Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea

*2020 Proposed Election Security Grant Preliminary Funding Recommendations
for Discussion Purposes*

Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Project Funding

Rhode Island is receiving $3,210,168 million as part of the $425 million in additional Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funding included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2020. We are prepared to invest these funds to enhance the state's election technology and make critical election security improvements.

This document contains preliminary recommendations for elections infrastructure and security improvement projects as presented by the Rhode Island Department of State and the Rhode Island Board of Elections.

As noted in the HAVA funds disbursement letter we sent on February 5, 2020, we were prepared to convene a HAVA Task Force to identify specific objectives and expenditures, similar to the process we conducted in 2018. However, the coronavirus resulted in the move of our Presidential primary from April 28 to June 2 and, in turn, a delay in convening the Task Force.

Secretary Gorbea believes a HAVA Task Force, comprised of state and local election officials, cybersecurity leaders and members of the public is the best mechanism to develop broad consensus on election funding priorities for the additional HAVA funds. The Task Force meeting has been set for next week. The Rhode Island Department of State will submit its final HAVA 2020 Program Narrative and Budget Worksheet by May 8, 2020.

Cyber Vulnerabilities

- **Establish a more secure, localized connection for the state's Central Voter Registration System (CVRS)**
- **Provide maintenance and support for existing cybersecurity monitoring programs**
- **Provide cybersecurity assessments for local election officials**
- **Provide cybersecurity assessments of Election Day infrastructure**
- **Improve E-poll book security**
- **Improve the Security of Election Results Transmission**

Training

- **Provide Cybersecurity support and training for local election officials**
- **Expand Electronic Poll Book (E-poll book) Resources**
- **Provide Online Poll Worker Training**

Voting Equipment Replacement and Upgrades

- **Acquire hardware and software to enhance election security**
- **Acquire additional DS 850 High-Speed Scanner and Tabulators**
- **Acquire High-Speed Signature Verification Equipment**
- **Acquire Mail Ballot Envelope Industrial Openers**