



Project Overview

With the 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2023 HAVA funds, the Colorado Department of State has been granted a total of \$15,821,719. Colorado has developed and implemented several projects with the consolidated 2018, 2020, 2022 and 2023 money. These include:

Table Top Exercises on incident response and preparedness

- The Department has already executed three separate table top exercise (TTX) to bolster awareness and test incident response plans of county and state stakeholders. TTX and mock election exercises served to train individuals in stressful situations to better prepare and anticipate real world situations.

Ballot Tracking

- The Department developed a user interface to allow voters to monitor the status of their ballots. This service works to counter foreign disinformation intended to decrease confidence in the American electoral process by reassuring Coloradans of the security of their individual cast ballots. In its first statewide implementation, statewide ballot tracking was popular with counties and voters. Slightly more than half (50.45 percent) of all Coloradans who cast a ballot in the 2020 General Election used the service. In the 2022 election, notifications to voters who needed to cure a signature or ID issue was added to the workflow. We have heard anecdotally that voters' confidence in the election system was boosted by the ability to receive confirmation that their ballot was accepted and counted.

Current Planned Usage for Remaining HAVA Funds

The Department is using a multi-pronged approach to address election security concerns and areas for continued improvement of a federal election. These include working closely with Colorado's county election officials to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new voter registration and election management system as well as identify security vulnerabilities at the county level. In addition, the Department plans to upgrade the counties' voting equipment, improve Colorado's risk-limiting audit system, add new cyber security defenses, and meet the challenge of growing mis/disinformation concerning Colorado's federal elections.

Determination of HAVA Expenditures

First, election and information technology personnel from the office solicited experts in the field for their recommendations. Second, internal meetings were held to determine prioritization. The Colorado Department of State plans to use the remaining consolidated 2018, 2020, 2022 and 2023 HAVA moneys in various ways to further harden its systems and improve the state's security posture as well as stem misinformation and generally improve the conduct of federal



elections. These include three general categories: 1) Purchase a New Voter Registration Database and Election Management System, 2) Purchase Voting Equipment, 3) Improve Colorado's Risk-Limiting Audits and Audits of Elections-Related Systems, and 4) Improved Cyber Security Through Incident Preparedness Exercises and Training, Along with Certification Program Integration.

The following section details some of the plans for Colorado's awarded funds:

New Voter Registration Database and Election Management System

Anticipated Cost: \$9,000,000

Implementation Timeline: 2023-24

Voting Equipment Upgrade of Ballot Marking Device Printers to Eliminate QR Code

Anticipated Cost: \$500,000

Implementation Timeline: 2023

Improved Risk Limiting Audits and Audits of Elections-Related Systems

Anticipated Cost: \$200,000

Implementation Timeline: 2022-23

Table Top Exercises on Incident Response and Preparedness

Anticipated Cost: \$250,000

Implementation Timeline: Current through 2026

Vulnerability/Penetration Tests of Elections-Related Systems

Anticipated Cost: \$250,000

Implementation Timeline: Current through 2024

Attacker/Defender exercises

Anticipated Cost: \$150,000

Implementation Timeline: Current through 2024

Vulnerability Scanning and Code Review of Internal and Vendor Systems

Anticipated Cost: \$100,000

Implementation Timeline: Current through 2024

Create and Implement a Campaign to Dispel Election Mis/Disinformation

Anticipated Cost: \$1,500,000

Implementation Timeline: 2023-24

