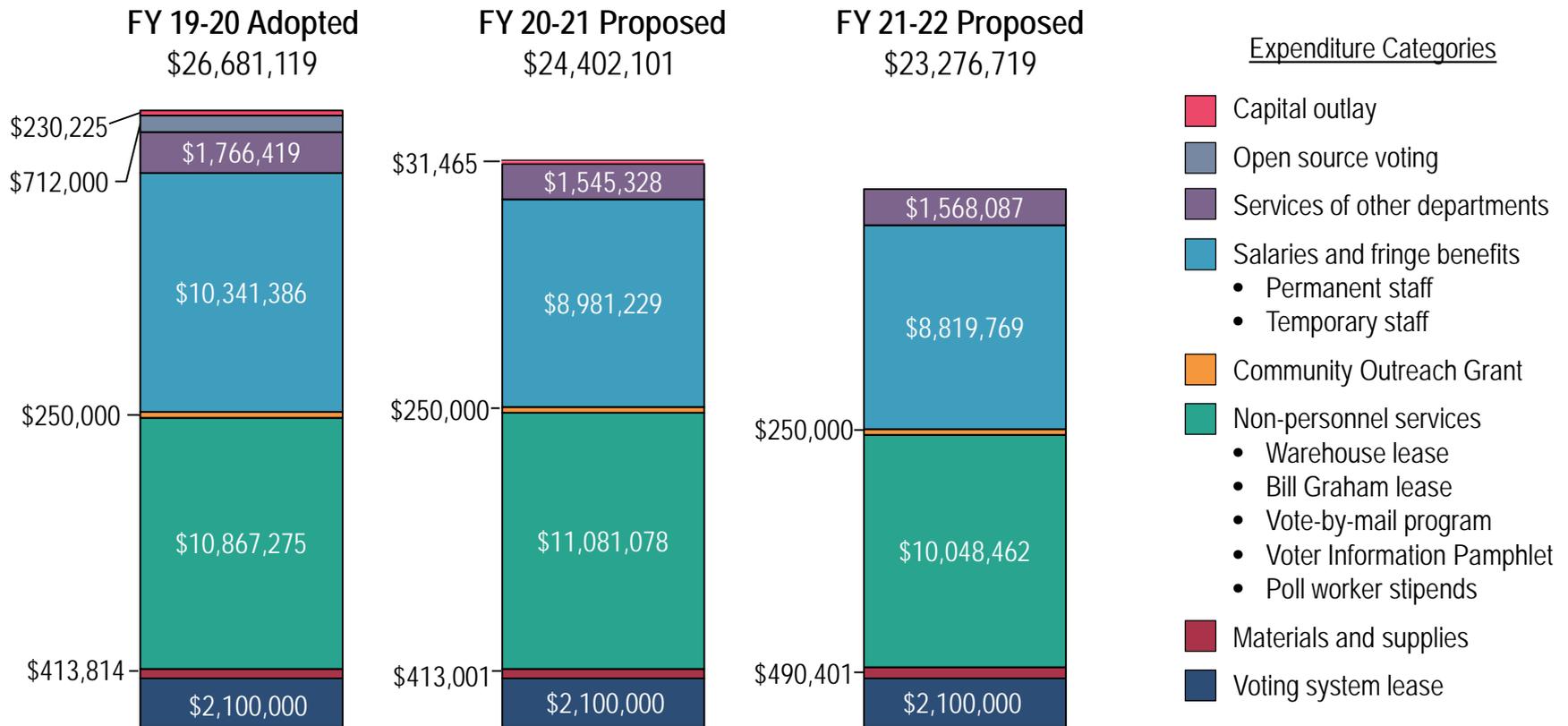


Department of Elections  
Proposed Budget  
FY 2020 – 2021 and FY 2021 – 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
Budget and Appropriations Committee Hearing  
August 12, 2020

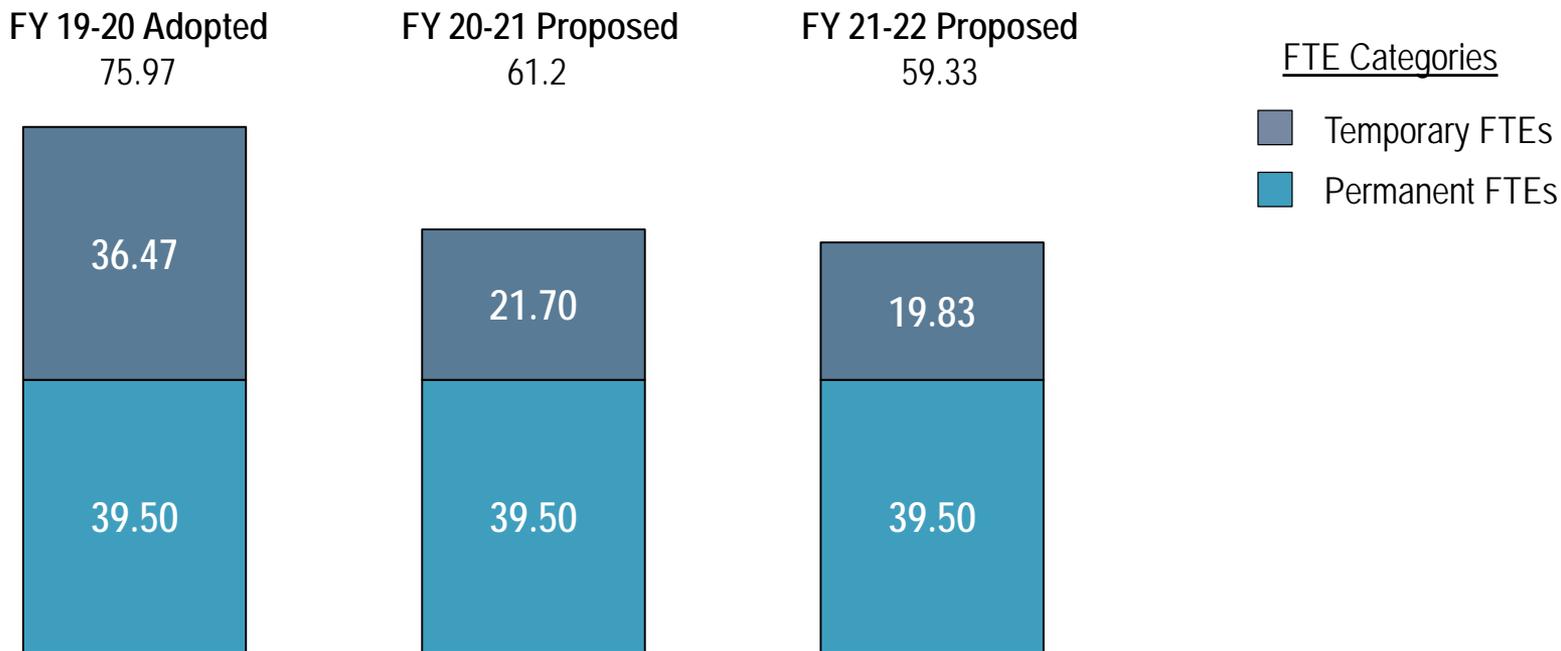
# Budget Comparison

The Department's expenditures are consistently reflective of the number of elections in a FY year and the scope of the elections, including voter turnout and the amount of content placed on the ballot and in the voter information pamphlet.



# FTE Count

The Department has maintained 39.50 permanent FTEs since 2014. For each election, the Department hires temporary staff to aid the full-time staff with candidate filings, maintenance of voter records, signature comparison on vote-by-mail ballots, poll worker training, preparation of polling places, processing of voted ballots, and canvass processes. Temporary staff are hired for approximately two months and are released following election certification.



As shown in the graph, total FTE varies by FY due to variation in temporary staffing levels.

# Reductions



## Following reductions were made:

### ~~Remote Voting Centers~~

Four remote voting centers will not be organized.

### ~~Materials and Supplies~~

Replenishment of certain program supplies and materials has been postponed.

### ~~Some Services~~

Audio elections content will be produced with synthetic voice instead of human recording; ballot facsimiles will be provided only at the required sites.

### ~~Miscellaneous Items~~

Election equipment and vehicle rental, and staff development and training have been reduced.

**No layoffs, eliminations of vacant positions, or reductions to contracts with CBOs were proposed.**



## Proposed budget includes funding for:

### Universal Vote by Mail

Printing, assembling, mailing, and processing over 510,000 vote-by-mail ballots (the current number of voters registered in San Francisco).

### In-Person Voting Services

Securing, staffing, and providing voting and ballot drop-off services at 588 polling places on Election Day and the City Hall Voting Center during the 29-day early voting period. To protect public health, the City Hall Voting Center will be set up in the area outside of Bill Graham Civic Auditorium.

### Election Outreach

Providing comprehensive, multilingual, multi-format outreach. Strategies include mailings and digital notices; multimedia presentations; continued collaboration with local partners who serve members of vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations, including seniors and voters with disabilities, members of the language minority groups, voters who are experiencing homelessness, and residents of neighborhoods with turnout below the City average.

# Criteria for Reductions

In proposing reductions, the Department evaluated whether each was likely to result in significant adverse consequence such as:



- Diminished citywide voter turnout, public observation, or poll worker engagement
- Disruption of registration, voting, or election-related services to vulnerable voters
- Negative impact on voting system security
- Delay in election results reporting

# Advancing Racial Equity and Protecting Vulnerable Residents

As part of its ongoing commitment to voting rights equity in the City, the Department considers the needs of San Francisco's communities in providing all of its voter outreach, education, and election-related services.

## Delivering Voter Education and Outreach

To encourage voter registration and voter turnout across the City, the Department maintains both a year-round outreach program and an election-specific outreach program. In disseminating election information, the Department partners with local organizations and city departments who serve members of vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations, including seniors and voters with disabilities, members of the City's language minority groups, voters who are experiencing homelessness, and residents of neighborhoods with turnout below the City average.

Current partnerships include a project with the COVID Command Center to distribute election materials in Civic Center/Downtown, South of Market, Bayview/Hunters Point, Visitacion Valley, Chinatown, Western Addition, Excelsior/Outer Mission, and Ingleside and grant partnerships with eight local organizations to disseminate election information to members of the City's most vulnerable populations.

## Universal Vote-by-Mail and Accessible Vote-by-Mail

For the November 3 election, the Department will mail vote-by-mail ballots and open the accessible vote-by-mail system to all registered voters. Every voter will be able to return their voted ballot by mail using a postage-paid return envelope. The Department is now engaged in a concerted effort to remind San Franciscans to check information in their voter records to ensure timely delivery of their ballots this fall.

## Providing In-Person Voting Opportunities

For the November 3 election, the Department will provide 588 in-person voting sites for voters who prefer to cast their ballots in person. The Department strives to ensure that locations take into consideration the needs of language minority voters, seniors, voters with disabilities, and residents of neighborhoods with turnout below the City average. All sites will provide bilingual paper ballots in English and either Chinese, Spanish or Filipino, and facsimile ballots in Burmese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, and/or Vietnamese are available in certain locations. All sites will also provide accessible voting equipment and tools and be staffed with poll workers trained to offer personal and language assistance to all voters.