

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
STATE OF ILLINOIS



2023 HAVA Grant Program Narrative

The State of Illinois was awarded **\$2,143,228.00** as authorized under Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-252) (HAVA) and provided for in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020. The purpose of this award is to “improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance “election technology and make election security improvements” to the systems, equipment, and processes used in federal elections. The State of Illinois is required to provide a 20% state match of **\$428,646.00** two years from the date of disbursement. The 20% state match is included in the SBE’s FY24 budget request which has been submitted to the Illinois General Assembly for approval during their spring 2023 session.

The 2023 HAVA Funds will partially be used to continue funding projects that are currently in place for voter accessibility and a small amount of funding for election security emergencies. The SBE also plans to use funds for new projects that include voter outreach programs, such as digital media advertising.

ADA Programs/Initiatives

Ensuring the ability of all voters to vote privately and independently is a priority for the stakeholders in Illinois elections. Common impediments to voters’ ability to cast their vote privately and independently are inaccessible polling places. To reduce these impediments, the State Board of Elections will utilize funds to modernize the polling place survey process. This will include a state-wide education and training program for local authorities, modernization of the polling place survey tool, and education and training for conducting surveys utilizing the modernized survey tool, as well as a survey evaluation and oversight program. The estimated timeframe for completion is 2024.

To further reduce difficulties for disabled voters, the SBE is looking to modernize and upgrade our website to be more accessible to voters. As the first-place voters generally turn for information regarding Illinois elections is the State Board of Elections’ website, we want to ensure our website is not only user friendly, but easily accessible for every single voter. The estimated timeframe for completion is 2024.

Total estimated costs of ADA Programs/Initiatives are \$1,721,874.00

Voter Outreach

All Illinois voters should be able to easily understand the voting and registration process, however, the most commonly asked questions we get are circulated around the registration process, especially for our college-aged voters, and disabled and nursing home voters. The SBE wants to target these specific voters with digital media adds and other forms of media adds/outreach to assist voters in better understanding the steps they need to take to successfully vote.

Total estimated costs of Voter Outreach are \$750,000.00

Election Security

Since 2018, the SBE has used HAVA funding to support local election authorities with cyber security upgrades in their jurisdictions. The SBE has transitioned election security costs to a state grant to cover local election authorities and their impending cyber costs, however, in case of a cyber emergency that would require more than the county was allotted through a state grant, the SBE plans to set aside a small amount of funding to cover such emergency.

If none would such exist, these funds would be used for the other two categories listed in the narrative.

Total estimated costs of Election Security are \$100,000.00

