

## BUDGET NARRATIVE: 2020 HAVA SECURITY GRANT FUNDS

Submitted by William Francis Galvin  
on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Funds Received:** Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin has requested and received Election Security Grant funding available under the Help America Vote Act in both 2018 and 2020.<sup>1</sup> This narrative is limited to proposed spending of the 2020 HAVA Security Funds and is listed by category, with the majority of the spending specific to cybersecurity.

### **Cybersecurity/Communication:**

Using the 2018 HAVA Security Funds, we established a dedicated cybersecurity team within our IT department which continues to grow and be funded by the new funds. This includes a Cybersecurity Manager, Cybersecurity Engineers and a Cybersecurity Project Manager. Using the new funds, we established an "Election Security Partnership" Program (ESP) which created 5 Cybersecurity ESP Analysts who are geographically assigned portions of the state. We also included an ESP Outreach Supervisor who coordinate the activities of the ESP analysts. (\$2,500,000)

The Outreach Supervisor included direct contact to all 351 municipal election officials to assist with communication, security and training. This included coordinating with both local election officials and their local IT staff to identify common issues and ensure proper channels of communications when issues arise.

The original plan was for the ESP Analysts to physically visit the municipalities in their region. With the onset of the pandemic, the meetings have become virtual with the ESP Analysts offering webinars on traditional cybersecurity issues and addressing new challenges such as working remotely and changes to state laws and processes in response to the pandemic.

The cybersecurity team has also developed training for both in office personnel and local election officials. This includes a phishing training exercise and assessment. Further end-user training for our local election officials has continued as well. (\$150,000)

The funds are also being used for equipment. Specifically, we are purchasing monitoring software and tools including malware detection on all endpoints, a web application firewall and DDOS protection, Splunk log aggregation and

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<sup>1</sup> The 2018 funding of \$7,890,854 was requested on May 18, 2018 and required a state match of \$394,543. The 2020 funding of \$8,841,674 was requested on January 22, 2020 and required a state match of \$1,768,335.

security monitoring generally. We've also began using Recorded Future intelligence for dark web monitoring. (\$2,000,000)

For our election infrastructure, we are implementing additional recovery systems including EMC Cyber Sense (ransomware recovery) and implementing a disaster recovery site. (\$3,000,000).

**Voter Registration System:**

Funds are being used to further secure our statewide database of registered voters. Specifically, Cisco Port Security (ISE) equipment is being installed on workstations in all cities and towns. Additionally, we intend to replace networking equipment and accessories including routers, switches and firewalls. We are further enhancing our data storage and backup capacities. And finally, we will be implementing multi-factor authentication for access to the statewide database. (\$2,960,009)

If you have any questions about this narrative/budget, please contact Michelle K. Tassinari, Director and Legal Counsel, Elections Division at 617-727-2828 or [Michelle.Tassinari@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:Michelle.Tassinari@sec.state.ma.us).