

COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

Citizen-Centric Report Fiscal Year 2018

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COMMISSION

JESUS I. SABLAN

Chairperson (Saipan)

VINCENTE V.T. KING

Vice-Chairperson (Tinian)

JOSEPH E. SANTOS

Member (Tinian)

HENRY L. KAIPAT

Member (Saipan)

LELANIE I. MANGLONA

Member (Rota)

ESTHER A. YATAR

Member (Rota)

COMMISSION STAFF

JULITA A. VILLAGOMEZ

Executive Director

KAYLA S. IGITOL

Administrative Officer

AMBROSIO J. LISUA

Election Register Clerk

JENNA DYN P. BORJA

Election Register Clerk

CHRISTINA K. NORITA

Election Register Clerk

ASHLEY B. BORNILLA

Election Clerk Assistant

Who are we?

The Commonwealth Election Commission was created under Public Law 12-18, as amended which was codified in Title 1 Division 6 of the Commonwealth Code. It was created to establish procedures and requirements of voters and the conduct of elections within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Commission shall have nine (9) members appointed by the Governor subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. Five members shall be residents of Saipan and the islands north of Saipan, two members shall be residents of Rota, and two members shall be residents of the islands of Tinian and Aguiguan. No person may be appointed a commission member who is not a registered voter of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Election Commission's Executive Director is Julita A. Villagomez, who serves at the pleasure of the Commission. Including the Executive Director, CEC's full-time staff consist of six employees. Eight months prior to election the commission hires Ten (10) temporary employees to assist in preparation and closing of election.

Mission

To ensure a fair, honestly, orderly and impartial election process.



WHO QUALIFIES TO REGISTER?

A person is eligible to vote who meets the following qualifications as provided in Title 1 Division 6 § 6201.

1. A citizen or national of the United States
2. Who, on the date of election, is 18 years of age or older
3. Domiciled in the Commonwealth for 120 days prior to the election
4. Has not been declared by a court to be of unsound mind
5. Not serving a sentence for a felony



CONTACT US

Commonwealth Election Commission

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PERFORMANCE

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES

LOCATION	DATE	TOTAL REGISTRANT
FIESTA RESORT & SPA	04/12/2018	12
KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL	04/12/2018	62
MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL/DA'OK ACADEMY	04/26/2018	74
FLAME TREE FESTIVAL/ MY PROS	4/3-5/2018	78
SPN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL	5/07/2018	7
MARCH AGAINST CANCER	5/07/2018	7
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB	5/16/2018	27
TINIAN HIGH SCHOOL	5/17-18/19	38

NORTHERN MARIANAS DESCENT REGISTRY (NMDR)

Northern Marianas Descent Qualification

A person of Northern Marianas descent is a person who is a citizen or national of the United States and who has at least some degree of Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof. For purposes of determining Northern Marianas descent by adoption, a child without any degree of Northern Marianas descent when adopted while under the age of eighteen by a person of Northern Marianas descent shall not acquire any degree of Northern Marianas descent. For purposes of determining Northern Marianas descent, a person shall be considered to be a full-blooded Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian if that person was born or domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands by 1950 and was a citizen of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands before the termination of the Trusteeship with respect to the Commonwealth.

Any person who has less than one quarter Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof, claiming to be a person of Northern Marianas descent shall provide evidence to support that he/she possess some degree of Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof to the Superior Court. Based on the evidentiary standard of "preponderance of the evidence", the Superior Court may grant or deny such claim, and the decision of the Superior Court on such claim shall be subject to a "de novo" judicial review. However, if the Superior Court finds and agrees that the person in fact possesses at least some degree of Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof, the Superior Court shall certify that the person is a person of Northern Marianas descent.

Voter Registration Statistic

Precinct	Total by Precinct	Polling Site
Precinct 1A	977	Hopwood Md. School
Precinct 1B	2817	Dandan Md. School
Precinct 1C	1283	Kobler Youth Center
Precinct 2	1563	Joeten Public Library
Precinct 3A	980	Gilbert C. Ada Gym
Precinct 3B	2824	Garapan Elem School
Precinct 4A	714	Tanapag Md. School
Precinct 4B	630	GTC Elem School
Precinct 4C	420	J.P. Mafanas Legislative Building
Precinct 4D	177	Northern Islands
Precinct 5	2836	Kagman Elem School
Precinct 6	1759	Tinian Elem School
Precinct 7	2001	NMC Campus—ROTA
TOTAL:	18,981	

NMD Registry Statistic

Years	Total Registered
2008-2018	9,736

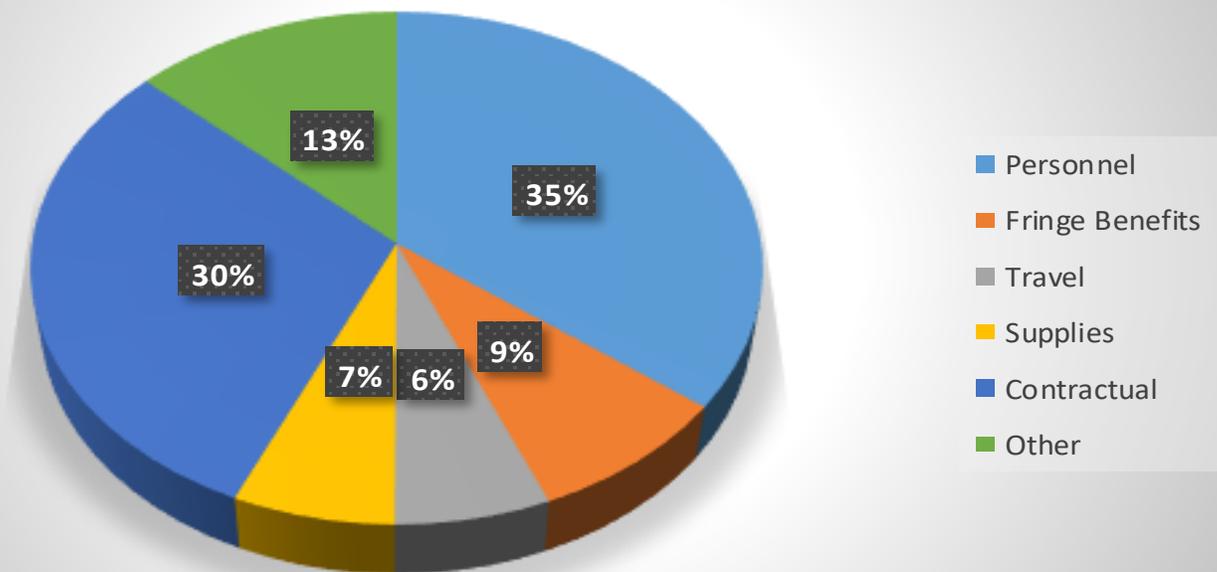


FINANCES

EXPENDITURES	Fiscal Year 2018
Personnel	140,260
Fringe Benefits	33,330
Travel	25,000
Supplies	26,000
Contractual	120,000
Other	51,926
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	396,516

As the cost to run an election is quite expensive ranging from between a \$100,000 to \$130,000, depending if legislative or popular initiatives are part of an election, the Commission has been and will continue to look at all means in reducing the cost of an election without jeopardizing the integrity of our election process.

Fiscal Year 2018





FUTURE OUTLOOK AND CHALLENGES

LOOKING FORWARD

In anticipation of future elections, The CEC continues to strive in:

- ⇒ Preparation of 2019 Special Election for a vacancy of House of Representative in Precinct 3
- ⇒ The Commonwealth Election Commission Board members to meet and address issues with election laws that need to be amended to ensure a smooth process.
- ⇒ Continuing efforts to register voters and Northern Marianas Descent
- ⇒ To conduct comprehensive training for all poll workers.

CHALLENGES

CEC confronts issues and barriers with:

- ◆ Validating the voter registry
- ◆ Increasing the number of registered Northern Marianas Descent
- ◆ Hiring of Temporary staff/poll workers
- ◆ Relocation of polling sites due to damages from Typhoon Yutu
- ◆ Power/water issues at all polling sites
- ◆ Flight delay for Rota ballots
- ◆ The processing of absentee ballots

UPCOMING ELECTION

2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Polls Open: 7:00 am - 7:00 pm

OPEN SEATS

POSITION	NO. OF SEAT
1. U.S. Delegate	1
2. Senate	
Saipan	1
Tinian	1
Rota	1
3. House of Representative	
Precinct 1	6
Precinct 2	2
Precinct 3	6
Precinct 4	2
Precinct 5	2
Precinct 6	1
Precinct 7	1
4. Municipal Council	
Saipan	3
Tinian	3
Rota	3
5. Board of Education	
Saipan	1
Rota	1