

BUDGET NARRATIVE: 2023 HAVA SECURITY GRANT FUNDS

Submitted by William Francis Galvin
on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Funding Requested:

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin has requested and received Election Security Grant funding available under the Help America Vote Act in 2018, 2020 and 2022. This narrative is limited to proposed spending of the 2023 HAVA Security Funds and is listed by category, with the majority of the spending specific to cybersecurity.¹

Cybersecurity:

Using the 2018 HAVA Security Funds, we established a dedicated cybersecurity team within our IT department which continues to grow and be funded by the new funds. This includes a Cybersecurity Manager, Cybersecurity Engineers and a Cybersecurity Project Manager. Using the 2020 funds, we established an "Election Security Partnership" Program (ESP) which created 5 Cybersecurity ESP Analysts who are geographically assigned portions of the state. We also included an ESP Outreach Supervisor who coordinate the activities of the ESP analysts. Using the 2022 funds, we expanded the activities of the ESP program and propose to use the 2023 funds for continued efforts.

Since its implementation, the ESP program has had direct contact to all 351 municipal election officials to assist with communication, security and training. This includes coordinating with both local election officials and their local IT staff to identify common issues and ensure proper channels of communications when issues arise.

Additionally, the ESP Analysts visit the municipalities in their region and work with the local election officials to develop continuity in operations plans as well as preparing for disaster recovery. We hope to ensure that all local election officials have the appropriate planning tools in place for the 2024 election cycle and propose using \$1,000,000 for funding the program.

The cybersecurity team has also developed training for both in office personnel and local election officials. This includes a phishing training exercise and assessment. Further end-user training for our local election officials has continued as well. (\$25,000)

The funding will also be used to conduct tabletop exercises. We've successfully conducted multiple exercises in the past and expect to schedule additional training exercises in preparation for the 2024 election cycle. Using our lessons

¹ The proposed spending includes the HAVA Security funding of \$1,376,528 plus the 20% match of \$275,951 for a total of \$1,652,479.

learned from past exercises, the upcoming training will be more immersive and not only test our local election officials, but also will include the entire Secretary's office information technology staff and elections support staff. We will once again work with our state and federal partners in the planning and implementation as we value their support and are striving to replicate possible scenarios that could require their assistance. (\$50,000)

The remainder of the funding will be used to implement and upgrade technologies to improve and secure the election infrastructure, including access to the statewide database of registered voters. (\$577,479)

If you have any questions about this narrative/budget, please contact Michelle K. Tassinari, Director and Legal Counsel, Elections Division at 617-727-2828 or Michelle.Tassinari@sec.state.ma.us.

