



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1540

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

#### 4. Project/Program Description

The FSU College of Law Election Law Center provides objective, non-partisan, evidence-based analysis of election-related laws, policies, and constitutional issues. It sponsors conferences, lectures, and courses, and assists policymakers and election officials. The center has also provided scholarships and fellowship opportunities for law students seeking to pursue careers in election law, working with the Department of State, FL Elections Commission, and Supervisors of Election. It prepares research including articles, testimony, and publicly accessible websites to disseminate its research, enhance transparency, and increase public confidence in Florida elections.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

#### 6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	1,900,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,900,000</b>

#### 7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,900,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>1,900,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2023-24	0	1,000,000	143	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

The center will seek nonrecurring funding from the legislature, but will also seek grants from nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations as well as federal funds to fund work with the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.



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## Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

### 10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

☐ Planning ☐ Design ☐ Construction ☐ N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

Florida State University is a public state university.

### 12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	The Executive Director oversees all aspects of the election law center and is primarily responsible for hiring and managing personnel, disseminating the center's research, overseeing the center's budget, organizing the Center's events, and maintaining relationships with the legislature & election officials.	220,000
Other Salary and Benefits	The Program Assistant handles logistics for center events, reviews student timesheets, assists with administrative tasks & project organization, maintains the center website, and promotes the center's work. The Faculty Director works with the Executive Director to set annual goals and focus areas.	119,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	The Center's operational staff will be comprised of empirical researchers with backgrounds in statistical analysis, staff attorneys with expertise in election law, and an election law librarian / archivist to identify and organize primary sources and assist in the development of publicly accessible websites.	768,500
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	The Center will fund the FL post-election audit project; annual election law conferences and meetings; primary source and caselaw databases of election cases and contests; a visiting assistant professorship; travel; student scholarships and fellowships; and research expenses for reports	792,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		



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Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,900,000

#### 13. Program Performance

##### a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

The funding will be used to establish and maintain the nonpartisan FSU College of Law Election Law Center to develop objective, evidence-based analysis of election-related legal, constitutional, regulatory, and policy issues.

##### b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

The Center will hold conferences, workshops, and lectures for law students, practitioners, and the public, as well as educational presentations for election officials. It will conduct research and generate reports and articles on election law issues for use by scholars, election officials, practitioners, and lawmakers. It will provide direct practical assistance to lawmakers and election administrators, as well as scholarships and fellowship opportunities for law students seeking to specialize in the field.

##### c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

The Center will hold conferences and lectures open to the public, sponsor and create websites such as the Florida Post-Election Audit which are accessible to the public, and publicly disseminate articles and other research prepared by the Center to promote transparency and bolster public confidence in Florida's electoral system.

##### d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The Election Law Center will serve students, election officials, legislators, scholars, and voters. Each year, dozens of students at FSU College of Law are likely to participate in its various programs, along with hundreds of attorneys (getting CLE through Center programs) and other members of the public attending conferences, lectures, and other events. Thousands of people visit the Center's webpage and online projects the Center co-sponsors.

##### e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

The Election Law Center will track the number of students who take affiliated courses and participate in its programs; the number of articles, reports, and other materials the center generates; attendance at the Center's conferences, lectures, and other events; quotes in the media; and opportunities to make educational presentations to, or otherwise assist, government officials. The Center will also rely on feedback from legislators, election administrators, and other officials.

##### f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

Revert state appropriation and withhold future funding for this initiative.

#### 14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

##### a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- ☐ Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- ☐ Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- ☐ Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

##### b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

#### 15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?



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- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

#### 17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

☐ For Profit Entity

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(3)

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)

☐ Local Entity



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☒ University or College

☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name  Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

*The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.*