



**ALBANY COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**
224 S. Pearl St Albany, NY 12202
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Commissioners
ALISON MCLEAN LANE, DEMOCRATIC
RACHEL BLEDI, REPUBLICAN

Deputy Commissioners
DAVID CADY, DEMOCRATIC
MELISSA KERMANI, REPUBLICAN

MEMO

TO: Joanne Cunningham, Chairwoman of the Legislature
Dennis Feeney, Majority Leader
Frank Mauriello, Minority Leader
Dave Reilly, Commissioner of Management & Budget
Quentin Trahan-Crudo, Budget Analyst

FROM: Rachel Bledi, Board of Elections Republican Commissioner
Alison McLean Lane, Board of Elections Democratic Commissioner

RE: 2026 Mail Ballot Grant Contract Approval

DATE: 07/06/2026

Please be advised that the Albany County Board of Elections seeks contract approval for a *2026 Mail Ballot Grant* in the amount of \$81,324.60 from the New York State Board of Elections. The grant would reimburse the Board for allowable expenditures made in securing products or services related to providing pre-paid postage for early mail and absentee ballots, applications, and return envelopes. The term of the contract is 04/01/2026 to 03/31/2027.

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Contract Approval- New Grant 2026 Mail Ballot Grant

Date:	7/06/2026	Submitted By:	Rachel Bledi & Alison McLean
Department:	Board of Elections	Lane	
Attending Meeting:	Rachel Bledi and Alison McLean Lane	Title:	Commissioner of Elections
		Phone:	518-487-5070

Purpose of Request: Contract Authorization 04/01/2026-03/31/2027

CONTRACT TERMS/CONDITIONS:

Party Names and Addresses: NYS Board of Elections
40 South Pearl St, Albany, NY 12207

Term: (Start/end date or duration) 04/01/2026 to 03/31/2027
Amount/Raise Schedule/Fee: \$81,324.60

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Is there a Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐
 Anticipated in Budget: Yes ☐ No ☒
 Spreadsheet attached: Yes ☐ No ☒

Source of Funding – (Percentages)

Federal: Enter text. County: Enter text.
State: 100% Local: Enter text.

County Budget Accounts:

Revenue Account and Line: To be Determined
Revenue Amount: \$81,324.60
Appropriation Account and Line: Enter text.
Appropriation Amount: Enter text.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mandated Program/Service: Yes ☒ No ☐
If Mandated, Cite Authority: NYS Election Law
Request for Bids / Proposals:
 Competitive Bidding Exempt: Yes ☐ No ☐
 # of Response(s): Enter text.
 # of MWBE: Enter text.
 # of Veteran Business: Enter text.
Bond Resolution No.: Enter text.
Apprenticeship Program Yes ☐ No ☐

Previous requests for Identical or Similar Action:

Resolution/Law Number and Date: Enter text.

DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST:

Please be advised that the Albany County Board of Elections seeks contract approval for a *2026 Mail Ballot Grant* in the amount of \$81,324.60 from the New York State Board of Elections. The grant would reimburse the Board for allowable expenditures made in securing products or services related to providing pre-paid postage for early mail and absentee ballots, applications, and return envelopes. The term of the contract is 04/01/2026 to 03/31/2027.

2026 Mail Ballot Grant Background

The New York State Aid to Localities Budget authorized \$5 million be made available to local boards of elections for reimbursement of costs related to providing pre-paid return postage and outgoing postage on absentee ballots and applications, and early vote by mail ballots and applications as enacted by chapter 481 of the laws of 2023.

The State Board of Elections has determined a County Board funding distribution based on voter enrollment. This grant fund distribution program does not provide for the direct release of State funds to counties. County Boards of Elections may submit a claim for payment, after the purchase of such products and services with county funds, for reimbursement of either some or all those costs, provided the purchases were reasonable, allowable and allocable. Substantial evidence must be included with each claim, and prior to the award of any reimbursement, all claims will be reviewed for the products' and/or services' compliance with the NYSBOE guidelines for allowable expenses. Reimbursement will be made for allowable costs which have not previously been claimed for reimbursement for the same expenses elsewhere.

Such funds may be used to reimburse County Boards of Elections for allowable expenditures made in securing products or services related to providing pre-paid postage for early mail and absentee ballots, applications, and return envelopes.

Contract Terms			
Current Contract Term:			
From:	4/1/2026	To:	3/31/2027
Current Contract Period			
From:	4/1/2026	To:	3/31/2027

Allowable Expenses
- Postage and return postage for outgoing and incoming ballots, applications, and cures - Postage Meters and associated supplies, including but not limited to ink, postage meter strips, replacement parts, labels, and sealing solution - Fees associated with USPS account billing - Envelopes - Automated mailing equipment including but not limited to folding, inserting, opening, and sealing equipment - Shipping supplies, including but not limited to paper, tape, manual letter openers, postal scales, envelope and stamp moisteners, rubber stamps, transport carts, and folders - Other materials, transportation, or services related to sorting and counting of early mail and absentee ballots, including but not limited to ballot tabulators, sorting machines, sorting bins, secure pouches, and other ballot collection receptacles - Fees related to set up and usage of Intelligent Mail Barcodes - Temporary staff and overtime for full time staff to assist in sorting, sending, and intaking mail - Vendors to produce absentee envelopes and ballots, and/or mail early mail and absentee envelopes and ballots - Costs related to the creation and implementation of a cure portal including maintenance fees - Ballot drop boxes and associated supplies, security enhancements, installation, and vendor costs - Public awareness campaign expenses to boost the public's knowledge of the options to vote by absentee and early mail ballot

Aid to Localities Budget Language
29 The amounts appropriated herein shall be 30 made available to local boards of 31 elections for reimbursement of costs 32 related to providing pre-paid return post- 33 age and outgoing postage on absentee 34 ballots and applications, and Early Mail 35 Voting ballots and applications as enacted 36 by chapter 481 of the laws of 2023, pursu- 37 ant to a plan by the state board of 38 elections. A copy of such plan shall be 39 sent to the director of the division of 40 budget, the senate finance committee, and 41 the assembly ways and means committee 42 (23504) 5,000,000

2026 Mail Ballot

Total Grant Funds	\$ 5,000,000.00
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Counties	Total Enrolled Voters (Active and Inactive)	Percent of State Voter Population	Grant Distribution (No Base)
Albany	218,081	1.63%	\$81,324.60
Allegany	27,963	0.21%	\$10,427.68
Broome	132,932	0.99%	\$49,571.68
Cattaraugus	50,806	0.38%	\$18,946.07
Cayuga	51,152	0.38%	\$19,075.10
Chautauqua	84,991	0.63%	\$31,694.00
Chemung	55,536	0.41%	\$20,709.93
Chenango	32,375	0.24%	\$12,072.96
Clinton	53,785	0.40%	\$20,056.97
Columbia	49,421	0.37%	\$18,429.59
Cortland	31,074	0.23%	\$11,587.81
Delaware	31,893	0.24%	\$11,893.22
Dutchess	219,940	1.64%	\$82,017.84
Erie	662,636	4.94%	\$247,103.64
Essex	27,990	0.21%	\$10,437.75
Franklin	28,822	0.21%	\$10,748.01
Fulton	35,941	0.27%	\$13,402.76
Genesee	40,214	0.30%	\$14,996.21
Greene	35,049	0.26%	\$13,070.13
Hamilton	4,423	0.03%	\$1,649.38
Herkimer	42,452	0.32%	\$15,830.78
Jefferson	66,799	0.50%	\$24,910.02
Lewis	19,770	0.15%	\$7,372.43
Livingston	42,047	0.31%	\$15,679.75
Madison	46,659	0.35%	\$17,399.61
Monroe	530,176	3.95%	\$197,707.98
Montgomery	31,720	0.24%	\$11,828.71
Nassau	1,068,308	7.97%	\$398,382.82
Niagara	150,285	1.12%	\$56,042.79
Oneida	142,931	1.07%	\$53,300.41
Onondaga	329,996	2.46%	\$123,058.84
Ontario	84,008	0.63%	\$31,327.43
Orange	269,719	2.01%	\$100,580.93
Orleans	26,393	0.20%	\$9,842.22
Oswego	80,172	0.60%	\$29,896.95
Otsego	39,305	0.29%	\$14,657.23
Putnam	77,067	0.57%	\$28,739.06
Rensselaer	113,926	0.85%	\$42,484.15
Rockland	221,805	1.65%	\$82,713.32
Saratoga	189,554	1.41%	\$70,686.60

Schenectady	108,633	0.81%	\$40,510.34
Schoharie	21,861	0.16%	\$8,152.19
Schuyler	13,312	0.10%	\$4,964.18
Seneca	21,705	0.16%	\$8,094.01
St.Lawrence	65,237	0.49%	\$24,327.53
Steuben	65,143	0.49%	\$24,292.48
Suffolk	1,133,206	8.45%	\$422,583.94
Sullivan	54,712	0.41%	\$20,402.66
Tioga	34,908	0.26%	\$13,017.55
Tompkins	67,088	0.50%	\$25,017.79
Ulster	137,384	1.02%	\$51,231.88
Warren	50,314	0.38%	\$18,762.60
Washington	41,239	0.31%	\$15,378.44
Wayne	62,775	0.47%	\$23,409.43
Westchester	682,090	5.09%	\$254,358.24
Wyoming	26,096	0.19%	\$9,731.46
Yates	14,893	0.11%	\$5,553.75
Total Outside NYC	8,048,712	60.03%	\$3,001,445.85
Bronx	793,669	5.92%	\$295,967.17
Kings	1,686,555	12.58%	\$628,933.36
New York	1,173,630	8.75%	\$437,658.46
Queens	1,366,230	10.19%	\$509,480.94
Richmond	339,262	2.53%	\$126,514.22
Total NYC	5,359,346	39.97%	\$1,998,554.15
Statewide Total	13,408,058	100.00%	\$5,000,000.00