

# **BUDGET PRESENTATION**

***BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE***

***August 11, 2025***



**FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET**

**CAROLINE F. FAWKES**

## **SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS**

### **ELECTIONS SYSTEM OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

2 Good morning, Honorable Chairman Novelle E. Francis, Jr.,  
3 honorable members of the Committee on Budget, Appropriations,  
4 and Finance, other honorable Senators in attendance, legislative  
5 staff, and all those joining us in person or virtually via YouTube and  
6 Facebook, members of the press, and the viewing and listening  
7 audience.

8 I am Caroline Fawkes, the Supervisor of Elections, Certified Elections  
9 Registration Administrator (CERA). Joining me today is Raymond J.  
10 Williams, Chairman of the Board of Elections, who is also a Certified  
11 Elections Registration Administrator.

12 It is an honor to present the proposed budget for the Elections  
13 System of the Virgin Islands for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. This budget  
14 includes allocations for both the Board of Elections and the Office of  
15 the Supervisor, along with our accomplishments, challenges, and  
16 goals.

17 The Board of Elections is the elected policy-making body for the  
18 Elections System of the Virgin Islands. It consists of fourteen (14)  
19 elected members, representing both the St. Thomas/St. John and St.  
20 Croix districts, each serving a four-year term. Notably, two (2)  
21 members from the St. Thomas/St. John District are required to be  
22 residents of St. John.

23 The current members of the Board of Elections are Chairman  
24 Raymond J. Williams-CERA, Vice Chairman Lawrence Boschulte-  
25 CERA, Secretary Florine Audain Hassell-CERA, and members  
26 Kareem T. Francis, Shikima L. Jones-Sprauve, Atanya Springette,  
27 Dr. Cleopatra Peter, Michael A. Joseph, Esq., Barbara LaRonde,  
28 Harriet Mercer, Lilliana Belardo de O'Neal-CERA, Chaneel Callwood,  
29 Nathan Fletcher, and Cornelius Jn Baptiste.

30 I recognize and thank our eleven dedicated and skilled elections staff:  
31 Kevermay Douglas, CERA – St. Thomas/St. John Deputy Supervisor;  
32 Terrell Alexandre, CERA – St. Croix Deputy Supervisor; Milagritos  
33 Venzen; Ulette Todmann-Hodge – Senior Elections Assistants; Mari  
34 Felix; Ms. Stephanie Joseph; Sheri Richardson; Uri Peters; Mrs.  
35 Mariana Romero – Election Assistants; and Tricia Johnson,  
36 Administrative Assistant; as well as Denise Moore, Administrator of

Fiscal & Personnel Services, and Richard Wilson, Board Executive Assistant. They are truly exceptional professionals in the field of elections. I am pleased to say that we have no employees earning less than \$35,000.00.

I want to take a moment to spotlight two extraordinary individuals who embody our unwavering commitment to excellence: Ms. Stephanie Joseph, our Elections Assistant from the St. Thomas/St. John District, and Mrs. Ulette Todmann Hodge, our Senior Elections Assistant. Together, they represent the pinnacle of dedication, performance, and selfless service, earning the distinguished title of our 2025 Employees of the Year. Together they represent fifty (50) years of service in elections. Their relentless passion and exceptional contributions inspire us all to strive for greatness!

The Office of the Supervisor of Elections, which has locations on all three islands, is responsible for the daily administration of the Virgin Islands' elections system.

The role of an election administrator has transformed from a primarily clerical position into a complex managerial role that involves managing registration, various voting methods, and providing voter education and communication. Due to the intricacies

57 of this position, the Elections Assistance Commission (Federal),  
58 states and other professional certifying organizations are working to  
59 provide the necessary training and support for election officials to  
60 perform effectively.

61 Our foremost duty is to safeguard the integrity of elections, ensuring  
62 that the voices of United States Virgin Islanders resonate powerfully  
63 throughout the entire electoral process. We are committed to making  
64 every vote count, because a true democracy thrives when its people  
65 actively participate in shaping their future. Our responsibilities  
66 extend beyond mere administration; we are the architects of  
67 democracy. By organizing and directing the dedicated work of  
68 election personnel, we ensure that every voice is heard, and every  
69 vote is counted. We meticulously maintain accurate territory-wide  
70 voter registration databases and continually update voter rolls,  
71 safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process. Our mission is to  
72 empower citizens and uphold the cornerstone of our democracy—free  
73 and fair elections.

74 At the heart of our democracy, we play a pivotal role in empowering  
75 citizens through voter registration and advocating for fair electoral  
76 practices.

77 We provide voters with accessible and fully equipped voting centers.  
78 Our responsibilities include managing the seamless transfer of  
79 registered voters who have moved, crafting robust budget proposals,  
80 and accurately compiling payroll for our dedicated election officials  
81 and workers. We also take pride in strategically assigning personnel  
82 at voting centers to assist all voters and streamlining voter  
83 registration, especially during the critical election period. Together,  
84 we are not just facilitating an election but safeguarding the  
85 democratic process and empowering everyone to participate in  
86 shaping the future of our U.S. Virgin Islands.

87 ESVI play a crucial role in fostering a transparent electoral process  
88 by actively disseminating vital election-related information to the  
89 media, political parties, candidates, and the public in a timely  
90 manner. Our responsibilities extend beyond mere information  
91 sharing; we prepare the department's budget, diligently monitor  
92 expenditures, and supervise financial records and transactions.  
93 Additionally, we manage the candidate filing process and ensure  
94 accurate campaign finance reporting, reinforcing the integrity of our  
95 democratic system.

We are in constant monthly contact and attend meetings with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) from Washington, District of Columbia. These meetings facilitate a technical exchange and discussion on important cybersecurity issues affecting state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) organizations and the wider cyber community. Additionally, it provides opportunities to learn more about CISA's services and resources to bolster the security posture of SLTT's cyber networks. We remain in contact with the Bureau of Information Technology regarding cybersecurity. Lastly, I serve on the Virgin Island Cybersecurity Advisory Council.

**See Appendix A – ESVI Organizational Chart**

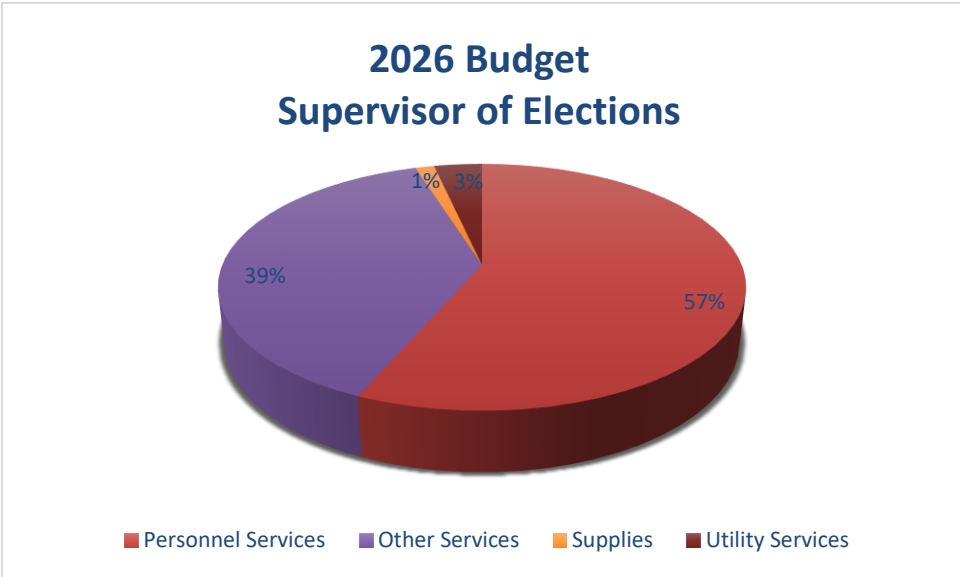
#### **OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET**

---

As part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining efficient operations and safeguarding the integrity of our electoral processes, the Elections system of the Virgin Islands requests funding in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget to address several critical needs.

The proposed budget for the Office of the Supervisor in Fiscal Year 2026 is two million, five hundred fifty-three thousand, five hundred dollars **\$2,553,500.00.**

An estimated 57% of this budget will be allocated to salaries and fringe benefits for eight classified and four exempt employees. Additionally, 39% of the budget will be spent on other services and charges, which include professional services, training, rental of land/buildings, capital outlays, communication and security; supplies (1%); and utilities (3%).



For FY2026, the budget proposal is as follows:

- Personnel Services: \$1,096,000.00
- Fringe Benefits: \$347,000.00
- Supplies: \$35,000.00
- Professional Services and Training: \$986,500.00
- Utility Services: \$89,000.00



The additional funding required for equipment, increases in professional services, and unplanned emergencies are outlined below:

a. Expected annual increases in the costs of Professional Services contracts.

b. Upgrading of staff central processing units for their desktop computers. ESVI presently have the 2018 versions.

c. Based on General Office Space best practices, ergonomics, health and safety, we must upgrade the St. Thomas staff workspace and furniture. General Office Space: Approximately 70-100 square feet per person is recommended for office settings. These guidelines help ensure safety and comfort in the workplace. Occupational Safety and Health Administration oversight essentially covers means of evacuation or egress procedures should there be a fire-related emergency in a cubicle-defined environment.

Cubicle Space: Ergonomic guidelines suggest that cubicles should provide enough space for comfortable movement and clearance for legs and feet. In 2024 we received an estimated cost of \$29,000.00, however, due to no funding, we could not move forward with this project. We estimate at least \$33,000.00 for this project. We would like to complete this project in fiscal year 2026. Understanding OSHA

office space requirements per person is crucial for ensuring a safe and productive work environment. According to OSHA regulations, the amount of space allocated per employee can significantly affect comfort and efficiency.

d. Replacement of office furniture/equipment outside of the cubicles – St. Thomas/St. John offices. Estimate of \$5,000.00

e. As of July 31, 2025, the Office of the Supervisor has expended \$1,825,144.00, 73% of its budget. Outstanding vendor payments are in the amount of \$206,138. 20.

**\*\*Elections Miscellaneous Budget: \*\***

The Elections System of the Virgin Islands is requesting \$650,000.00 to conduct the 2026 Primary & General Elections. Funding should be provided in the fiscal year 2026 Miscellaneous Budget. This does not include funding in case there is a Runoff Election. A Run-Off Election is held when a second election must be held because the first election did not reach the necessary threshold of votes needed for a candidate to win.

The cost of an election embodies much more than just a financial transaction; it represents the intricate machinery that ensures democracy functions smoothly during critical moments when citizens cast their votes. This investment encompasses the personnel,

170 equipment, and supplies necessary to conduct elections and  
171 maintain the integrity of our electoral system.

172 At the core of election expenditures lies the vital infrastructure. This  
173 includes managing and securing the voter registration database,  
174 maintaining and testing vital voting equipment, and upholding  
175 robust computer systems essential for daily operations and accurate  
176 reporting of election results. Training dedicated election officials is  
177 also crucial to maintaining a trustworthy electoral process.

178 The operational costs surrounding the election are equally  
179 substantial. They can be categorized into four key areas: the printing  
180 of ballots and related materials, compensating poll workers and  
181 temporary staff, securing polling locations, and distributing  
182 informational materials and mail ballots.

183 Every aspect of election administration is critical, from cybersecurity  
184 and thorough audits to ensuring the safety of officials and polling  
185 places. Accessibility must be prioritized, catering to all voters,  
186 including those with disabilities. We must also focus on vote-by-mail  
187 initiatives, comprehensive voter education, dual-language materials,  
188 usability, and advanced voter technology.

189 It is imperative that election funding be appropriated this fiscal year  
190 to ensure we are fully prepared for the pivotal elections in August and

November 2026. The processes and expenditures associated with elections begin long before Election Day—this is our commitment to safeguarding democracy. Let's invest wisely to ensure every voice is heard.

**\*\*Active Registered Voters: \*\***

The total number of Active Registered Voters by island is as follows:

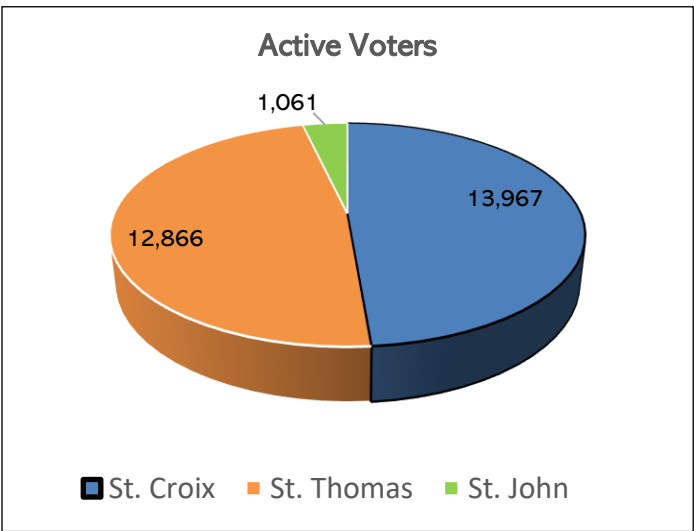
- St. Croix: 13,967

- St. Thomas: 12,866

- St. John: 1,061

Total Registered Active Voters: 27,894 as of July 31, 2025.

**Please see Appendix B for the Active Voter Registration Statistical Report.**



**\*\*Inactive Registered Voters:\*\***

The total number of Inactive Registered Voters by island is as follows:

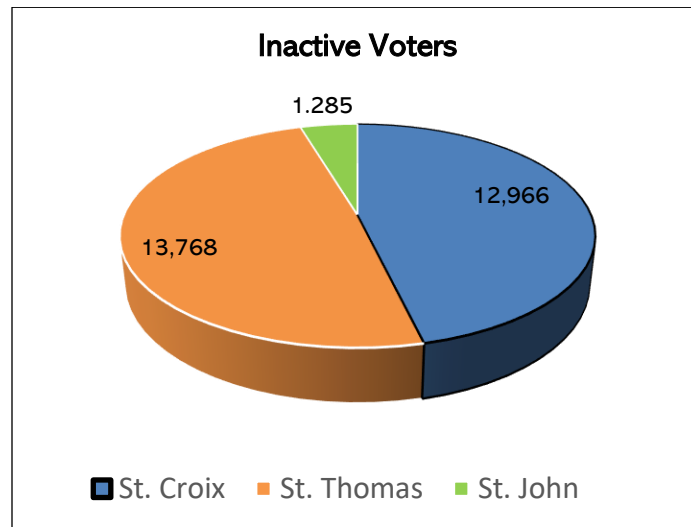
206 - St. Croix: 12,996

207 - St. Thomas: 13,768

208 - St. John: 1,285

209 Total Registered Inactive Voters: 28,049 as of July 31, 2025.

210



211

212

213 **See Appendix C – Inactive Voter’s Registration Statistical**  
214 **Report.**

215 We urge every citizen to actively shape our democracy by updating  
216 their voter registration, utilizing our new online voter registration  
217 service at [vivote.gov](https://vivote.gov) or visiting our offices. Then making their voices  
218 heard at the voting centers by voting. Your participation is not just a  
219 right; it is our collective responsibility. Let us stand together and  
220 ensure that every voice counts in the electoral process!

**\*\*THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL  
YEAR 2026: \*\***

The Virgin Islands Board of Elections, established in Title 18, Chapter 3, Section 41, of the Virgin Islands Code is a single board that governs both election districts. The Board is requesting a budget of three thousand eight thousand and eighty-one, four hundred twenty-nine and forty-cents -\$381,429.40 for Fiscal Year 2026, allocated as follows:

Personnel Services: \$74,000.00

Fringe Benefits: \$34,029.40

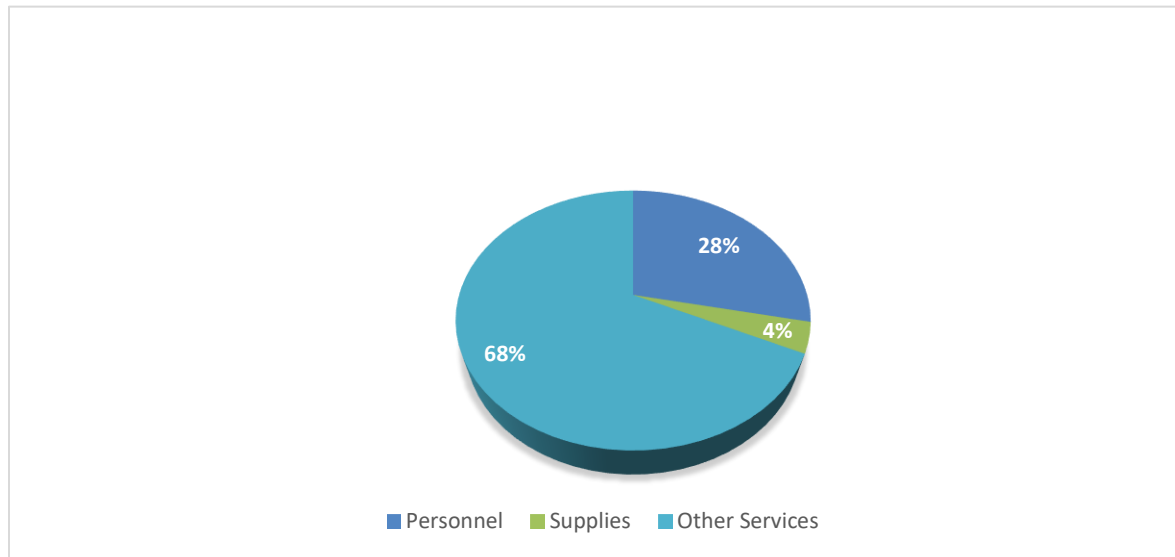
Supplies: \$14,400.00

Capital Outlays: \$95,000.00

Other Services: \$164,000.00 (including Training & Stipends)

Twenty-eight percent (28%) of the Board of Elections' Budget is dedicated to salaries and fringe benefits for the Executive Assistant.

An additional 68% falls under "Other Services," which includes stipends, the replacement of two 2014 transportation vans, upgrades to video conferencing systems in both districts, voter education outreach, legal fees, election-specific training and certification for the Election Center. Supplies account for the remaining 4% of the budget



243

244 We are excited to announce our upgrade to the video teleconferencing  
245 system. These state-of-the-art tools are set to revolutionize our  
246 conference rooms, elevating meeting productivity and accelerating  
247 decision-making processes. The estimated cost is \$36,000.00.

248 In addition to this technological advancement, we also address the  
249 pressing need to replace two outdated vans plagued by significant  
250 maintenance issues. These vehicles are vital for transporting  
251 personnel and our essential voting equipment for off-site  
252 demonstrations, and they deserve better. Our recent experience on  
253 May 9th, when Board Members were stranded due to a van cutting  
254 out and stalling, highlights the urgency of this issue. No one should  
255 have to worry about vehicle reliability while engaged in critical work.

256 The estimated cost for one van is \$70,000.00. While not the optimum  
257 solution, with limited funding, we realize that we may have to  
258 purchase one per year.

259 The cost of purchasing two new vans may initially seem high,  
260 however, it is an investment in our organization's future. This  
261 decision will ensure our Board Members and Staff safety, reliability,  
262 and efficiency, translating into long-term savings and enhanced  
263 operational capability. We are committed to being the best stewards  
264 of the people's money while investing in the tools and resources to  
265 drive our success and help us achieve our mission.

266 As of July 31, 2025, the Board of Elections has expended  
267 \$154,074.00 - 62% of its budget. Outstanding vendor payments are  
268 \$13,128.37.

269 **\*\*ACCOMPLISHMENTS\*\***

270 **\*\*Fiscal Year 2025 Accomplishments: \*\***

271 a. The Board of Elections and the Office of the Supervisor completed  
272 audits for the 2025 General Election in both districts, verifying 100%  
273 accuracy in ballot recording in the voting machines.

274 b. We continued updating our voter registration database, including  
275 addresses, voter status, and missing document numbers, to fulfill the



276 2022-2024 Active/Inactive project mandated by law. This listing can  
277 be found on our website, [www.vivote.gov](http://www.vivote.gov).

278 c. We are excited to announce the success of our civic education  
279 campaigns, which promote voter awareness and participation among  
280 our high school students. Thanks to former Board Member, Atty. Lisa  
281 Harris Moorhead for serving as the moderator of the exciting Civics  
282 Matters II Championship. A heartfelt congratulations to Free Will  
283 Baptist Christian School for claiming the prestigious title of Civics  
284 Matters Bowl champions in 2025!

285 As we look ahead, the planning for the 2026 Civics Bowl is already  
286 underway, and we are eager to inspire even greater enthusiasm for  
287 civic engagement. We remain committed to highlighting the critical  
288 importance of voting. We are proud to amplify our message through  
289 public service announcements in Spanish, ensuring that many voices  
290 are heard and valued in our democracy. Let us empower our  
291 community to act and make a difference at the ballot box!

292 d. We maintained post-election engagement to encourage voters to feel  
293 comfortable and eager to participate in their local democracy.

294 e. Online voter registration (OVR) was first adopted by Arizona in  
295 2002. It has gained traction in numerous states and territories  
296 (including Guam) due to its ability to reduce costs, improve

297 government efficiency, and create more comprehensive and accurate  
298 voter lists. Currently, forty-three (43) states, Washington D.C., and  
299 Guam offer online registration. The Elections System of the Virgin  
300 Islands launched its Online Voter Registration Portal on January 16,  
301 2025. To date, eleven (11)- STT; one (1) – STJ, and eleven (11) STX  
302 individuals have utilized this application. This platform provides  
303 users with the ability to:

- 304 1. Register as a new voter
- 305 2. Perform voter registration updates
- 306 3. Cancel their voter registration; and
- 307 4. Request an absentee ballot

308 With confidence that our Online Voter Registration (OVR) system is  
309 now fully operational, including a built-in user survey to gather  
310 valuable feedback upon completion of the registration process we are  
311 preparing to launch major public education campaigns throughout  
312 2025-2026. This has been a key component of our long-term  
313 strategy. We plan to conduct major education campaigns on this  
314 process throughout 2025-2026, which has been our long-term goal.

315 f. Congratulations to Mr. Terrell Alexandre, St. Croix Deputy  
316 Supervisor, and Board Member Audain-Hassell on completing the  
317 CERA Certification. We now have fourteen (14) CERA-certified staff

318 and board members, both current and former. Member Atanya  
319 Springette will obtain her certification this year. In addition,  
320 numerous staff members will be eligible to obtain their certifications  
321 during fiscal year 2026.

322 The Virgin Islands Members are part of an election organization of  
323 more than 1,350 members nationwide. The Election Center has the  
324 largest membership of state and local elections and voter registration  
325 administrators and vendors of any election-related organization in  
326 the United States of America.

327 g. The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) hosted its first Region  
328 Six (6) Conference this year in Guam from March 17-21, 2025,  
329 bringing together representatives from all five U.S. territories,  
330 American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Mariana Islands (Saipan,  
331 Tinian, Agrihan, and Rota) and the US Virgin Islands. This was a  
332 historical event for the EAC who had been in existence for twenty-  
333 three (23) years. Each jurisdiction was represented by two election  
334 officials, fully funded by the EAC, ensuring inclusive participation  
335 and diverse perspectives, Terrell Alexandre and I attended this  
336 conference.

337 This landmark event served as a pivotal opportunity for territories to  
338 engage in meaningful collaboration, share best practices, and present

339 the unique election processes employed within their respective  
340 regions. By showcasing these localized approaches, the conference  
341 provided EAC leadership with direct insight into the challenges,  
342 innovations, and operational frameworks that shape territorial  
343 elections.

344 More than just a professional convening, the Region 6 Conference  
345 marked a significant step toward strengthening inter-territorial  
346 partnerships, amplifying regional voices, and fostering a more  
347 responsive and informed national dialogue on election integrity. It  
348 laid the groundwork for future policy alignment, technical support,  
349 and peer-to-peer learning—ensuring that no territory remains an  
350 afterthought in the pursuit of electoral excellence.

351 h. The St. Thomas staff presented to the Youth Arise Summer  
352 Enrichment Program in July 2024 and July 2025, which saw the  
353 participation of approximately seventeen students this year. The  
354 students were educated on the importance of voting, including the  
355 history of voting in America. A video explaining the branches of  
356 government was shared with the group. Additionally, a  
357 demonstration of voting machines was conducted. It was a valuable  
358 experience for the students and the program coordinators, Dr. Arlene  
359 Christopher, Vice President and Mr. Alston Creque.

i. ESVI has contracted with two vendors (Experian and Accurant) to provide an additional data management tool. A direct connection to over 34 billion current public records: Detect fraud, Verify identities and Conduct investigations.

Experian is a multinational data broker and consumer credit reporting company headquartered in Dublin, Ireland. Experian collects and aggregates information on more than one billion people and businesses including 235 million individual U.S. consumers and more than 25 million U.S. businesses.

Accurant for Government can be used to verify, locate and authenticate the identities of persons through Lexis Nexis. Accurant offers fast, efficient search technology that allows you to instantly locate both people and authenticate their identities. It verifies such essential personal information as name, address and social security number or federal identification number. These vendors are respected voter registration and maintenance service providers assisting to create process efficiencies and reduce the number of undeliverable mailers.

j. By August 31<sup>st</sup>, we will launch an ElectionStats database on our elections website. ElectionStats, built by Civera since 2012, is a publishing platform and a searchable data warehouse of historic

elections, ballot questions, and voter turnout statistics. This software brings public data to life. This portal will enable users to find what they are looking for in a few clicks, and the platform provides data visualizations to enhance their experience.

1. Every day, citizens get 24/7 searchable access to official election USVI election results.

2. Candidates and civic groups have the information they need to make decisions without paying third parties.

3. Journalists and researchers can download data and inform the public with more depth and better insights.

This platform is America's #1 platform for reporting historical election results. Our agency can save time, eliminate costly records requests, and increase voter confidence with this software.

k. I have attached a sample of the Early Voting Exit Surveys. One thousand, three hundred and seventeen (1,317) results inputted here are the results – 73% rated us as Excellent and 24% rated us Very Good – that's a total of 97%. This feedback from our voters reflects positively on our commitment to excellence. I thank the Board Members, staff, elections officials, and most importantly, the voters. ESVI will build upon our success during the 2026 Election Cycle.

402     **\*\*GOALS:\*\***

- 403     a. Participate in National Voter Registration Day on September 15th.
- 404     The 2025 season of National Voter Registration Day has officially
- 405     launched! We anticipate over 100,000 state and local elections across
- 406     the country this year, and we are building a nationwide partner
- 407     coalition to help ensure that America is #VoteReady for their next trip
- 408     to the ballot box.
- 409     b. Develop a platform that provides digital voter registration
- 410     identification cards, allowing voters to store them on mobile devices.
- 411     c. Launch a marketing campaign to increase community awareness
- 412     of our online voter registration portal, specifically targeting
- 413     individuals aged 18-40.
- 414     d. Organize an Expo on all three islands on September 23, 2026. This
- 415     event will coincide with the final day of registration before the period
- 416     closes on October 11, 2026. Whether you are new to the voter
- 417     registration process or a veteran of National Voter Registration Day,
- 418     everyone can benefit from assistance getting their friends, family, and
- 419     the broader community registered to vote. We will partner with
- 420     various government and non-profit organizations to ensure that this
- 421     event is informative, educational, and provides networking
- 422     opportunities.

423 e. Purchase tablets and a portal on our website for the judges to  
424 compile their reports. This will transition them from manual journal  
425 reporting to electronic reporting.

426 f. To plan and execute another successful Quiz Bowl 2025-2026 to  
427 include all the high schools territorially.

428 g. Continue implementing and conducting successful elections in the  
429 2026 Election cycle.

430 h. To increase voter registration numbers and participation rates.

431 **\*\*CHALLENGES:\*\***

432 a. **\*\*Engaging Citizens:\*\*** We must not only educate but also empower  
433 our citizens to take their rightful place in democracy by registering to  
434 vote. It's not just about having an ID; it's about inspiring them to  
435 participate actively on election day and make their voices heard.

436 b. **\*\*Voting Center Conditions:\*\*** Utilizing public schools as voting  
437 centers presents significant challenges. Broken air conditioning  
438 creates uncomfortable environments that deter participation, while  
439 insufficient electrical outlets hinder our operations. This forces us to  
440 consider renting private facilities, adding unnecessary expenses and  
441 complexities to the process.

442 c. **\*\*Funding Dilemma:\*\*** One of the most pressing hurdles we face is  
443 securing adequate and timely funding. Engaging our dedicated



444 election officials (poll workers) and vendors without the necessary  
445 resources becomes a daunting challenge. We need your support to  
446 ensure these essential partners are paid timely, showing they are  
447 valued. Funding must be provided during Fiscal Year 2026 and funds  
448 must be available until expended.

449 e. **\*\*Combatting Misinformation:\*\*** The integrity of our elections hangs  
450 in the balance as misinformation spreads like wildfire. We must band  
451 together to combat this threat. We urge voters to seek accurate  
452 information on our website and contact our office to clarify voting  
453 laws and procedures.

454 On behalf of the Board of Elections and the Office of the Supervisor  
455 of Elections, we earnestly implore this body to approve the proposed  
456 Fiscal 2026 budget. This funding is not merely a financial allocation;  
457 it is a commitment to uphold democracy, enhance electoral integrity,  
458 and serve our community with excellence. Together, we can ensure  
459 that every voice counts, and every vote is honored.

460 The agency's mission relies on financial resources to maintain and  
461 expand initiatives that address the growing needs of the Virgin  
462 Islands Elections System. This will ensure that we can provide  
463 reliable and efficient operations, uphold the integrity of the electoral

464 system, and meet statutory deadlines mandated by law. Insufficient  
465 funding could compromise the integrity of our electoral system.

466 \*\*\* **SUMMARY** \*\*\*

467 **Office of the Supervisor FY26 Proposed Budget**

- 468 - Personnel Services: \$1,096,000.00
- 469 - Fringe Benefits: \$347,000.00
- 470 - Supplies: \$35,000.00
- 471 - Professional Services and Training: \$986,500.00
- 472 - Utility Services: \$89,000.00
- 473 - **Total: \$2,553,500.00**

474 **Board of Elections FY26 Proposed Budget**

- 475 -Personnel Services: \$74,000.00
- 476 -Fringe Benefits: \$34,029.40
- 477 -Supplies: \$14,400.00
- 478 -Capital Outlays: \$95,000.00
- 479 - Other Services: \$164,000.00 (including Training & Stipends)
- 480 -**Total: \$381,429.40**

481 I will conclude with this quote: You Do Not Have a Right to Vote, You  
482 Have a Duty to Vote”. David Barton

483 \*\*\* **CONCLUSION** \*\*\*

484 Chairman Francis, I kindly urge you and the committee members to  
485 lend your full support and favorable consideration to the Elections  
486 System of the Virgin Islands FY 2026 Budget. We are grateful to the  
487 Committee Budget, Appropriations, and Finance and all members of  
488 the 36th Legislature for this opportunity to present our proposed  
489 Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Together, let us empower our community  
490 by ensuring that every voice is heard and valued. “Your Voice is Your  
491 Vote, and Your Vote is Your Voice.” Let us make this a reality for all.”  
492 The Chairman of the Board and I are available to answer any  
493 questions you may have regarding our Fiscal Year 2026 budget  
494 Testimony.