



HAVA Election Security Grant Program Narrative

Award and Match

The Consolidated Appropriations Acts of 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2023 provided additional Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Section 101 funds to “improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements.”

Tennessee has received \$17,404,566 federal share from the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), and we have secured the required state match totaling \$2,346,101 through existing departmental resources. We have requested \$1,327,148 in federal funds under the 2023 Act and will provide the required \$265,430 state match within two years as required using existing departmental resources.

Voting Equipment

We have and will continue to use election security funds to assist counties in purchasing systems that meet the requirements set out by Congress for these funds. Tennessee’s county election commissions decide which voting system to use in their jurisdiction. Counties may purchase any system that has been approved for use in the state by the State Election Commission and Coordinator of Elections.

Tennessee counties who have not already transitioned must transition to a system with a voter-verifiable paper audit trail by January 1, 2024. We anticipate continuing to distribute funds to assist in this transition.

Voting Registration Systems

The Division of Elections oversees the statewide voter registration database. Election security funds have and will continue to support upgrades to the statewide system, including development and hardware. These funds also support an additional staff member to assist in providing support to county election commission.

Election Auditing

The Tennessee General Assembly passed a bill in its most recent session to expand post-election audits starting in 2024. Election security funds will allow us to assist counties in their implementation of these expanded procedures.

Cyber and Physical Security

The Division of Elections has used election security funds to offer on-site scans to each county election commission office and to assist county election commissions in making security improvements.

The Division of Elections will look for ways to help county election commissions stay aware and ahead of potential cyber threats, including additional assessments as needed, implementing best practices to secure critical systems, and offering additional in-person and online training opportunities regarding timely subjects. Counties have been offered \$25,000 security subgrants to assist in these goals.

Summary

Our proposed budget to implement the goals stated above is as follows:

Category	Federal	State	Total
Voting Equipment	\$11,327,148	\$1,665,430	\$12,992,578
Voter Registration Systems	\$3,775,000	\$450,000	\$4,225,000
Election Auditing	\$250,000	\$30,000	\$280,000
Cyber and Physical Security	\$3,379,566	\$466,101	\$3,845,667
Total	\$18,731,714	\$2,611,531	\$21,343,245

