

2020 HAVA Election Security Grant Program Narrative
State of Nebraska
May 8, 2020

The interested members of the Nebraska Secretary of State management team met to consider suggestions and ideas for the use of the supplemental 2020 HAVA Election Security funds, taking into consideration the ongoing plan for the use of the prior 2018 HAVA funds. The total amount of the grant received was \$3,915,413, with a required state match of \$783,083. The federal funds are being held in an Election Administration Federal Fund, which is an interest bearing account. All interest on this balance will be reported as program income on the Federal Financial Reports each year. The state match has not yet been appropriated, but will be requested in the upcoming budget in order to be available before December 21, 2021. The grant funds will be used to improve the administration of elections for Federal office in the following area:

Voting Equipment Replacement and Upgrades

An important aspect of determining how best to utilize the 2020 HAVA funds was the consideration of how the 2018 HAVA funds were being used. The 2018 HAVA funds received were not sufficient for replacement of our entire election tabulation system. However, the Secretary of State's Office requested and received state funding for the majority of the cost to replace all ballot counting and ADA compliant ballot marking devices statewide. The replacement project will require spending approximately one million dollars of 2018 HAVA funds. This project is nearly complete with all new equipment in place and intended to be used for the 2020 primary election in Nebraska.

Annual maintenance, firmware and software license costs for the new equipment is far beyond the amount historically appropriated each year from our state funds for election equipment maintenance. Due to the significant increase in costs related to election maintenance and our desire to maintain and support the new equipment statewide, Nebraska plans to use the 2020 HAVA funds for equipment maintenance, firmware, and reporting software licensing fees related to the vote tabulation equipment and ADA compliant ballot marking devices purchased in 2020. Federal funding towards this purpose will supplement the limited state funding available for election equipment maintenance and will allow Nebraska to maintain the newly purchased equipment for the next several election cycles. We anticipate these funds would be used beginning in 2022 and continuing on for the life of the grant. We are budgeting all of the 2020 HAVA funds to be in the Voting Equipment Replacement program category and the All Other Costs budget category. We also expect to spend the interest and state match, when appropriated, on equipment maintenance, firmware, and license fees.