



Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

Steve Simon

Budget History

The Office collects statutory fees for various services provided. The fees collected for these services contribute over \$37 million to the general fund each biennium. With the Office's biennial budget being roughly \$15 million, the Office generates \$22 million more than it costs.

The Office maintains 96 full-time equivalent positions, down from a 2004 high of 112 staff and consultants, and a more recent 2011 high of 111 staff and consultants.

Protecting Base Budget

Protecting the Office of the Secretary of State's base budget in the FY 2022 -23 biennium is critical to maintaining the existing staffing levels and allowing the Office to continue to provide current services, programs, and information, and do so at the levels of service Minnesotans expect.

If the Office experiences a budget cut, services the Office provides will be impacted. Including:

- Fewer staff resources available to help Minnesota business owners register their business, resulting in a possible decrease of the Office's net contribution of over \$22 million to the General Fund each biennium
- Fewer staff resources available to assist counties, cities, and townships conduct their elections
- Insufficient staff resources in the Safe at Home Program, resulting in reduced capacity to assist those who fear for their safety
- Decreased capacity to safeguard, record, and retrieve government documents in a timely manner

Necessary Reallocation Costs

The Office's Business Service Division and IT Infrastructure Division has been located at the Minnesota State Retirement Systems Building since 2001. In May 2020, MSRS informed the Office that because of its own physical expansion plans it would not be renewing the Office's lease, which is currently scheduled to end June 30, 2021.

Relocation of the Business Services Division and IT Infrastructure Division will likely require significant moving expenses and extensive work to retrofit the new space to meet the needs of the Office and the thousands of member of the public who typically transact business at the public service counter each year. To cover the necessary costs associated with the MSRS decision, the Office is requesting \$500,000.

Additional Budgetary Needs

In addition, the Office is proposing:

- \$220,000 for the Safe at Home Program to accommodate the program's growth, provide enhanced security for the program, and to further develop the technical training and assistance provided to program participants and those who interact with program participants.
- \$200,000 to support a permanent civic engagement and youth outreach program.