

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
STATEWIDE ELECTIONS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND CAMPAIGN
FINANCE SOFTWARE UPGRADES**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – Statewide Elections Management System
<i>Send all questions about this RFI to:</i> Telephone: 919-814-0700 Email: elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov Please use Subject Line: “RFI Questions” Written inquiries addressed to: State Board of Elections P.O. Box 27255, Raleigh, NC 27611-7255	Issue Date: October 31, 2025 Response Deadline: 5 p.m. November 30, 2025 Question Deadline: 5 p.m. November 14, 2025
<i>Submit responses to this RFI to:</i> Public Comment Portal: https://www.auditor.nc.gov/elections Email: electionsrfi@ncauditor.gov Written responses addressed to: North Carolina Office of the State Auditor 20601 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699	Issuing Agency Name: North Carolina State Board of Elections (NCSBE)

EXECUTION

RESPONDER NAME:	E-MAIL:
STREET ADDRESS:	P.O. BOX:
CITY, STATE ZIP:	TELEPHONE NUMBERS:
TYPE OR PRINT NAME & TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING:	FAX NUMBER:
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:	DATE:

NOTICE TO RESPONDERS:

Responses to this Request for Information (RFI) will be received by NCSBE using the methods and deadlines listed above.

Written questions regarding this RFI will be received until 5 p.m. November 14 (“Question Deadline”). Submit written questions regarding this RFI using the contact information above. All questions must be received by the Question Deadline, and if timely submitted, will receive an answer by November 21, to permit the Responder to incorporate the answer into their response prior to the Response Deadline.

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The North Carolina State Board of Elections (NCSBE) is issuing this RFI to solicit information from potential vendors and interested North Carolina citizens regarding modernization of the Statewide Elections Information Management System (SEIMS) and campaign finance software. The State Board of Elections maintains SEIMS, which was initially developed in 1998. SEIMS is a central elections management system that coordinates statewide elections processes, voter registration as prescribed by N.C.G.S. § 163-82.11, and reporting of election night and canvassed results. SEIMS is used by the North Carolina State and County Boards of Elections to perform various election-related tasks and facilitate the administration of elections in the state. The SEIMS Modernization Project is a phased approach to modernizing SEIMS applications and systems in a secure, cloud-based environment. There are three phases to this modernization effort. Phase I of the project is complete. It involved the migration of SEIMS to a secure cloud environment. Phase II of this project is underway and addresses the conversion of the remaining deprecated legacy client applications to modern web applications. Phase III of this project will be a complete redesign of the database, application, and reporting components within SEIMS, based on stakeholder input from this RFI.

The campaign finance reporting software, developed by NCSBE in the early 2000s, enables the submission and storing of all campaign finance data and information required by the law and allows the public to access campaign finance disclosures.

The information gathered through this RFI will be used to understand current market capabilities, assess technology and software needs, and inform future procurement decisions. This RFI is for information gathering purposes only and does not constitute a commitment to purchase or a solicitation of formal proposals.

Pursuant to Section 2E.5.(b) of Session Law 2025-89, the North Carolina General Assembly directed the NCSBE to “develop and issue a request for proposal [(RFP)] for the [SEIMS] Modernization Project Plan.” Because the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor (OSA) directs and supervises

the NCSBE's budget, *see* S.L. 2024-57, § 3A.2.(a), OSA seeks to ensure that both entities are fully informed of the NCSBE's technology needs prior to development of the NCSBE's future RFP.

Accordingly, prior to issuing an RFP, the NCSBE and OSA seek information from the public and potential vendors regarding available technology solutions that can enhance the efficiency, security, and accessibility of the electoral process while ensuring compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

SECTION II: REQUESTED INFORMATION

The NCSBE and OSA request answers to the following information:

1. Please identify whether you are a public citizen or a potential vendor.
2. If you are a potential vendor who could provide services to completely replace the existing SEIMS or Campaign Finance systems with a modern, secure, redundant, and customized solution, please provide a short summary of your company's qualifications and a list of similar projects that are completed or currently in progress.
3. What security features should the SEIMS and campaign finance software upgrades include?
4. What reporting features should the SEIMS and campaign finance software upgrades include? What dynamic reporting capabilities should be considered? What information should be available on the NCSBE's website?
5. What transparency features should be incorporated into the SEIMS and campaign finance software?
6. Is there anything else the NCSBE should consider when preparing the RFP for the SEIMS and campaign finance software upgrades?
7. Do you have any other suggestions or comments?

SECTION III: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

No Obligation to Contract

The NCSBE and OSA recognize that considerable effort will be required in preparing a response to this RFI. **However, please note this RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a solicitation or request for services.** This RFI should not be construed as a commitment by the NCSBE to enter into any contract or to purchase any products or services.

Disposition of Responses

All information received in response to this RFI becomes the property of the NCSBE and may be used in any manner deemed appropriate by the NCSBE, including to develop the NCSBE's statement of needs and requirements for a future RFP. The NCSBE is not obligated to return any materials submitted in response to this RFI, and, except as expressly provided by law, all information received in response to this RFI shall become public record. *See N.C.G.S. § 132-1 et seq.*

Responder Representations

By submitting a response to this RFI, Responders represent that:

1. All information provided is accurate, complete, and truthful, and
2. The response does not contain any confidential or proprietary information that the Responder would not want disclosed to the public.

In addition to the representations listed above, if Responder is a potential vendor submitting a response to Question #2 in Section II, it also represents that:

3. The Vendor has the capability to provide the products and services described in the response.
4. The Vendor is not currently debarred, suspended, or otherwise prohibited from doing business with government entities.

The NCSBE & OSA's Reservations

The NCSBE and OSA reserve the right to:

1. Cancel this RFI at any time without incurring any liability,
2. Reject any or all responses received,
3. Use the information obtained through this RFI in any manner deemed appropriate,
4. Request additional information or clarification from Responders,
5. Modify the scope or requirements of this RFI,
6. Extend deadlines or modify procedures as deemed necessary, and
7. Waive minor informalities or irregularities in responses.

Other than acknowledgement of receipt if requested, those who respond to this RFI should not anticipate feedback with regard to their submissions or further participation in development of any future solicitation. The NCSBE and OSA reserve the sole right to develop any future solicitation in any way they deem appropriate, and submission of a response to this RFI in no way creates any guarantee that the information received will be incorporated into a future solicitation or used by the NCSBE in any way.

Cost of Response Preparation

The NCSBE and OSA will not reimburse any costs incurred by Responders in preparing and submitting responses to this RFI. All costs associated with response preparation shall be borne solely by the Responders.

SECTION IV: RESPONSE SUBMISSION

Responders may choose to answer any questions listed in Section II above. There is no requirement that Responders answer all questions for their response to be accepted. Responders should clearly indicate which question(s) its response addresses. The NCSBE and OSA request concise, detailed, point-by-point responses to each of the questions to which Responders choose to respond.

Responders will have thirty days to prepare their responses to this RFI. Responders shall execute the Execution Section on the cover page of this RFI and append their responses as a PDF to this RFI. Responses shall be received by the Response Date, Time, and Location specified on the cover sheet of this RFI and must be submitted in the manner(s) indicated on the cover sheet of this RFI. Responses submitted by email shall include the subject line “Statewide Elections Management and Campaign Finance Upgrade RFI from [RESPONDER’S NAME].”

Clarification questions will be accepted until the Question Deadline indicated on the cover page of this RFI. All questions must be submitted in writing and submitted as indicated on the cover page of this RFI. If necessary, an addendum will be issued to this RFI containing any general clarification questions and their answers.

The NCSBE will make best efforts to answer questions received after the Question Deadline but cannot guarantee an answer will be provided in time for the Responder to incorporate the answer into its Response.

A response to this RFI is not a mandatory requirement for participation in any subsequent solicitation or Request for Proposal released by the NCSBE.

The information provided in this RFI is subject to change and is not binding on the NCSBE or OSA.

SECTION V: PUBLIC RECORDS & CONFIDENTIALITY

Proprietary information and trade secrets are neither sought nor desired by the NCSBE or OSA, and to the extent possible, Responders should refrain from submitting any such information in their responses. However, if any Responder believes certain, necessary information in its response constitutes a trade secret or proprietary information, Responder should clearly mark the top and bottom of pages containing such confidential information with a legend in boldface type “**CONFIDENTIAL**” or “**PROPRIETARY**.” See N.C.G.S. §§ 132-1.2(1)(d); 143B-1350(e); 09 NCAC 06B.103, 06B.1001. By so marking any page, the Responder warrants that it has formed a good faith opinion, having received such necessary or proper review by counsel and other knowledgeable advisors that the portions marked confidential meet the requirements of the Rules and Statutes set forth above. *However, under no circumstances shall price information be designated as confidential.*

If a Responder believes that certain information in its response constitutes a trade secret or is otherwise exempt from disclosure under Chapter 132, the Responder must:

1. Clearly mark such information as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “PROPRIETARY”, and
2. Include a statement justifying the claim of confidentiality or provide a redacted version of the response that could be released publicly.

The NCSBE will make reasonable efforts to protect properly identified confidential information to the extent permitted by law but cannot guarantee that such information will not be subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act, N.C.G.S. § 132-1, *et seq.* ***Unmarked information will be treated as nonproprietary and may be subject to disclosure pursuant to North Carolina Public Records Law*** as found in Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

The State may serve as custodian of Responder’s confidential information and not as an arbiter of claims against Responder’s assertion of confidentiality. If an action is brought pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 132-9 to compel the State to disclose information marked confidential, the Responder agrees that it will intervene in the action through its counsel and participate in defending the State, including any public official(s) or public employee(s). Responder agrees that it shall hold the State and any official(s) and individual(s) harmless from any and all damages, costs, and attorneys’ fees awarded against the State in the action. The State agrees to promptly notify the Responder in writing of any action seeking to compel the disclosure of Responder’s confidential information. The State shall have the right, at its option and expense, to participate in the defense of the action through its counsel. The State shall have no liability to Responder with respect to the disclosure of the Responder’s confidential information ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to N.C.G.S. §132-9 or other applicable law.