



2020 HAVA Election Security Grant Program Narrative

Award and Match

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 provided additional Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Section 101 funds to “improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements.”

Tennessee has received our \$8,476,810 federal share from the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), and we have secured the required 20% match totaling \$1,695,362 through existing departmental resources.

Voting Equipment Replacement and Upgrades

We have used 2018 funds to assist counties in purchasing systems that meet the requirements set out by Congress, and we will be able to use these 2020 funds to provide assistance to additional counties. As noted in our prior plan, Tennessee’s county election commissions decide which voting system to use in their jurisdiction. Counties may purchase any system that has been approved for use in the state by the State Election Commission and Coordinator of Elections.

We anticipate continuing to distribute funds based on the number of precincts and early voting sites in each county and have budgeted \$5,086,086 to address needs in this category.

Voting Registration Systems and Management

The Division of Elections oversees the statewide voter registration database. While we had initially considered upgrading our current statewide voter registration system using 2018 funds, we instead have used those funds to meet more immediate needs for county election commissions. As a result, we are budgeting 2020 funds toward a potential upgrade.

Any upgrade will require new software and infrastructure. We have budgeted \$2,010,000 to address needs in this category.

Cyber Vulnerabilities & Training

The Division of Elections used 2018 funds to offer on-site scans to each county election commission office and to assist county election commissions in making security improvements.

With the 2020 funds, the Division of Elections will look for ways to help county election commissions stay aware and ahead of potential cyber threats, including additional assessments as needed, implementing best practices to secure critical systems, and offering additional in-person and online training opportunities regarding timely subjects.

We are also in conversations with the Tennessee National Guard to develop a partnership to leverage their cybersecurity knowledge and personnel resources to assist county election commissions in rapidly responding to cyber threats. Through this partnership, we would have regional teams available to assist counties in advance of and during the remaining elections in 2020.

We have budgeted \$3,076,086 toward needs in this category.

Summary

As detailed on the attached Budget Narrative, our proposed budget to implement the goals stated above is as follows:

Category	Federal	State	Total
Voting Equipment	\$4,238,405	\$847,681	\$5,086,086
Voter Registration Systems	\$1,675,000	\$335,000	\$2,010,000
Cyber Security	\$2,563,405	\$512,681	\$3,076,086
Total	\$8,476,810	\$1,695,362	\$10,172,172