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<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cename, Budget Director	CITY of <b>BALTIMORE</b> <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4774		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 20-0192R—Informational Hearing—Are We Prepared for Election 2020?		

DATE:

**TO**

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400

January 21, 2020

**Position: Supports**

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 20-0192R, Informational Hearing—Are We Prepared for Election 2020?, the purpose of which is to brief the City Council on preparations and readiness for upcoming elections in Baltimore City.

**Background**

In 2013, the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research (BBMR) in the Department of Finance conducted a management research report to find ways to improve cost-effectiveness of the conduct of elections. The report had six recommended actions to improve cost-effectiveness, such as adjusting staffing models, changing performance measures, and exploring alternative methods of voting. However, since BBMR has not conducted a follow-up report, we cannot comment on current operations.

**Fiscal Impact**

The Board of Elections total budget for Fiscal Year 2020 is \$8.7 million. In Fiscal Year 2019, the agency ended the year with a \$2 million surplus. Approximately \$1.5 million of this surplus was carried forward and included in their Fiscal Year 2020 budget. The table below provides cost estimates for elections in Fiscal Year 2020:

Election	Cost
Special Election for 7 <sup>th</sup> District, February 2020	\$1.6 million
Primary Election, April 2020	\$2.13 million

The State of Maryland has required the Board of Elections to purchase new routers for the precincts, at a cost of \$427,128.10. These funds were not available in the budget, so the City is financing their purchase over three years, at an additional cost of \$26,782.34. The cost of the new routers is a total of \$453,910.44.

**Conclusion**

The Board of Elections faces unexpected new costs in Fiscal Year 2020 with a special election in February and a new requirement from the State. These costs will likely result in the agency ending the year at budget.

**The Department of Finance supports City Council Bill 20-0192R.**

cc: Henry Raymond  
Matthew Stegman  
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