



April 16, 2020

Mona Harrington, Acting Executive Director
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
1335 East-West Highway, Suite 4300
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Harrington:

The purpose of this letter is to certify that the state of Ohio will use the funds provided under the Notice of Grant Award, Agreement # OH20101CARES, for activities consistent with the laws described in Section 906 of HAVA and will not use the funds in a manner that is inconsistent with the requirements of Title III of HAVA.

We further certify that we have reviewed and accept the terms of the award as specified in the Notice of Grant Award. Our UEI number (formerly DUNS) is 360744247 and the signed Certifications are enclosed.

We are requesting our full award amount of \$12,861,311. We will use the funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus for the 2020 Federal election cycle.

On March 25, 2020, the Ohio General Assembly passed H.B. 197, which Governor DeWine signed into law on March 27, 2020. The legislation includes many provisions concerning Ohio's response to Coronavirus/COVID-19, including changes to the 2020 Primary Election. In sum, the legislation does the following:

- (1) Extends absentee voting in the March 17, 2020 Primary Election until 7:30 p.m. on April 28, 2020;
- (2) Allows an elector who has not already cast a ballot in the election, and who was registered to vote by the February 18, 2020 deadline, to cast an absentee ballot;
- (3) Requires the board of elections to prepay the return postage on the envelopes for absentee ballots for the remainder of this election;
- (4) Requires boards to have a secure receptacle outside the office for the return of ballots;
- (5) Requires the Secretary of State to send a postcard to all registered electors in the state for the 2020 Primary Election, regardless of whether they have voted in the 2020 Primary Election already or not, advising the voters on how to request an absentee ballot from their board of elections;

- (6) Permits the boards of elections to mail provisional ballots in certain circumstances; and
- (7) Limits in-person voting to April 28 and makes it available only for individuals with a qualifying disability or who cannot receive mail.

The Secretary of State's Office will utilize these funds to supplement state funding to implement the requirements of H.B. 197, including reimbursement to the County boards of elections for eligible costs. Eligible costs for reimbursement include but are not limited to: vote by mail printing, postage, and equipment; secure receptacles for the return of ballots; temporary elections staffing; cleaning supplies; and protective masks and equipment. Additionally, these funds will be used to assist with any preparations and changes related to the November General Election.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact our Chief Financial Officer Dex Stanger at 614-995-5999 or DStanger@OhioSOS.gov.

Yours in service,



Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State

Cc: Kinza Ghaznavi, Grants Manager