2020 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Grant Program Narrative
State of Alabama, Secretary of State
Notice of Grant Award AL20101001

The State of Alabama has greatly benefited from the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grant Program since its inception. With election security and integrity remaining a paramount concern nationwide, the State of Alabama seeks to utilize the HAVA grant funds ($6,928,023), under Notice of Award AL20101001, together with the State Match Share ($1,385,605) to continue the progress made, under the initial HAVA Grant Program, to improve the administration of elections for Federal office.

Specifically, our program narrative and budget for the 2020 HAVA Election Security Grant will be apportioned in four categories, as follows:

1. Voting Equipment Replacement and Upgrades: Modernizing and Upgrading Voting Equipment
2. Secure Voter Check-in Protocols on Election Day: Provision of Electronic Poll Books
3. Secure Voter Geographic Identification and Placement: Provision of GIS Software and related tools to improve accuracy and efficiency for Voter Registrars to accomplish redistricting and perpetual voter location maintenance
4. Possible Post-2020 Federal Election COVID-19 Pandemic Response Expenditures: Setting aside funding to pay for certain possible post-election expenditures related to preventing, preparing for, and responding to coronavirus during the 2020 Federal Election Cycle.

Please find below our brief descriptions, respectively, of how the grant funding will be allocated, per the four above referenced categories, as follows:

<u>Voting Equipment Replacement and Upgrades</u>

The State of Alabama has planned, by the attached budget to allocate **$1,710,000** of the 2020 HAVA Election Security Grant to insure that all 67 of Alabama counties have the most modern and up to date voting tabulators available. Currently, 59 counties are using Election Systems & Software's DS200 voting tabulators, a modern voting tabulator. We plan to use $1,710,000 to replace the other eight counties current M100 machines and convert them to use with the DS200 voting tabulators. The M100 equipment has become aged and lacks certain security enhancements found in newer voting equipment. By replacing the machines in the aforesaid eight counties it will allow the entire State to use up to date voting equipment with the highest security features available.

Furthermore, the State of Alabama will plan, by the attached budget, to allocate **$1,335,122** of the 2020 HAVA Election Security Grant to pay for costs related to replace voting equipment for counties for the life of the grant period.

<u>Secure Voter Check-in Protocols on Election Day</u>

The State of Alabama has planned, by the attached budget to allocate **$1,500,000** of the 2020 HAVA Election Security Grant to enable all 67 of Alabama counties to utilize electronic poll books in an effort to increase the security of voter check-in protocols on election days. In an effort to ensure voter identification accuracy, the Alabama's Secretary of State's Office has promoted the use of electronic poll books in all of Alabama's 67 counties. Currently, electronic poll books are utilized in 35 of the 67 counties. We plan to use the $1,500,000 to provide electronic poll books in the remaining 32 counties. Electronic poll books not only provide a secure way to authenticate a voter as they check-in and expedite the check-in process, they significantly reduce the risk of errors by local election officials in administrating Alabama's Crossover Voting Law.

Furthermore, the State of Alabama will plan, by the attached budget, to allocate **$795,006** of the 2020 HAVA Election Security Grant to pay for the electronic poll book software and maintenance costs for all counties during the term of the grant.

<u>Secure Voter Geographic Identification and Placement</u>

The State of Alabama has planned, by the attached budget to allocate **$2,473,500** of the 2020 HAVA Election Security Grant to provide participating county voter registration offices (Boards of Registrars' Offices) with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software and related tools.[1] Currently, GIS software is only used in a certain number of Alabama's voter registration offices for redistricting and proper voter placement. Many of Alabama's voter registration offices do not have modern tools when accomplishing redistricting and routine and perpetual voter location maintenance. We plan to provide all 67 counties with GIS software and necessary tools to modernize their redistricting and voter location maintenance administration. GIS software will improve the accuracy of voter placement which, in turn, strengthens election security by authenticating voters are placed in the correct political districts. This expenditure will include the costs for initial setup and first year maintenance. After initial setup, the expenditure will include costs for the monthly maintenance for three additional years for each participating county.

<u>Possible Post-2020 Federal Election COVID-19 Pandemic Response Expenditures</u>

The State of Alabama will set aside, by the attached budget, the allocation of **$500,000** of the 2020 HAVA Election Security Grant to reimburse counties for necessary cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment for poll workers and other necessary expenses in response to

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[1] Several counties already use GIS services provided by their county and may not choose to participate.

the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding will only be used for legitimate expenditures after the 2020 CARES Act Grant Funding terminates on December 31, 2020.

Activities and Expenditures Prior to 2020 General Election

The State of Alabama has planned two major expenditures prior to the 2020 General Election on November 3, 2020. The State of Alabama plans to work with the eight counties currently using the M100 voting tabulators to upgrade the equipment to the DS200 voting tabulators prior to November 3, 2020. This will bring all 67 counties' voting tabulators to the most modern and up to date currently available. The State of Alabama also plans to work with 32 counties to implement electronic poll book programs in their counties. This would transition all 67 counties from paper poll lists to electronic poll books.

State Match

The State of Alabama plans to secure the required **$1,385,605** state match with a cash prior to the December 21, 2021 deadline. The match will be used to accomplish the goals in three of the four categories above. Voting equipment has been allocated $756,374 of the state match to aid in the replacements and upgrades. Election security has been allocated $629,231 of the state match to accomplish the goals of implementing electronic poll books and GIS software statewide.