



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**HELP AMERICA VOTE
ACT OF 2002**

As required by Public Law 107-252

**2023
HAVA
ELECTION
SECURITY
GRANT**

**PRESENTED TO:
THE UNITED STATES ELECTION
ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

**R. Kyle Ardoin
Secretary of State
February 28, 2023**

STATE OF LOUISIANA

2023 HAVA ELECTION SECURITY GRANT FUNDS PROGRAM NARRATIVE

I. AMOUNT OF AWARD AND MATCHING COMMITMENT:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, the State of Louisiana will receive \$1,006,388 in federal funds through the United States Election Commission to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including enhancing election technology and making election security improvements as authorized under Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-252) (HAVA). The State of Louisiana is required to provide \$201,278 in State General Funds as the match for the 2023 HAVA Election Security Grant Funds.

In Louisiana, the Secretary of State is the Chief Election Officer of the State of Louisiana and the Department of State administers all election functions, including but not limited to, the following: 1) acquiring the voting equipment (hardware/software/firmware); 2) programming the voting equipment; 3) preparing ballots; 4) draying and storing voting equipment; 5) training election officials on the use of the voting equipment; and 6) assisting in the tabulating of votes by the parish boards of election supervisors. Louisiana is committed to providing an accurate, efficient, and technologically advanced election system to its constituents.

II. TIMEFRAME FOR USE OF FUNDS:

The Department will use the 2023 HAVA Election Security Grant Funds in the amount of \$1,006,388 and the state match of the federal funds in the amount of \$201,278 to help fund the acquisition through purchase or lease of a new voting system for use in the State of Louisiana. The timeframe for the use of the funds will be December 30, 2022 until the funds have been expended.

III. IMPROVEMENTS/ACTIVITIES - VOTING EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADES:

A Request For Proposal (RFP) for the acquisition of a new voting system for use in the State of Louisiana is in the process of being issued and posted by the Louisiana Division of Administration. The scope of the RFP is to provide a turnkey solution for absentee by mail voting, early voting, and election day voting with all associated applications, systems and equipment for ballot preparation, programming, testing and vote tabulation. Implementing a new voting system in the State of Louisiana will require planning, design, configuration, problem resolution, development, analytics, hardware/software/firmware installation, training, implementation, and customization as well as other support services necessary to implement the new voting system in the State of Louisiana.

The 2023 HAVA Election Security Grant Funds will be used to provide funding to supplement the 2018, 2020, and 2022 HAVA Election Security Grant Funds to help defray the total cost of implementing a new voting system in the State of Louisiana.

Due to the scope and complexity of the acquisition of the new voting system, the Department plans to implement the voting system in the following multiple phases:

Phase One includes the following:

Install 1: Installation of central system on the department's servers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and set up of the programs and databases for use in programming absentee by mail paper ballots and early voting ballots by the department and training all department programmers estimated date to begin on or after January 1, 2024. Prior to payment for this part of Phase One, the department must formally accept the system, programs, databases, and completion of training satisfactory to the department. This part of Phase One should be no greater than 10% of the total cost of both phases.

Install 2: Removal of present equipment, delivery, acceptance, and installation of the new absentee by mail voting system and early voting system and all component parts for full and complete operation in three (3) to five (5) parishes, including all training for the March 23, 2024 election, which early voting period begins March 9, 2024. Parish implementations to be determined by the department in clusters of three (3) to five (5) until all parishes are fully implemented throughout the state for elections to be held in 2029. This part of Phase One should be no greater than 90% of the total cost minus the cost of Phase Two. Payment will be based upon the number of units deployed and formally accepted in the specified parishes and the successful completion of all contract deliverables.

Phase Two includes the following:

Install 1: Installation of central system on the department servers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and set up of the programs and databases for use in programming for the election day ballots by the department and training all department programmers on an estimated date to begin on or after June 1, 2024 or as otherwise scheduled by the department, unless already installed and trained during Phase One. Prior to payment of this part of Phase Two, the department must formally accept the system, programs, databases and completion of training satisfactory to the department. This part of Phase Two should be no greater than 10% of the total cost of both phases.

Install 2: Removal of present equipment, delivery, acceptance, and installation of the new election day voting system and all component parts for full and complete operation in three (3) to five (5) parishes, including all training for the November 5, 2024 election. Parish implementations to be determined by the department in clusters of three (3) to five (5) until all parishes are fully implemented throughout the state for elections to be held in 2030. This part of Phase Two should be no greater than 90% of the total cost minus the cost of Phase One. Payment will be based upon the number of units deployed and formally

accepted in the specified parishes and the successful completion of all contract deliverables.

Pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 18:1361 and LAC 31:III.Chapter 3, the department shall certify all voting equipment systems used in the State of Louisiana. In addition, any voting system procured or used in Louisiana must have been certified by a voting system test laboratory accredited by the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) according to the voluntary voting system guidelines developed and maintained by the EAC, and shall meet all requirements of Federal law and State law, including but not limited to the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

BUDGET WORKSHEET AND STANDARD CERTIFICATIONS:

The Distribution Letter and Standard Certifications that were submitted to the EAC on February 28, 2023 and the budget for the 2023 HAVA Election Security Grant Funds are attached hereto.

