

**Representative Jack McFarland**  
**Chair**



**Representative Jerome Zeringue**  
**Vice-Chair**

# **Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Budget Review**

## **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**House Fiscal Division**

**March 4, 2026**

**Budget Analyst: Blair LeBlanc**

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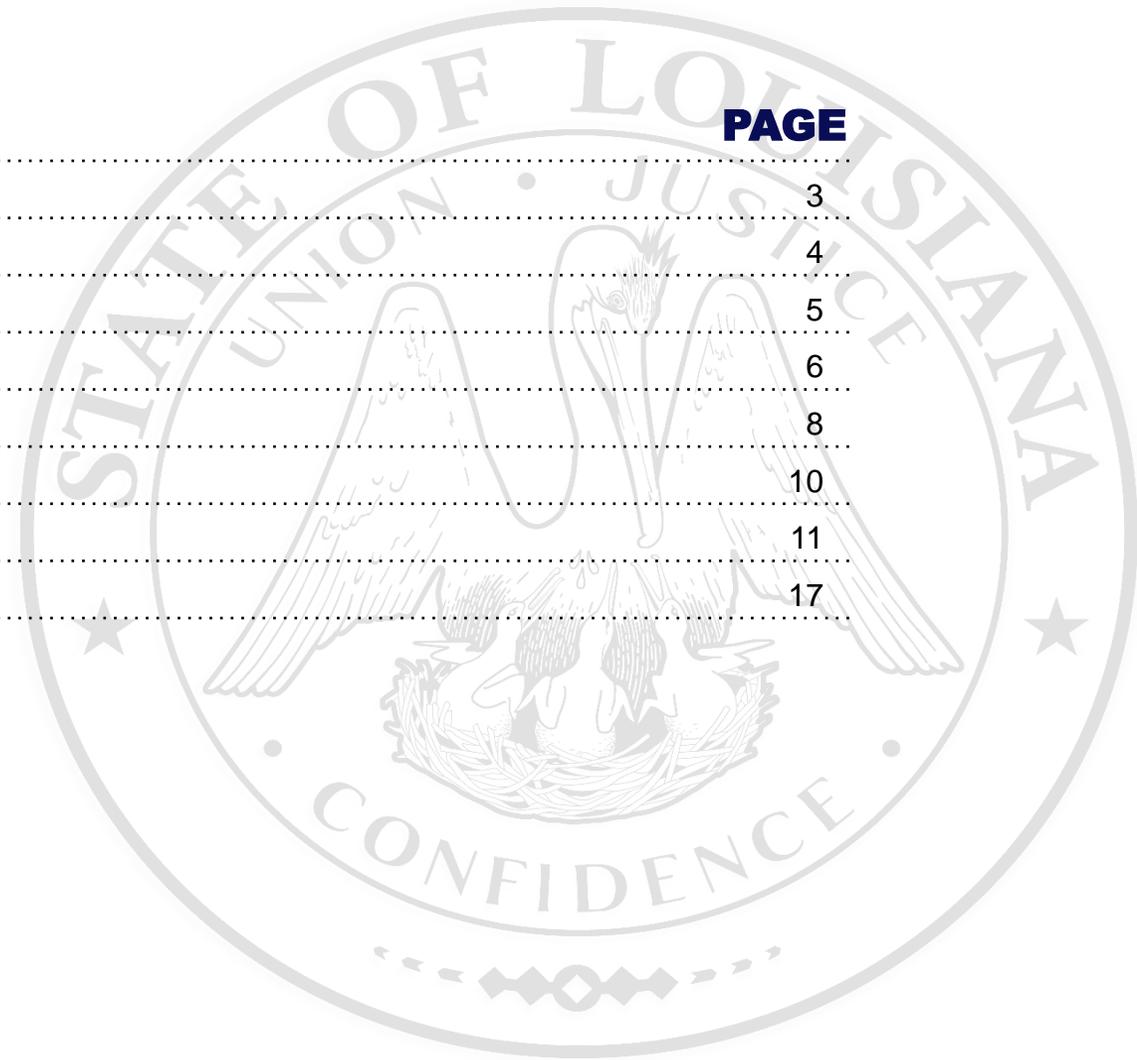
All data and figures were obtained from the governor's Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Executive Budget and Supporting Documents provided by the Office of Planning and Budget within the Division of Administration along with House Bill 1 of the 2026 Regular Session, unless otherwise noted.

<https://www.doa.la.gov/doa/opb/budget-documents/>

## TOPIC

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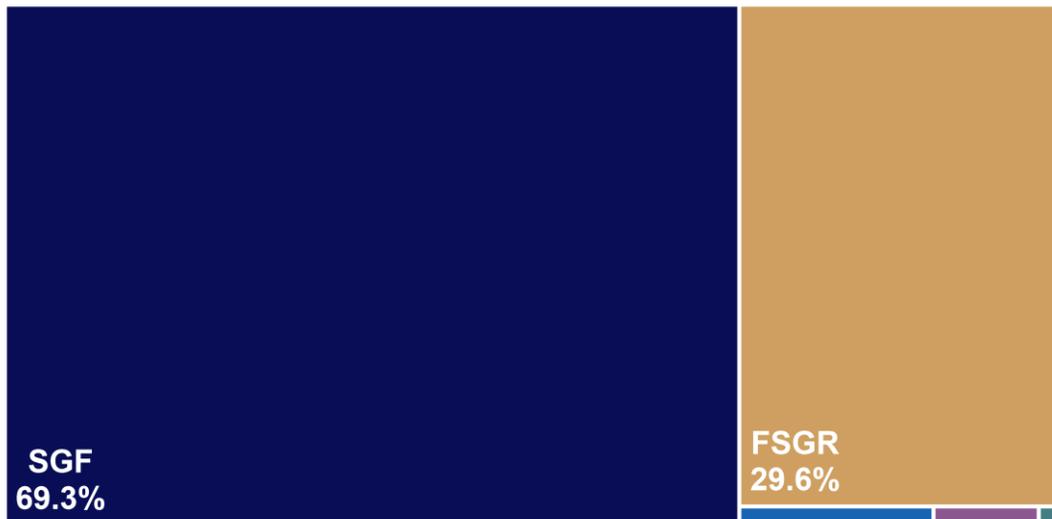
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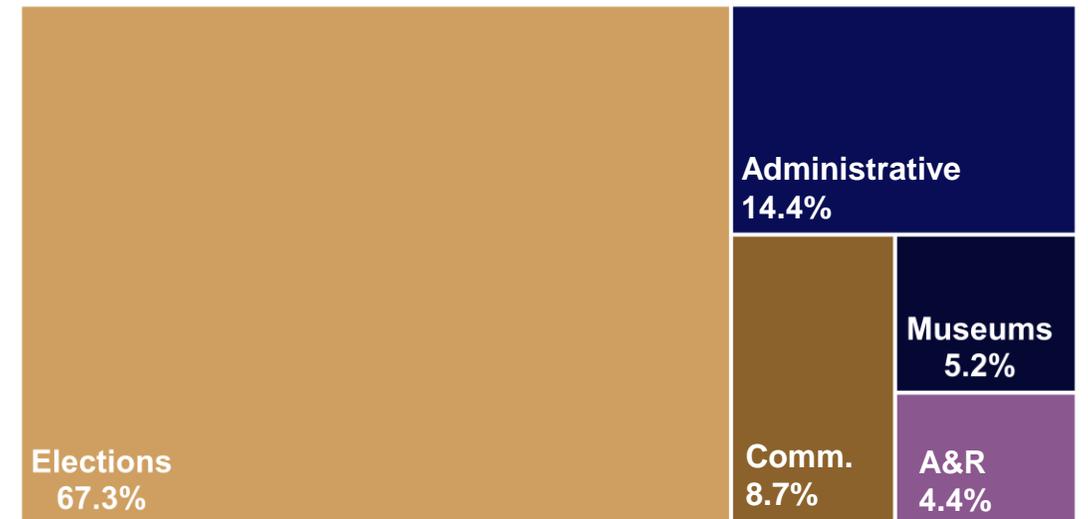
# FY 27 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

## Total Funding = \$128,680,572

Means of Finance		
State General Fund	\$	89,184,361
Interagency Transfers		845,300
Fees & Self-generated		38,080,344
Statutory Dedications		113,078
Federal Funds		457,489
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>128,680,572</b>



Program Funding & Authorized Positions			
		<i>Amount</i>	<i>Positions</i>
Administrative	\$	18,592,026	85
Elections		86,598,965	151
Archives and Records		5,633,841	38
Museum and Other Operations		6,710,554	38
Commercial		11,145,186	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>128,680,572</b>	<b>367</b>



# SOURCES OF FUNDING

<b>State General Fund<sup>8</sup></b>  <b>\$89.2 M</b>	<b>Interagency Transfers</b>  <b>\$845,300</b>	<b>Self-generated Revenue</b>  <b>\$38.1 M</b>	<b>Statutory Dedications</b>  <b>\$113,078</b>	<b>Federal Funds</b>  <b>\$457,489</b>
<p>The chief operating fund of the State recognized by the Revenue Estimating Conference from various taxes, licenses, fees, and other revenue sources except for those identified as other means of financing</p>	<p>Funding is derived from the following transfers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$530,000 from federal grants received via the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (GOHSEP)</li> <li>• \$170,300 from payments from other state and local agencies for the microfilm services that the department provides</li> <li>• \$145,000 from various sales tax dedications</li> </ul>	<p>Revenues derived from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$34.8 M from business filings-annual reports, domestic corporations, foreign corporations, registrations for trademarks or partnerships, providing certificates of good standing, providing copies and certified copies of any requested documents</li> <li>• \$3.2 M from election expense-local government cost recovery</li> <li>• \$84,962 from rentals for events and weddings from the Old State Capitol and other museums</li> </ul>	<p>The Shreveport Riverfront and Convention Center Fund for use at the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum in Shreveport</p>	<p>Electronic Absentee System for Elections (EASE) grant provided by the U.S. Department of Defense as a part of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)</p>

# FUNDING COMPARISON

Means of Finance	FY 25 Actual Expenditures	FY 26 Existing Operating Budget 12/1/25	FY 27 HB1 Budget	Change Existing Operating Budget to HB1		Change Actual Expenditures to HB1	
SGF	\$ 72,448,625	\$ 97,741,543	\$ 89,184,361	\$ (8,557,182)	(8.8%)	\$ 16,735,736	23.1%
IAT	420,962	1,067,400	845,300	(222,100)	(20.8%)	424,338	100.8%
FSGR	35,000,588	37,837,776	38,080,344	242,568	0.6%	3,079,756	8.8%
Stat Ded	3,281,010	113,078	113,078	0	0.0%	(3,167,932)	(96.6%)
Federal	0	457,489	457,489	0	0.0%	457,489	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 111,151,185</b>	<b>\$ 137,217,286</b>	<b>\$ 128,680,572</b>	<b>\$ (8,536,714)</b>	<b>(6.2%)</b>	<b>\$ 17,529,387</b>	<b>15.8%</b>

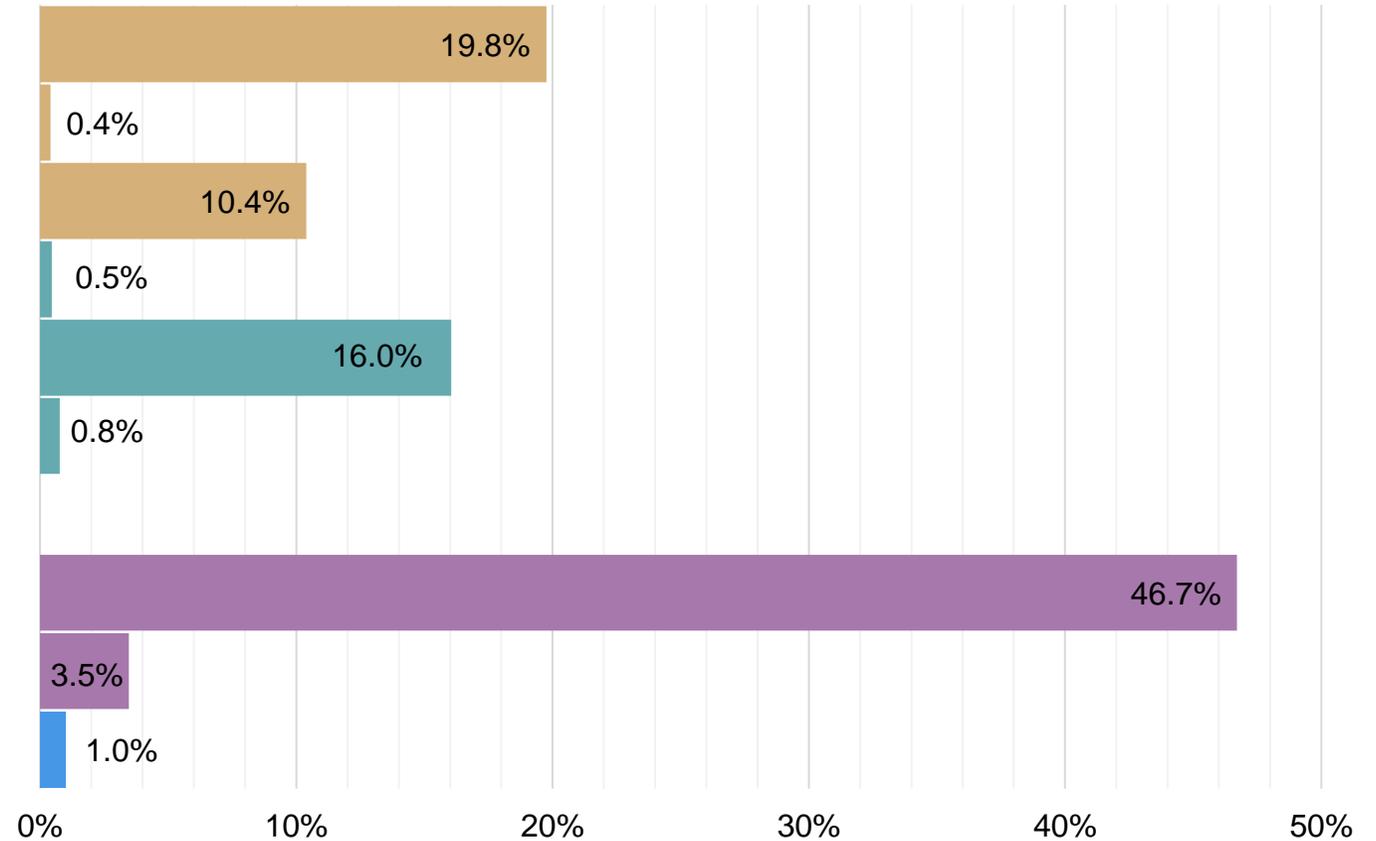
## Significant funding changes compared to the FY 26 Existing Operating Budget

State General Fund	Interagency Transfers	Fees & Self-generated
<p>(\$8.6 M) decrease due to items such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (\$12.8 M) decrease to remove funding for acquisitions and major repairs that are no longer needed in FY 27</li> <li>• (\$7.9 M) decrease to remove funding carried into FY 26 for mailers, litigation fees, and outreach that is no longer needed in FY 27</li> <li>• \$6.3 M increase in the elections program to cover the number of elections in FY 27</li> </ul>	<p>(\$222,100) decrease due to items such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (\$200,000) decrease in transfers received from the Lt. Governor for the America 250 celebration</li> <li>• (\$12,300) decrease to align with projected revenues generated by imaging and preservation/microfilm services</li> </ul>	<p>\$242,568 net increase due to items such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (\$746,292) decrease in funding carried into FY 26 that is no longer needed in FY 27</li> <li>• \$664,834 increase associated with standard statewide adjustments</li> <li>• \$649,808 increase for IT equipment, WIFI infrastructure, and antivirus and cybersecurity detection and response</li> </ul>

# FY 27 EXPENDITURE RECOMMENDATION

**Total Budget = \$128,680,572**

Expenditure Category		
Salaries	\$	25,422,858
Other Compensation		525,694
Related Benefits		13,360,175
Travel		589,341
Operating Services		20,636,870
Supplies		979,521
Professional Services		0
Other Charges		60,105,691
Interagency Transfers		4,451,614
Acquisitions/Repairs		2,608,808
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>128,680,572</b>



# OTHER CHARGES / INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS

## Other Charges

Amount	Description
\$ 53,055,967	Election expenses:Admin and field operations, voting machines, poll commissioners, Registrar of Voters salaries and related benefits,ballot printing,etc
4,634,188	geauzBiz one stop portal & Commercial Online Registration Application (CORA) filings
1,367,000	IT ongoing costs for elections and commercial support
915,457	Digital repository
133,079	Shreveport Riverfront Convention Center and Stadium fund for the LA State Exhibit Museum and the Louisiana State Oil and Gas Museum
<b>\$60,105,691</b>	<b>Total Other Charges</b>

## Interagency Transfers

Amount	Description
\$ 1,264,946	Office of Risk Management
1,737,608	Rent in State-owned Buildings
534,403	Office of Technology Services Fees
434,639	State Printing and Postage Fees
197,776	Civil Service and CPTP fees
100,000	DOTD Directional Signage
35,551	Office of State Procurement (OSP)
31,352	State Treasurer fees
48,129	Legislative Auditor fees
41,611	Uniform Payroll System fees
20,312	Old Governor's Mansion Expenses
4,000	Louisiana Property Assistance Agency
1,287	Fleet Services
<b>\$ 4,451,614</b>	<b>Total Interagency Transfers</b>

# EXPENDITURE COMPARISON

Expenditure Category	FY 25 Actual Expenditures	FY 26 Existing Operating Budget 12/1/25	FY 27 HB1 Budget	Change Existing Operating Budget to HB1		Change Actual Expenditures to HB1	
Salaries	\$ 23,000,073	\$ 24,294,228	\$ 25,422,858	\$ 1,128,630	4.6%	\$ 2,422,785	10.5%
Other Compensation	640,348	525,694	525,694	0	0.0%	(114,654)	(17.9%)
Related Benefits	12,757,287	13,066,443	13,360,175	293,732	2.2%	602,888	4.7%
Travel	291,191	589,341	589,341	0	0.0%	298,150	102.4%
Operating Services	15,040,666	15,815,357	20,636,870	4,821,513	30.5%	5,596,204	37.2%
Supplies	934,786	982,400	979,521	(2,879)	(0.3%)	44,735	4.8%
Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Charges	53,738,586	63,570,577	60,105,691	(3,464,886)	(5.5%)	6,367,105	11.8%
Interagency Transfers	3,731,376	4,429,571	4,451,614	22,043	0.5%	720,238	19.3%
Acquisitions/Repairs	1,016,874	13,943,675	2,608,808	(11,334,867)	(81.3%)	1,591,934	156.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 111,151,187</b>	<b>\$ 137,217,286</b>	<b>\$ 128,680,572</b>	<b>\$ (8,536,714)</b>	<b>(6.2%)</b>	<b>\$ 17,529,385</b>	<b>15.8%</b>

# SIGNIFICANT EXPENDITURE CHANGES

*Compared to the FY 26 Existing Operating Budget*

Personnel Services	Other Charges	Acquisitions/Repairs
<p>\$1.4 M increase due to:</p> <p>Standard statewide adjustments to related benefits, retirement contribution, and group insurance rate changes for active and retired employees</p>	<p><b>(\$3.4 M)</b> net decrease due to items such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6.3 M increase to align projected election expenses with anticipated need</li> <li>• \$4.7 M increase for climate control warehouses, utility costs, waste removal, drinking water, pest control and grounds maintenance in 24 parishes</li> <li>• <b>(\$3.5 M)</b> decrease for outreach regarding new primary elections</li> <li>• <b>(\$2.8 M)</b> decrease for mailers within the Elections Program</li> <li>• <b>(\$1.5 M)</b> decrease in legal and litigation fees in the Administrative Program</li> </ul>	<p><b>(\$11.3 M)</b> net decrease for items such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>(\$12.8 M)</b> to remove funding for acquisition purchases and major repairs budgeted in FY 26 that are no longer needed in FY 27</li> <li>• \$500,000 for a generator at the LA State Exhibit Museum</li> <li>• \$382,500 for replacement of IT equipment including 306 computers, core routers, and various other technology equipment</li> <li>• \$250,000 for wrought iron fence repair at the LA State Exhibit Museum</li> <li>• \$240,000 for exterior painting at the Old Governor’s Mansion</li> <li>• \$137,308 antivirus and cybersecurity detection and response</li> <li>• \$135,000 for replacement of office furniture in the United XII building and election parish warehouses</li> </ul>

# DEPARTMENT CONTACTS



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**Catherine Newsome**

*First Assistant Secretary of State*

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**Shanda Jones**

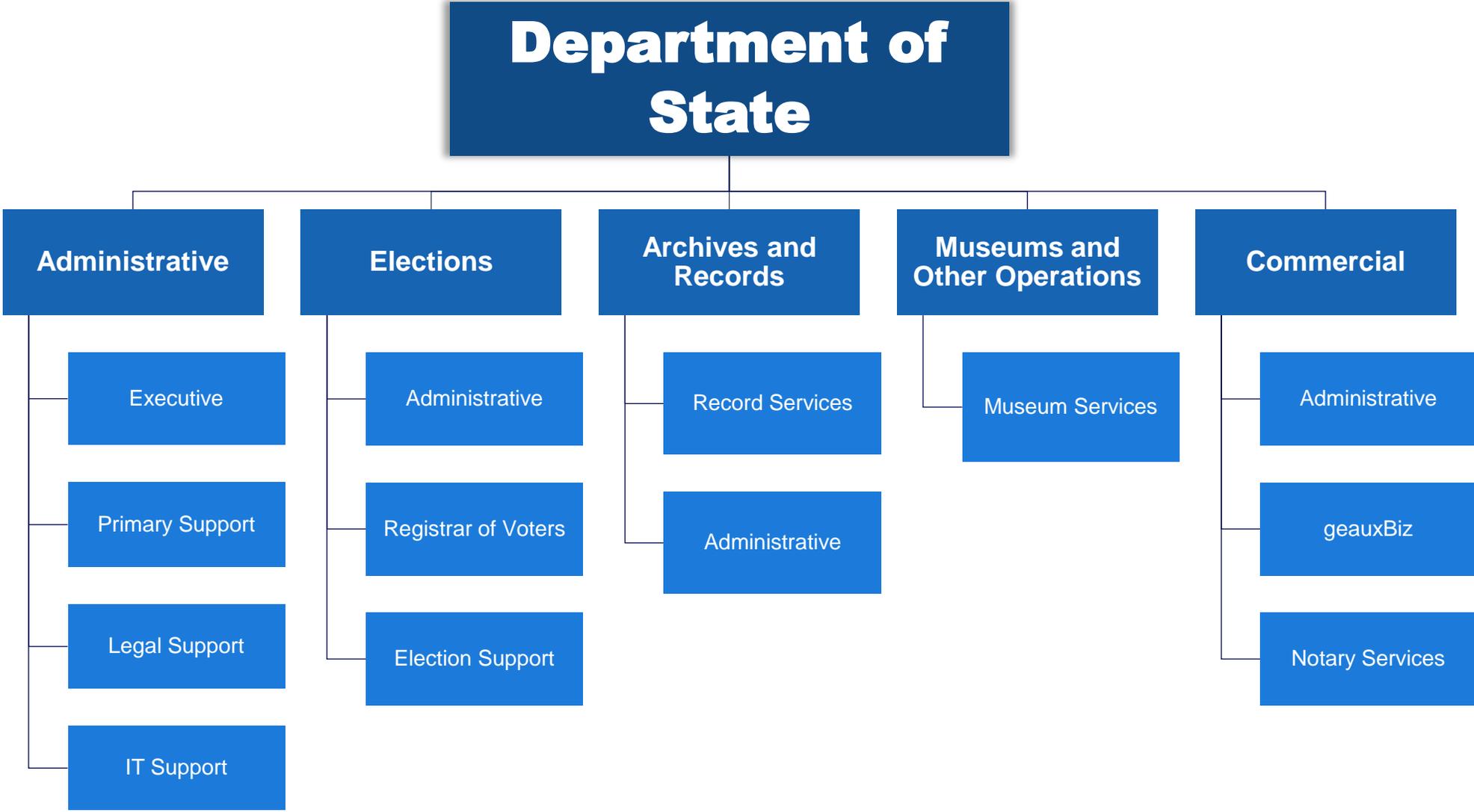
*Undersecretary / Chief of Staff*

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The seal of the State of Louisiana is visible in the background, featuring an eagle with a shield on its chest, perched on a nest with two birds. The text around the seal includes "STATE OF LOUISIANA", "UNION • JUSTICE", and "CONFIDENCE".

# General Department Information

# DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION



# DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

## Administrative / Elections

### Administrative Program

#### Executive Services

- Leadership and management function, includes the Secretary of State, executive staff, public information, and publication staff

#### Primary Support Services

- Provides support to the department, including accounting, purchasing, and human resources

#### Legal Support Services

- Legal division reviews and approves all ballot provisions, home rule charter propositions, recall elections, and constitutional amendments, drafts and reviews contracts
- Commission division authenticates signatures on certificates, provides advice, and interpretation of multiple statutes

#### IT Support Services

- Assists with planning and implementing the information technology hardware and software that the department uses

### Election Program

#### Administrative Services

- Responsible for processing and qualifying candidates for state offices and preparing ballots for elections
- Directs, assists, and prescribes rules and regulations that are applied by each registrar of voter in the state
- Encourages qualified Louisiana citizens to register to vote by providing educational programs for school-aged children and adults
- Investigates reports of voter fraud

#### Registrar of Voters

- Responsible for the payment of the state's share of salaries of the Registrar of Voters and their employees, as well as the prorated portion of the annual canvass costs
- The Registrar of Voters is also responsible for registering voters in the state, as well as updating registration data

#### Election Support Services

- Responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and repair of the voting machines, including election day emergency repair

# DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

## Commercial / Archives and Records

### Commercial Program

#### Administrative Services

- Provides services for business licensing, as well as collects fees and tracks annual reporting for businesses operating in Louisiana
- Serves as the processing agent for the state on foreign filings and corporate filings
- Responsible for the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) notification system

#### geauxBiz

- The geauxBiz software and database package is where business can register with the required departments, including the Secretary of State, Louisiana Workforce Commission, and the Department of Revenue
- Prepares a customized business license checklist tailored to any specific business license need

#### Notary Services

- Maintains a database on the notaries public registered in the state
- Processes applications for the state notary exam

### Archives and Records

#### Administrative Services

- Identifies, collects, preserves, maintains, and makes available the records and artifacts of Louisiana's history at the Louisiana State Archives Building
- Over 2.2 million genealogical records are available online

#### Record Services

- Provides the services, information, and facilities necessary to promote and support the state's governmental records
- Provides storage for business records and for state agencies

# DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

## Museum And Other Operations

- Responsible for presenting exhibits, education, and other programs to the public that emphasize the political, social, and economic influences, personalities, institutions, and events that are part of Louisiana's history and culture
- Acquires, refurbishes, and preserves artifacts and other historical relics

Delta Music Museum

Eddie G. Robinson Museum

Germantown Colony Museum

LA State Cotton Museum

LA State Exhibit Museum

LA State Oil & Gas Museum

Mansfield Female College Museum

Old State Capitol

Old Governor's Mansion

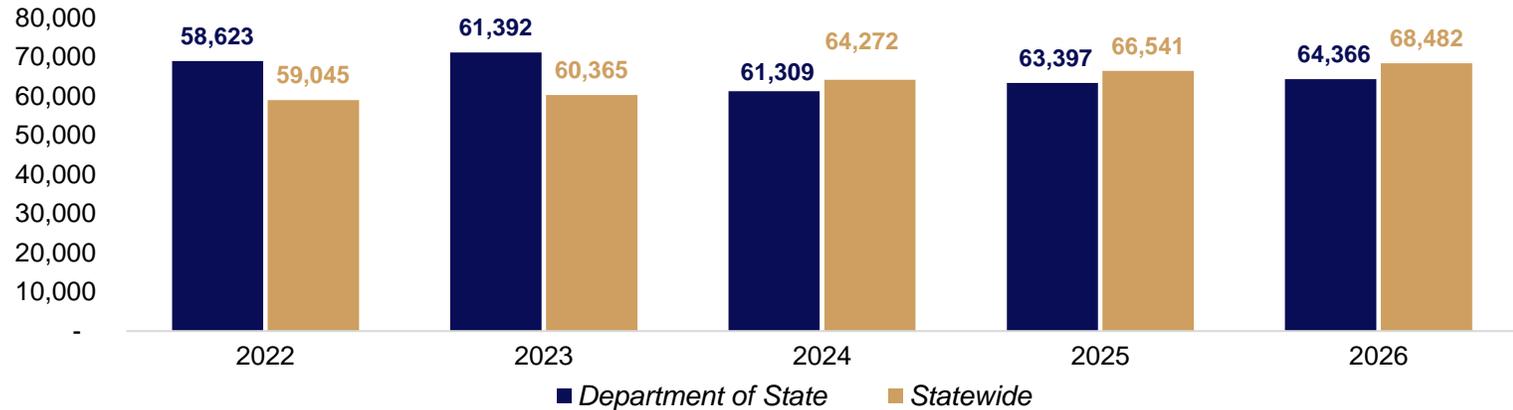


# PERSONNEL INFORMATION

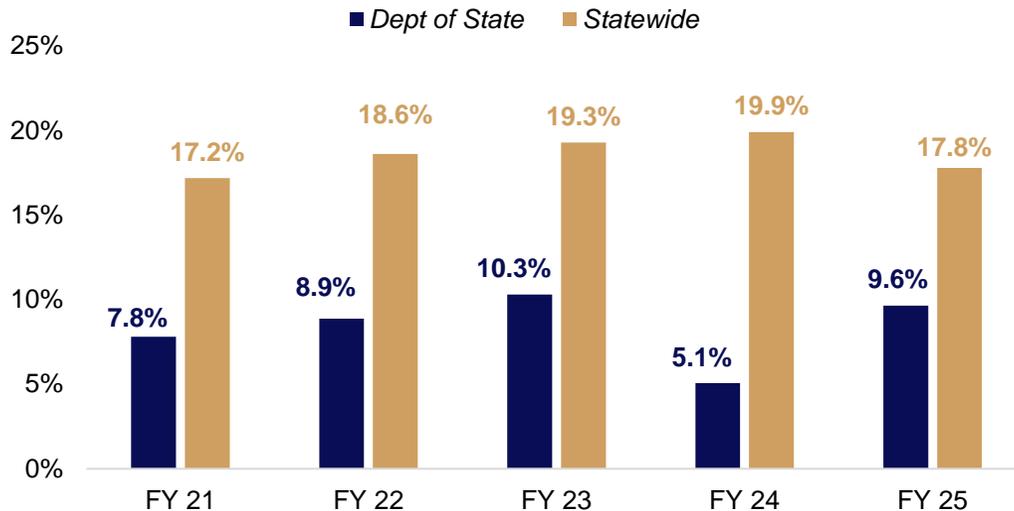
## FY 2027 Recommended Positions

367	Total Authorized T.O. Positions (346 Classified, 21 Unclassified)
0	Authorized Other Charges Positions
0	Non-T.O. FTE Positions
19	Vacant Positions (December 3, 2025)

## Historical Average Salary



## Turnover History



## Top Positions Vacated FY 2025

Position	Number of Employees	Separations	Turnover Rate
Administrative Coordinator II	10	4	40.0%
Administrative Coordinator III	45	8	17.8%
Administrative Coordinator IV	17	4	23.5%

Source: Department of Civil Service

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# General Budgetary Information

# FY 26 EXISTING OPERATING BUDGET

The FY 2025-26 Existing Operating Budget (EOB) was frozen on December 1, 2025. This point-in-time reference is used in both the Executive Budget and the General Appropriations Bill.

Means of Finance	Appropriation	Mid-Year Adjustments	Existing Operating Budget
<b>General Fund</b>	\$ 95,450,467	\$ 2,291,076	\$ 97,741,543
<b>Interagency Transfers</b>	857,600	209,800	1,067,400
<b>Self-generated Revenue</b>	37,091,484	746,292	37,837,776
<b>Statutory Dedications</b>	113,078	0	113,078
<b>Federal</b>	457,489	0	457,489
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 133,970,118</b>	<b>\$ 3,247,168</b>	<b>\$ 137,217,286</b>

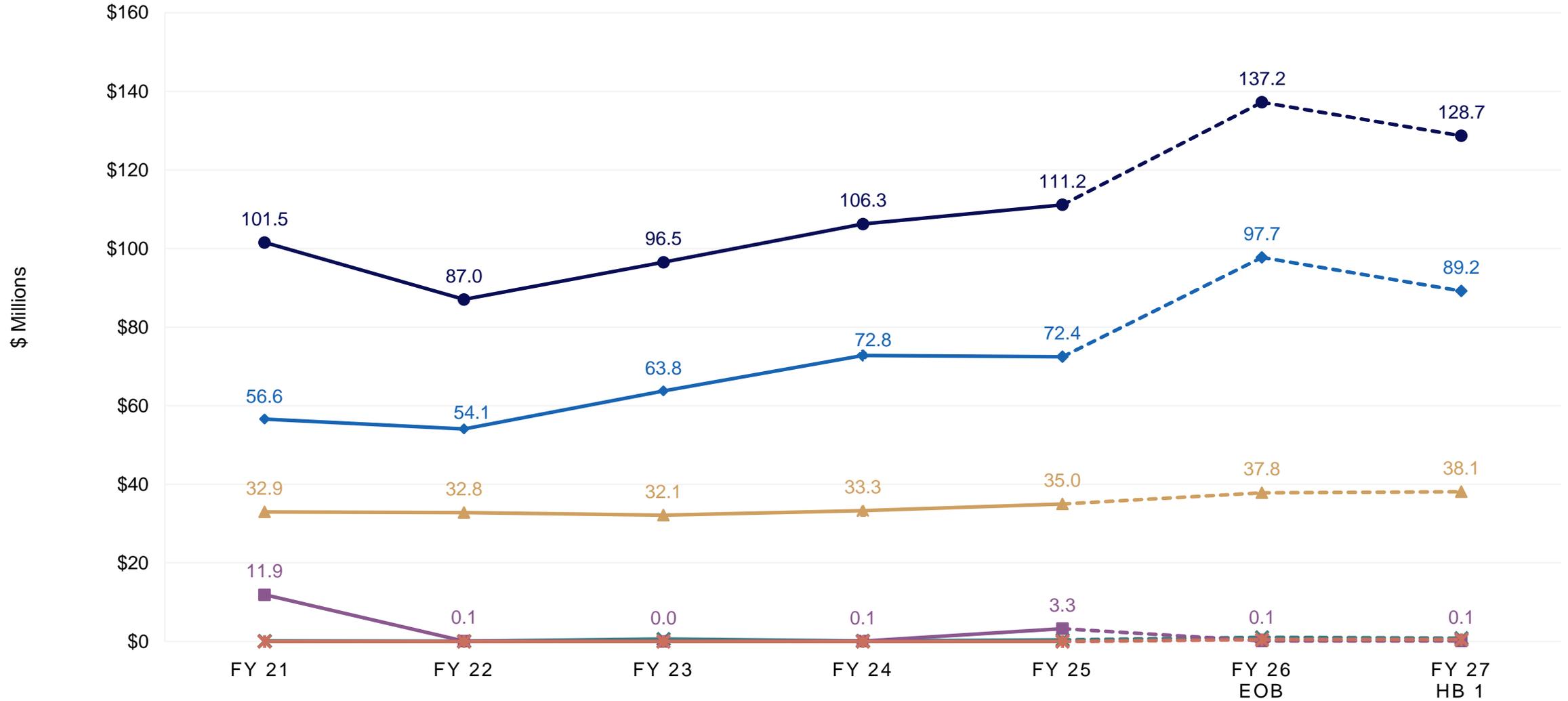
<i>Mid-year Adjustments Summary</i>				
July	August	September	October	November
No change	\$3 M  Various means of finance carried into FY 26 from the prior fiscal year for legal services, website design, software upgrades, cooling tower repairs, and museum	No change	\$200 K  Increase in Museum and Other Operations program to receive funding from Office of Lieutenant Governor for series of America 250 events	No change

# HISTORICAL SPENDING

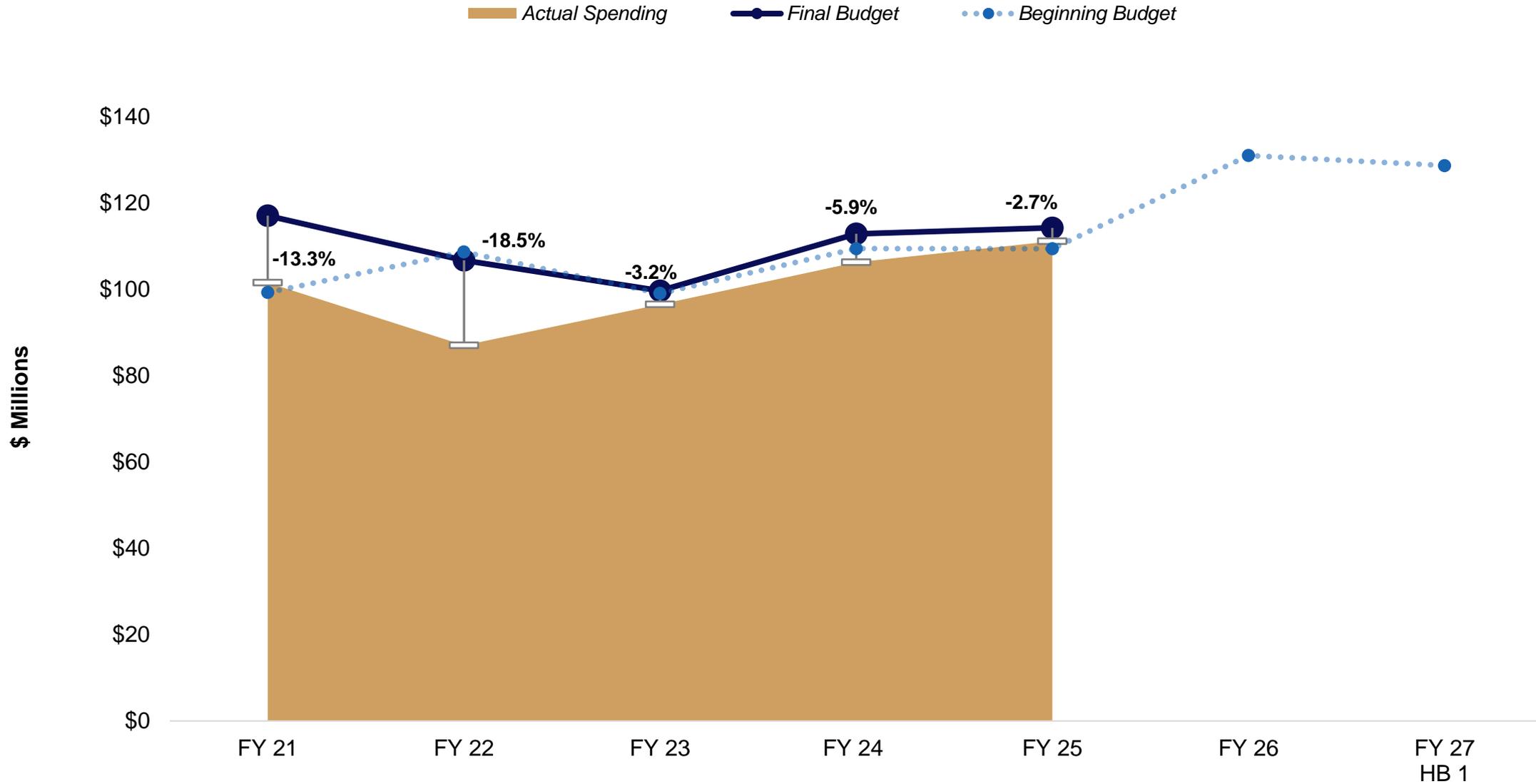
◆ State General Fund    ✕ Interagency Transfers    ▲ Fees & Self-generated    ■ Statutory Dedications    ✕ Federal Funds    ● Total Budget

Annual Average Spending Change from FY 21 to 25:

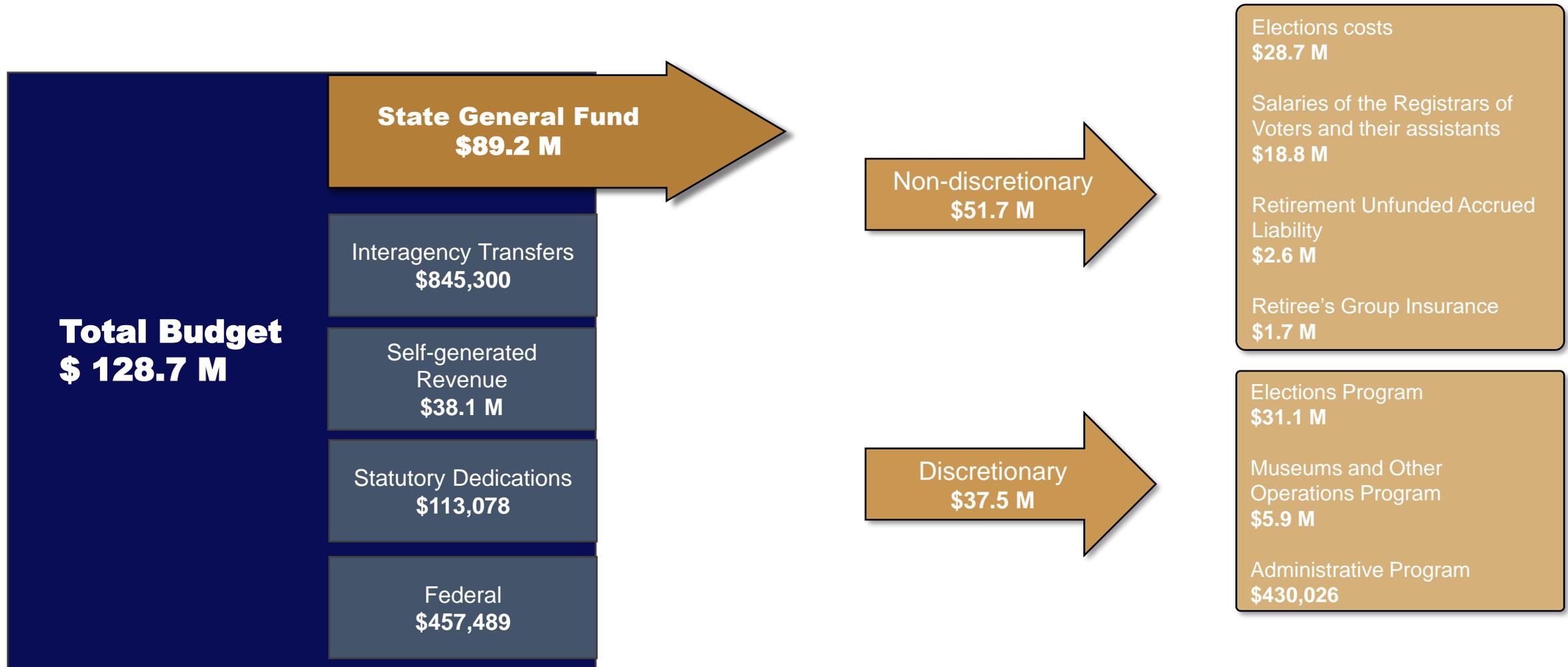
6.4%	29.7%	1.5%	(27.5%)	2.6%	2.3%
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# HISTORICAL BUDGET



# DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES



\* Figures may not add precisely due to rounding \*

# MUSEUMS

Museum	FY 22 Cost Per Visitor	FY 22 Visitation	FY 22 Total Cost	FY 23 Cost Per Visitor	FY 23 Visitation	FY 23 Total Cost	FY 24 Cost Per Visitor	FY 24 Visitation	FY 24 Total Cost	FY 25 Cost Per Visitor	FY 25 Visitation	FY 25 Total Cost
LA State Exhibit Museum	\$25.69	50,668	\$1,301,623	\$27.43	47,096	\$1,291,843	\$41.77	28,310	\$1,182,509	47.76	24,757	1,182,394
Old State Capitol	\$71.99	41,688	\$3,001,100	\$45.52	42,926	\$1,953,992	\$55.72	36,342	\$2,024,976	57.47	36,130	2,076,391
Cotton Museum	0	1,598	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$42.27	1,129	\$47,723	10.65	3,298	35,124
Eddie G. Robinson Museum	\$10.29	3,955	\$40,698	\$7.97	5,263	\$41,946	\$11.78	4,227	\$49,794	11.63	4,734	55,056
Delta Music Museum	\$31.67	4,562	\$144,500	\$26.01	3,361	\$87,420	\$25.38	3,531	\$89,617	27.03	3,492	94,389
Mansfield Female College	\$4.31	9,087	\$39,171	\$8.30	6,299	\$52,282	\$11.86	4,315	\$51,176	19.86	2,881	57,217
LA State Oil and Gas Museum	\$588.73	169	\$99,495	\$68.70	1,696	\$116,515	\$59.16	1,590	\$94,064	44.50	1,825	81,213
Germantown Colony Museum	\$62.18	1,010	\$62,801	\$29.30	3,005	\$88,047	\$33.93	1,954	\$66,299	29.05	2,191	63,649
Old Governor's Mansion	\$103.57	2,738	\$283,577	\$61.98	8,997	\$557,634	\$33.82	8,984	\$303,839	26.52	12,975	344,097

Source: Louisiana Secretary of State and LAPAS

# STATEWIDE ELECTION COSTS

Fiscal Year	Election Date	Election Type	Cost	Number of Voters	Percent Voted	Cost/Vote
FY 20	10/12/2019	Gubernatorial Primary	\$6,126,549	1,359,967	45.9%	\$4.50
	11/16/2019	Gubernatorial General	\$5,461,348	1,518,718	51.1%	\$3.60
FY 21	7/11/2020	Presidential Preference	\$5,158,127	523,416	21.05%	\$9.85
	11/3/2020	Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional	\$8,225,006	2,169,401	70.14%	\$3.79
	12/5/2020	Open General/Congressional	\$6,401,691	527,821	16.99%	\$12.18
FY 22	11/13/2021	Statewide Amendments/Open Primary/Orleans Municipal Primary	\$4,670,544	425,798	14.06%	\$10.97
FY 23	11/8/2022	Open Primary Congressional	\$6,569,673	1,410,475	46.72%	\$4.66
	12/10/2022	Open General Congressional	\$5,370,898	438,578	14.49%	\$12.25
FY 24	10/14/2023	Gubernatorial Primary	\$6,899,107	1,078,689	36.30%	\$6.40
	11/18/2023	Gubernatorial General	\$6,079,007	684,213	23.00%	\$8.88
	3/23/2024	Presidential Preference Primary/Municipal Primary	\$6,884,510	409,005	17.20%	\$16.83
FY 25	11/5/2024	Open Primary/Presidential/Congressional	\$7,259,720	2,021,164	66.30%	\$3.59
	12/7/2024	Open General/Congressional	\$6,275,620	345,042	11.20%	\$18.19
	3/29/2025	Statewide Amendments/Municipal Primary	\$6,861,000	640,626	21.50%	\$10.71

Source: Louisiana Secretary of State