

California Secretary of State  
2020 Help America Vote Act (HAVA)  
Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 - Narrative

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**Amount of Award: \$38,943,512**

**State Match: \$7,788,702.43**

**Total: \$46,732,214.43**

**Funding Term: 5 Years (December 21, 2019 – December 20, 2024)**

**State Match Due: December 21, 2021**

On December 20, 2019, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 became law. The Act included \$425 million in new Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds, available to states to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance technology and make election security improvements and is authorized under Title I, Section 101 of The Help America Vote Act of 2002. California's portion of this appropriation is \$38,943,512. The language of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 requires a 20% state match to be made available within two years of December 20, 2019. California's state match requirement of \$7,788,702.43 was requested through the legislative budget process.

Beginning in early March, the California Secretary of State convened on a daily basis a working group of California's 58 county elections officials, legislators, the Governor's office, voting rights advocates, disability rights advocates, data and policy experts, and other stakeholders to adopt new strategies and enact new laws to protect California voters and election workers in the November 3, 2020 General Election. Specifically:

- Every active, registered voter in California receiving a vote-by-mail ballot.
- All California voters able to track their vote-by-mail ballot.
- Options for returning vote-by-mail ballots, including voting locations, county election offices, special ballot drop boxes, and U.S. Postal Service.
- Sufficient in-person voting opportunities.
- Extensive health and safety training for poll workers and protocols in place at in-person voting locations.
- A statewide communications and outreach effort to inform voters of the changes in election procedures to vote safely.
- Recruiting poll workers statewide in an effort to assist all county election offices to replace the many traditional older workers who are unable or unwilling to be poll workers due to their higher-risk of contracting COVID-19.
- Identification and procurement of new sites for in-person voting locations that offer the necessary space for physical distancing while voting.
- Personal protective equipment for all 58 counties for use by election workers and voters.

Through the legislative budget process Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2018 funding, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 funding, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding, and state General funds were requested to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 funding will be used in state fiscal years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 for the following activities:

- COVID-19 Support
- Cyber Security Safeguards and Infrastructure
- Security Enhancements to the Statewide Voter Registration Database (VoteCal)
- Polling Place Accessibility
- Personnel Costs for Administration and Support of the Funding

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 funding will be used in state fiscal year 2020-2021 as follows:

- \$28,996,137 for COVID-19 support to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus in the November 3, 2020 General Election. County and state support for costs associated with conducting the election in the face of a pandemic including the higher level of voting by mail, ensuring accessibility by all populations, acquiring additional secure ballot drop boxes, staff and poll worker training on cleaning and prevention processes, notifying and educating the public of voting process changes and requirements, acquiring personal protective equipment for election workers and voters, additional staffing costs, cyber and physical security, specialized training of staff and election workers, cleaning and disinfection, and polling locations or election facilities.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 funding will be used in state fiscal year 2021-2022 as follows:

- \$5,000,000 to support county implementation of cyber security safeguards and infrastructure against cyber risks and vulnerabilities.
- \$1,564,000 to support polling place accessibility through county training of on accessibility requirements and mitigations and providing funding to counties to improve accessibility of polling places.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 funding will be used in state fiscal year 2022-2023 as follows:

- \$1,300,000 for state support for security enhancements to the Statewide Voter Registration Database (VoteCal) and state election infrastructure to ensure the statewide voter registration database and election infrastructure remain secure among an ever changing landscape of potential vulnerabilities and changing technology and requirements.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 funding will be used in state fiscal year 2023-2024 as follows:

- \$1,300,000 for state support for security enhancements to the Statewide Voter Registration Database (VoteCal) and state election infrastructure to ensure the statewide voter registration database and election infrastructure remain secure among an ever changing landscape of potential vulnerabilities and changing technology and requirements.

**Total: \$38,943,512**