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AT A GLANCE

- 5.4 million filings from businesses, Uniform Commercial Code (UCC), Tax Liens, Effective Financing Statement (EFS) and notaries in database
- 60,000 new business filings in CY2015
- 3.125 million registered voters in Statewide Voter Registration System (79% of all eligible voters)
- Support local election officials in conducting:
 - 2,000 township elections annually
 - 900 city elections (2 year cycle)
 - 300 school district elections (2 year cycle)
 - 200 other elections (2 year cycle)
- 2,164 participants currently enrolled in the Safe at Home address confidentiality program, and over 5,500 individuals served by the program since inception
- Contribute nearly \$21 million (net) to the General Fund each biennium

PURPOSE

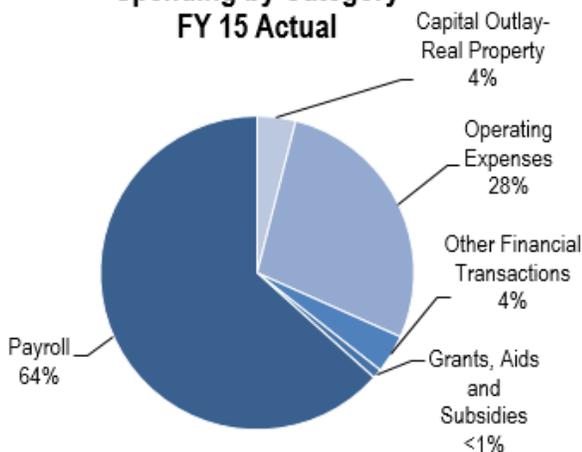
The Office of the Secretary of State is a constitutional office headed by the independently-elected Secretary of State. As the chief election official in Minnesota, the Secretary of State oversees the administration of elections, and promotes voting and civic engagement. The Secretary of State also facilitates commerce, maintains the records of the state, and provides key services for those who fear for their safety through administering the Safe at Home address confidentiality program. The Secretary of State serves on the State Board of Investment, the Executive Council, and other specified boards.

The Secretary of State partners with local election officials to conduct elections that are fair, accurate, secure, and transparent, thereby providing **efficient and accountable government services**. By providing quality customer service and making it easy to search records of active businesses in Minnesota, the Secretary of State helps promote **a thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities**. The Office has made it easier

for citizens and businesses to interact with the office by developing online services for voters, businesses, and those interested in Open Appointments, which ensures **sustainable outcomes to safely move information**. The Safe at Home address confidentiality program provides a critical service to survivors of domestic violence and others who fear for their safety, which in turn helps promote **strong and stable families and communities** and works to ensure that **people in Minnesota are safe**.

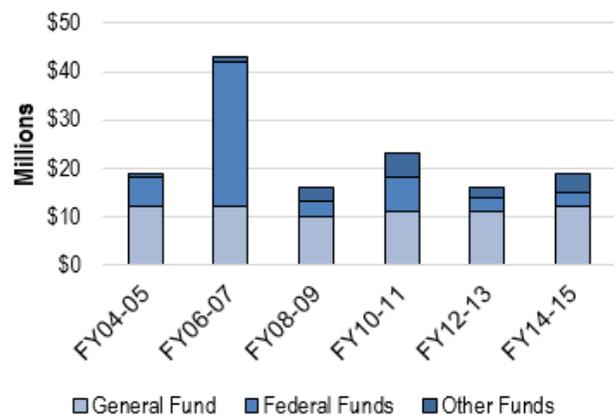
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 15 Actual**



Source: SWIFT

Historical Spending



Source: SWIFT

The Office of the Secretary of State has a biennial budget of approximately \$20 million. The General Fund appropriation is supplemented by approximately \$3.5 million per fiscal year in dedicated receipts. The Office projects it will collect \$34 million in fees during the 2018 - 2019 biennium that will be deposited into the General Fund.

STRATEGIES

The core functions of the Office are:

- Administer and oversee the statewide election system
- Safeguard, record, and retrieve government documents
- File business documents, record liens, and retrieve both on demand
- Issue notary public commissions
- Run the State of Minnesota's Open Appointments process
- Administer Safe at Home, Minnesota's address confidentiality program

The Office partners with local election officials at the county, city, school district, and township levels to conduct elections in the state. The Office provides the backbone of the elections system by developing and maintaining key election databases, specifically the Statewide Voter Registration System, which includes records for all of the state's 3.1 million registered voters and the Election Reporting System, through which vote totals are reported. The Office provides training and support to local election officials and has developed online tools, including online voter registration, online absentee ballot requests, and online lookup tools, to provide convenience to voters and cost savings to local election officials. The Office also engages in extensive efforts to provide information to Minnesotans about registration and voting by working with businesses, non-profits, service organizations, schools, and others throughout the state.

Similarly, the Office is in the midst of a multi-year project to allow as many business filings as possible to be made online in real time, providing more efficient and responsive service to our customers. Many new business filings went online beginning in 2011. Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) filings were fully online as of December of 2014. Of course, any customer who wishes can still file business and UCC documents in person or by mail and receive the effective, efficient, in-person service for which the Office is known.

The Safe at Home address confidentiality program provides those who fear for their safety, especially survivors of domestic violence and stalking, with a way to go about their daily lives without having to disclose their home address. The Office provides a mail-forwarding service to more than 2,164 participants (encompassing more than 940 households and over 100,000 pieces of mail annually), assists them in interactions with businesses or government entities who are unfamiliar with the program, and trains and supports application assistants who are employed by victim service agencies throughout the state. The program has always been the strongest in the country; this position was further solidified when the legislature made it possible for Safe at Home participants to purchase property confidentially. As additional states adopt address confidentiality programs, several states such as Wisconsin and Iowa have looked to Minnesota's program as a model.

RESULTS

The Office measures performance by the indicators set out in the table below. Voters have access to information, facilitating their participation in the political process. Enhanced outreach efforts, increased availability of information, and stronger partnerships with local governments have created a more user-friendly voting system.

- Business transactions in Minnesota are free-flowing and are not delayed by a need to wait for information from the Office. New technologies and wider public access to them have improved the administration of business transactions.
- Families throughout the state are safer and more stable because of the Safe at Home program. The certification of additional victim advocates as application assistants and heightened awareness are driving increased participation in the program.

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Voter turnout in comparable presidential elections	2,921,498	2,950,780	11/4/2008 & 11/6/2012
Quantity	No. of new business filings	55,000	61,000	CY2010 & CY2015
Quantity	No. of business web filings (including annual business renewals and reinstatements)	281,000	346,000	FY2010 & FY2016
	No. of business mail and counter filings (including annual business renewals and reinstatements)	109,000	66,000	
Quantity	No. of UCC/Tax Lien & Central Notification System (CNS) web filings	88,000	181,000	FY2010 & FY2016
Quantity	No. of Safe at Home active participants	287	2,164	6/30/09 & 6/30/16
Quantity	No. of Safe at Home Application Assistants	120	183	12/31/2008 & 12/31/2015
	No. of Counties Served by Application Assistants	57	86	

The following statutes provide the legal authority for the Office of the Secretary of State:

Minnesota Constitution

Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 5, 5A, 5B, 201, 202A, 203B, 204B, 204C, 204D, 206, 211A, 302A, 303, 304A, 308A, 308B, 317A, 319B, 321, 322A, 322B, 323A, 333, 336, 336A.