



Ohio Sunset Review Committee  
Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners (BVME)

Point of Contact Stephan Shehy

Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

**Primary Purpose: Examination and Approval of Ohio's Voting Systems and Equipment**

The Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners (BVME) is a bipartisan, four-member board charged with examining and recommending for certification voting equipment for use in Ohio elections. R.C. 3506.05.

**Goals and Objectives: Securing Ohio's Voting Systems and Equipment**

The BVME examines voting systems and voting equipment to ensure that each meets the applicable requirements of Ohio law before it can be used in Ohio elections. New systems and modifications to previously certified systems must be qualified by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), tested by a federally accredited Voting System Test Laboratory (VSTL), prior to being submitted for examination. During the exam process, the applicant must be prepared to answer technical, procedural, and security questions from the examiners.

If the BVME is satisfied that a voting system or voting equipment meets the requirements of Ohio law, as reflected in the respective BVME requirements matrix, the BVME makes a recommendation to certify the equipment for use in Ohio elections to the Ohio Secretary of State.

**Continued Compliance**

The BVME is required to periodically examine, test, and inspect certified equipment to determine continued compliance. Such re-examination is conducted at least every five years for all equipment.

Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff.

**Past workload:** From 2018 to 2023, the BVME examined and recommended 18 voting systems, 12 electronic pollbooks, and 6 remote ballot marking devices for use in Ohio elections.

**Staff required:** The BVME has no dedicated staff. The Secretary of State's office provides administrative and subject matter expert support to the BVME from existing Secretary of State staff.

**Anticipated Workload:** All existing systems will require recertification in no more than five years and newly developed systems will require examination and certification.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding

**The BVME is a Fee Funded Board.**

Ohio law requires all vendors to submit a \$2,400 certification fee before they submit their request for a BVME meeting. RC 3506.05(C)(1).

RC 3506.05(C)(2) states that fees collected by the Secretary of State under this section shall be deposited into the state treasury to the credit of the board of voting machine examiners fund, which is hereby created. All moneys credited to this fund shall be used solely for the purpose of paying for the services and expenses of each member of the board or for other expenses incurred relating to the examination, testing, reporting, or certification of equipment, the performance of any related duties as required by the Secretary of State, or the reimbursement of any person submitting an examination fee as provided in this chapter.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any

**BVME Members Appointment**

The BVME consists of four members, appointed as follows:

- Two members appointed by the Secretary of State.
- One member appointed by either the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, whichever is a member of the opposite political party from the one to which the Secretary of State belongs.
- One member appointed by either the President of the Senate or the Minority Leader of the Senate, whichever is a member of the opposite political party from the one to which the Secretary of State belongs.

**Members' Compensation**

Per ORC 3506.05(B), for the member's service, each member of the board shall receive three hundred dollars per day for each combination of marking device, tabulating equipment, voting machine, or electronic pollbook examined and reported, but in no event shall a member receive more than six hundred dollars to examine and report on any one marking device, item of tabulating equipment, voting machine, or electronic pollbook. Each member of the board shall be reimbursed for expenses the member incurs during an examination or during the performance of any related duties that may be required by the secretary of state. Reimbursement of these expenses shall be made in accordance with, and shall not exceed, the rates provided for under section 126.31 of the Revised Code.

Additional notes

**BVME Competency**

Per ORC 3506.05(B), Each member of the board shall be a competent and experienced election officer or a person who is knowledgeable about the operation of voting equipment and shall serve during the Secretary of State's term.

**BVME Vacancy**

Any vacancy on the board is filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

**Term of BVME Members**

Term of office of Secretary of State.

**Conflict of Interest**

Board members cannot have any pecuniary interest in voting machines, marking devices, automatic tabulating equipment or such software, or any affiliation with the vendor of any of the same.