the majority of registered voters in the County are Democrats. In order to recruit additional election judges and to mitigate election judge travel time, the Board added the Perry Hall and Owings Mills libraries as training sites during FY 2015.

The Board also advised that while it has been able to reduce training costs with the in-house development of a training program, contracted training services are still needed to teach classes. The proposed FY 2016 budget includes \$30,000 for this purpose (a decrease of \$30,000 from the FY 2015 appropriation totaling \$60,000).

The Board should be prepared to discuss:

- ***Any changes in election judge responsibilities;***
- ***The upcoming changes to position titles and compensation rates; and***
- ***The status of plans for obtaining training services.***

8. Early Voting

The proposed FY 2016 budget includes approximately \$410,000 for early voting costs, including \$344,000 for election judges' salaries and training and \$66,000 for election-related costs (e.g., testing of voting units and poll books, advertising and mailings, supplies, and equipment transportation). During the 2009 legislative session, the General Assembly enacted legislation that established early voting requirements and mandated the implementation of early voting beginning with the 2010 elections. Accordingly, the County began providing early voting for the 2010 gubernatorial elections. Early voter turnout statistics for the 2010 and 2014 elections are as follows:

	Primary	General
2010 (Gubernatorial)	3.1%	6.3%
2012 (Presidential)	2.9%	11.1%
2014 (Gubernatorial)	5.2%	9.9%

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During the 2013 legislative session, the General Assembly enacted legislation that improved access to voting and required the County to establish three additional early voting centers (an increase from five to eight) and to extend the number of early voting days by two, from six to eight days. Accordingly, the County secured three additional early voting sites. During FY 2015, the County found alternate locations for three of the sites and added a ninth site; the nine sites include:

- **Arbutus Community Center (replaces Bloomsbury Community Center);**
- Randallstown Community Center;
- Reisterstown Senior Center - Hannah More Campus;
- **Woodlawn Community Center (new for FY 2016);**
- Center for MD Agriculture & Farm Park (in Hunt Valley);
- Towson University - Administration Building;
- Honeygo Run Community Center;
- **Sollers Point Multipurpose Center (replaces North Point Library); and**
- **Victory Villa Community Center (replaces Back River Community Center).**

The Board advised that the Woodlawn Community Center was added as a ninth site to reduce the wait time at the Randallstown Community Center. Per the "Wait Time Observations from the Maryland 2014 General Election" report (dated January 15, 2015 and issued by the Schaefer Center for Public Policy), the Randallstown Community Center was the early voting center that handled the most voters in the 2014 gubernatorial general election early voting period in the state (11,489 voters). This Center also had the second largest number of people in line (156) at the close of the last day of early voting in the state.

Early voting for the 2016 presidential primary election will be held April 15, 2016 through April 22, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Early voting for the 2016 presidential general election on November 8, 2016 will be held October 27, 2016 through November 3, 2016, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Board expects a voter turnout of 4% and 40% for the 2016 primary and general early voting options, respectively. The Board advised that the number of individuals participating in early voting is expected to increase over time, especially when same-day voter registration becomes effective on January 1, 2016. The Board advised that it cannot provide information

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regarding the potential impact of same-day voter registration on operations, including any associated fiscal impact, until it receives procedural guidance from the State Board of Elections.

The Board should be prepared to discuss:

- ***The cost-benefit of selected replacement sites for established early voting center locations, and the ways in which the Board notifies the public about new locations;***
- ***Any plans to allocate additional resources to the Randallstown Community Center to alleviate voter wait time there; and***
- ***Likely challenges and costs associated with implementing same-day voter registration during early voting.***

9. Polling Places and Wait Times

In conjunction with Councilmanic boundary redistricting that was effective for the 2014 gubernatorial primary election (June 24, 2014), the Board created several dual precincts at shared voting sites (i.e., buildings). This consolidation reduced the number of polling sites by 16, from 236 to 220. Of the 220 polling sites, 29 sites (all are schools) lack air conditioning (down from 53 of 236 sites in FY 2015); for these polling sites, the Board provides fans. However, as a result of changing to a new paper-based voting system in FY 2016 (effective with the presidential primary election on April 26, 2016) and to better serve voters, the Board advised that some of the previous dual precincts that were combined will be separated for the next election. The Board advised that the separation of dual precincts will also result in the need for additional election judges.

During the 2010 and 2012 primary and general elections, concerns were raised regarding the wait times experienced by voters throughout the State. According to the Survey of the Performance of American Elections (SPAEE), long delays were not widespread across the country but were limited to certain states and localities, including Maryland. Nationally, the average wait time to vote in 2012 was 14 minutes, while voters in Maryland waited 29 minutes on average. According to a recent study by the Schaefer Center for Public Policy ("Wait Time Observations from the Maryland 2014 General Election" report), the most common bottleneck in the 2012 general election was the time the voter spent at the touchscreen voting unit, which can be affected by various factors including the length of the ballot, the preparedness of the voter,

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familiarity with the voting equipment, etc.

The Schaefer study also noted that few voters experienced wait times in excess of thirty minutes during the 2014 gubernatorial general election. These increased waits were typically due to unusual spikes in near simultaneous arrivals of voters and equipment failures which caused a voting machine to be taken out of service.

The study also noted that the introduction of a new voting system will pose substantial challenges for managing wait times for voters as it should be anticipated that there will be significant more voters casting ballots in the 2016 presidential general election than there were in the 2014 gubernatorial general election. Also, the implementation of a new voting system will require new procedures, requiring enhanced judge training and voter education, as well as a review of the capacity and suitability of precinct polling sites. Additionally, the new process for same-day voter registration will complicate the administration of elections and has the potential to impact voter wait times. Finally, the extent of the ballot length could adversely affect the time it takes to vote, thereby increasing voter wait times.

The Board advised that election judges are trained on how to control lines and that each polling site employs a greeter judge who surveys lines in order to ensure that voters are at the correct polling site, to keep lines to a minimum, etc.

The Board should be prepared to discuss:

- ***Plans to mitigate long wait times, including allocating additional resources to provide voter assistance, efforts to improve voter preparation through voter outreach, etc.; and***
- ***Plans to improve voter perceptions and improve the voter experience, such as updating voters on expected wait times, providing explanations for delays, creating a single line leading to the check-in table, etc.***

BALTIMORE COUNTY
 FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET ANALYSIS

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APPROPRIATION DETAIL

	<u>FY 2014 ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY 2015 APPROP</u>	<u>FY 2016 REQUEST</u>	<u>NET CHANGE</u>	
				<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>%</u>
0501 Register Voters/ Conduct Elections	<u>\$3,193,004</u>	<u>\$4,226,393</u>	<u>\$ 6,049,706</u>	<u>\$ 1,823,313</u>	<u>43.1%</u>

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FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET ANALYSIS

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PERSONNEL DETAIL

	FY 2014 ACTUAL		FY 2015 APPROP		FY 2016 REQUEST		NET CHANGE	
	FULL	PART	FULL	PART	FULL	PART	FULL	PART
	APPROP		RECOMM		RECOMM		CHANGE	
	Full	Part	Full	Part	Full	Part	Full	Part
0501 Register Voters/ Conduct Elections	<u>26</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>