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## **2020 HAVA Grant Funds Program Narrative**

On December 20, 2019, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 became law. It 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. The 2020 HAVA Election Security Fund is authorized under Title I, Section 101 of The Help America Vote Act of 2002. Colorado's portion of this appropriation is \$7,106,267. The language of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 requires a state match at 20% be made available within two years of December 20, 2019. The Department plans to request this spending authority from the Colorado General Assembly during the FY 2021-22 budget request process. That match adds another \$1,421,253 of Colorado election funds for a total of \$8,527,520. This narrative lays out how Colorado will use these funds to "improve the administration of a federal election" through enhanced technology and security improvements in Colorado's election process under Section 101 of HAVA (P.L. 107-252), the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

The Colorado Secretary of State serves as Colorado's Chief Election Official. The Department of State's (Department) mission is to ensure that every eligible Coloradan can register to vote with ease and cast their vote with confidence, and that their choices are accurately tallied. The Department used HAVA funds from the original appropriation to purchase a statewide voter registration and election management system (SCORE). That purchase was in 2006, with pilot implementation in November 2007 and full statewide rollout for the 2008 election cycle. The Department plans to use the newly appropriated HAVA funds to contract for a new statewide voter registration and election management system to improve the administration of a federal election and improve and harden its security posture on the state's most important elections system.

### **Project Overview**

The Colorado Department of State held a series of internal meetings to devise a strategy for maximizing these funds to advance election administration while improving the security of Colorado's elections. These plans were then circulated to Colorado county election leaders for their comment, which generated widespread agreement on the wisdom of replacing SCORE to update the security underpinnings of the system and to generally improve the administration of a federal election.

Given the complexity of introducing a statewide election management system during an election cycle, the Department has opted for an 18 to 24-month Request for Proposal and rollout process. This would mean a planned first use of the new system during the 2022 election cycle or thereafter. Based on the Department's preliminary pricing, a new voter registration and election management system will cost approximately the entire granted amount, including the match.