PUERTO RICO STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

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HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT (HAVA)
2020 HAVA Election Security Award First Revision

Date: _June 24, 2021_

Signed by _[signature]_

Francisco J. Rosado Colomer, Esq.
Chairman

# State Election Commission of Puerto Rico
## Narrative 2020 HAVA Election Security Award Revision

The Puerto Rico State Elections Commission is the authority entitled by law to administer the electoral processes in Puerto Rico. This governing body is integrated by the representation of political parties, Commissioners, and its President. CEE is responsible for the program, structure, lead, and supervising the election process in Puerto Rico. This faculty was awarded under Act 58-2020 act better known as the 2020 Puerto Rico Electoral Code.

As past fiscal years, CEE has been awarded **$7,818,846** under the 2020 HAVA Election Security grant. As per the program and budget narrative submitted before, these funds were distributed to accomplish the following activities: (1) enhancing the election cybersecurity infrastructure and network infrastructure and (2) upgrading the election day voter registry. As with the grant requirements, Puerto Rico is responsible for providing 20% of the state (territory) match, which is $1,012,225. Therefore, the total amount, including the state (territory) match, is **$8,831,071**. As refer in the grant requirements, states and territories may use these funds to improve the administration of elections for the Federal Office, including enhancing election technology and making election security improvements.

The following revision responds to adequate the actual Election Security State Plan, including new technologies into the electoral enrollment process and reappropriating budget categories to perform updates for electoral registration, among other electoral transactions. In addition, those mentioned above will seek to achieving and merging the improvement in technology purposes and meeting the federal and local requirements. To meet the aim of the grant considering the new technologies under the 2020 Puerto Rico Electoral Code, our agency will allocate funds as follows:

**Voting Registration System and Management**

Currently, our agency's system to manage the General Voter Registration is called Advanced Civil Id. This system provides various components that allow the administrative and electoral divisions to intervene and complete the electoral functions corresponding to each area. However, procedures such as quality control, certification of transactions carried out by local commissions, debugging of voter registration, the system of exclusions, and electoral recusals, are not yet integrated into this platform. Therefore, to establish better controls that promote better management and administration of the General Voter Register, CEE will integrate these functions into one platform. In addition, the integration of these functions will facilitate greater visibility of ordinary activity in voter registrations and higher monitoring capacity.

CEE will integrate technology implementations into our electoral administration system to develop a complete and more efficient voter registration system. To meet this goal, we have considered including additional tools that allow us to provide voters greater ease and direct accessibility to voting at the stipulated dates by the 2020 Puerto Rico Electoral Code. Therefore, under the category of Voting Registration System, we will include the following:

### Second Phase of the Parties Endorsement System (SIEN)

This project seeks to allow the online presentation of endorsement solicitations by parties by petition. Also, the system will be able to make an online presentation of aspiring and independent candidates. This system will eliminate paper use, carrying out the validation endorser process as part of the solicitation content. This will reduce the time, materials, and other human resources required to complete it.

Budget allocation: $358,000

### Affiliated Enrollment Electronic System

This project will allow the affiliation of voters in their desire political parties online. The affiliated enrollment electronic system will provide the registration and maintenance of their affiliate registry to the political parties independently and separately from CEE. Our IT Division will choose secure telematic network providing confidentiality to each party. This also will be accessible to electronic devices as personal computers, tablets, smartphones, and other special electronic devices for disabled voters.

Budget allocation: $167,200

### Integrated Voters Services State Center System (CESI)

This integrated system will be developed to provide tools and necessary functionalities to our service representative that, through this new technology system, will be assisting voters online. In addition, the tools and functionalities of this integrated system will allow our service representative to see in real-time the online procedures perform by voters, interacting simultaneously with each run. These functionalities will qualify to drive step by step to the elector until they have reached to complete the transaction. Furthermore, the system shall contain the necessary metrics to establish the enforcement and evaluation statistics. For quality control purposes and to maintain the registry, the system shall have the capacity to record an oral and writing conversation between the elector and the service representative. In order for this, the elector shall express his/her consent, thus evidence record of the phone call or writing conversation. Besides, the system will keep a database of accumulated information that will allow us to evaluate the services' performance.

Budget allocation: $1,139,082

### Electronic Voter Registry (eRE)

This project will empower voters by making their electoral changeable as needed by its voter following the electoral act and the new regulations, making them knowledgeable and direct legal responsibility of the content of its records. The system will allow real-time electronic access, allowing the following voter transactions, enrollment, relocation, services solicitations, voter reactivation, inactivation, among others. As all the voter transactions currently made in the Permanent Registration Boards (Jips), each voter transaction in the system will be executed as a sworn statement. In case of proving false information, the elector could be bound by penalties due

to non-compliance. CEE will be responsible for verifying and corroborating each electronic transaction before validating and integrate them into the Voter General Registry.

Budget allocation: $963,200

## Upgrade to the Electronic Scrutiny System

Upgrading our existing electronic scrutiny system will enhance the system to read and tabulate ballot of different precincts on the same electronic scrutiny machine, upgrade the telemetric communication system, incorporate ballots centralize counting machines, and adapt the tab logic.

Budget allocation: $512,000

## Voting Registration Equipment

### Electronic Poll Book (EPB)

As referred to in the program and budget narrative of 2018, CEE seeks to acquire new electronic computer terminals and associated equipment to integrate electronic poll book capabilities for instant voter validation on election day. This voter validation will use a Bar Code electronic reading of the electoral id card or failed case, voter's electoral number, name, and last name. In addition, voter registration could be made online, allowing to safe and synchronizing the data in a central database, which also will receive who vote locally, storing and updating the information in its actual local database at the same time. Eventually, the centralized storage data of the EPB capabilities with the Electoral General Registry will allow the purge of the voter registration list without the intervention of the Permanent Registration Boards (Jips) as currently is performing. The implementation of this project will contemplate the acquisition of electronic pollbook programming, tablets, data access, data card printer for Id and other related equipment.

Budget allocation: $4,746,283

### Electronic Scrutiny System by Phone

The project consists of an integrated system that will allow the voting counting cast by phone as the actual tabulated logic of our Electronic Scrutiny System. This integration is required to fulfill the legal provision of accessibility to vote privately and independently, including disable voters. Integrating this system will allow us to eliminate the different mechanisms for disabling voters that currently use the Vote by Phone voting method, which requires manual scrutiny. As this process will be changing for an electronic one, we will keep paper evidence of the vote cast to comply with audit and manual recount as subsequently required.

Budget allocation: $12,000

## Voter Registration System Training

The CEE will also allocate $120,000 for voter registration training to poll workers towards maintenance and warranty for Advance Civil Id service, election support, and other related training to assist poll workers before the election.

Budget Allocation: $120,000

**Voter Registration System Other Cost**

Considering the maintenance services for evaluation and improvements to the infrastructure and configuration of the Reydi system components (Receipt and Dissemination of Results), and other features mentioned above of the Political Parties, Independent and aspiring candidates' system, CEE contemplate under this category the maintenance and support of the new technology innovations of the projects. To fulfill it, we are allocating this budget to pay for these services through an annual subscription.

Budget allocation: $198,206

**Cybersecurity Equipment**

Under the activities established for 2020 HAVA Security Grant are:

1. Cybersecurity dashboard,
2. Tools for correlating threats and validate threat intelligence feeds,
3. Endpoint protection capabilities,
4. Behavioral and heuristic analytics to prevent malicious activities for evolving,
5. Attract visualization tools for rapid identification and triage response,
6. Integrate CEE newest Fortinet component, and
7. Incorporate a robust training for curriculum our network administration.

These funds will allow us to optimize our hardware and software infrastructure resources by acquiring new tools, solutions, and high-availability mechanisms for cybersecurity. They will help us maximize resources for protection and visibility against any intruder attempting to penetrate our systems. Besides, they will allow us to permanently acquire components that complement the monitoring equipment that our IT staff has installed. This monitoring team helps establish functionalities that monitor and alert any action that compromises the security of voting systems and communications networks. With the allocation of additional funds, we will be able to include hosting platforms for web applications that offer data security, specifically in the public segment where election data will be published and where the user/voter interacts entered their data. For the described activities, we are allocating $543,850 to cover the above requirements.

**Cybersecurity Training**

The CEE requires specialized training for network and server administrators in the areas of administration and security. Also, to the technical computer and telecommunications personnel to solve cyber-attacks, penetration of intruders, viruses, malware, ransomware, among others.

Also, each acquisition of equipment and tools will require training of the personnel who will take care of the management and administration of these. The CEE allocates the use of the amount of $71,250 to meet the needs described above.

**State (Territory) Match Funds**

For the activities of the 2018 grant, our agency has already deposited $183,848 in compliance with the state matching funds requirement. For the actual fiscal year, HAVA requires a 20% state match, corresponding $828,377 of state expenditures in support of the activities of this grant. CEE has already requested the funds to the Fiscal Control Board through the Puerto Rico Office of Management and Budget. CEE will identify state expenditures to meet by making in-kind matches for the support activities of the grant to ensure our compliance.