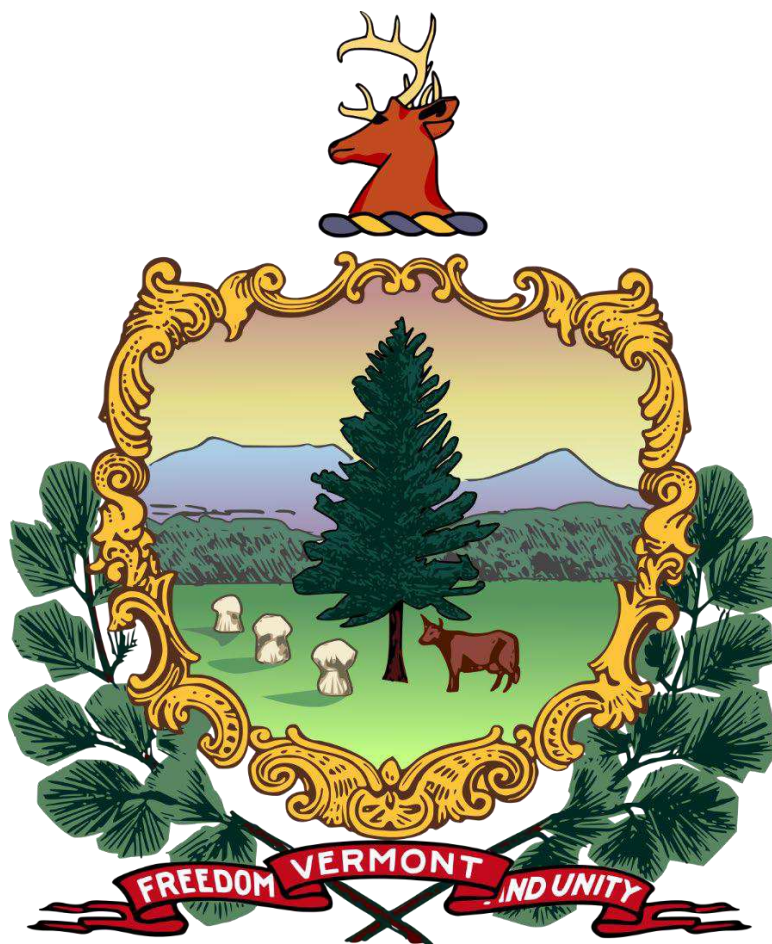


2023 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Grant State of Vermont – Narrative

February 8, 2023



2023 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Grant State of Vermont – Budget Narrative

The 2023 HAVA Election Security Fund, authorized under Title I Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, marks the fourth appropriations for HAVA grants since FY2010. This funding will provide Vermont with the necessary additional resources to secure and improve its election system and administration.

Vermont's grant amount is \$1 million. Vermont's matching commitment is \$200,000. Vermont intends to spend its funds as follows:

- Partial acquisition cost of new statewide election management system for roll out/initial use in the 2024 Presidential Election cycle.

1. Acquisition of new statewide election management system software (2023 – 2024).

Vermont's current statewide election management system (EMS) software was purchased in 2015 and rolled out for the first time for the 2016 election cycle. The current contract for support of that system expires in January of 2024. Vermont has begun the process of procuring a vendor to replace that EMS software with an updated version that will better serve the needs of Vermont voters in federal elections in numerous ways and will facilitate the implementation of new laws and policies adopted by Vermont in recent years, such as the proactive mailing of ballots to all voters for General Elections and the ability of voters to cure defects in the return of their early/absentee ballots.

As is the case with our current system, Vermont intends for this next generation of EMS software to be a comprehensive system covering all aspects of election administration in Vermont.

Features of the new EMS will include:

- Voter registration
 - Statewide voter checklist with geocoding capability
 - Online voter registration module
 - Unique voter-specific portal with all election information specific to an individual voter
 - Interfaces with DMV and ERIC for voter checklist additions and maintenance
 - Interface with electronic pollbook system for election day voter processing
- Absentee Ballot Management
 - Online ballot request module
 - Online voter-specific early ballot tracking
 - Opportunity for curing of errors in return of absentee ballot
 - Clerk tracking and processing of early/absentee ballot requests
- Candidate management and ballot creation
 - Entry and tracking of qualified candidates
 - Ballot content export and ballot creation
- Results Processing
 - Election night results reporting
 - Official results reporting

- Canvassing

The above describes, at a high level, the functionality that will be included in Vermont's next generation EMS. The purchase price for the EMS is anticipated to significantly exceed the 1 million dollars that will be allocated from this grant, so we do intend and anticipate that the full value of the grant will be put toward this acquisition cost, with the remainder of the cost being covered by other sourced of state and federal funds, as available. Selection of a vendor for the new EMS will be conducted through a competitive bid process governed by the strict procurement process rules in place in Vermont.

The "canvassing" referred to here that will be a feature of the new EMS refers to the process of certifying the official results of an election. It has nothing to do with any "get out the vote" activities. Please see 17 VSA 2592 of the Vermont Statutes for a description of the process. "Canvassing committees" meet one week after the election to certify the results of races for all offices. The EMS will produce reports of vote totals for certification and forms to facilitate that certification.

