



Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

May 2, 2022

Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea serves as Rhode Island’s Chief State Elections Official under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Since taking office in 2015, Secretary Gorbea has undertaken several initiatives to secure and modernize the state’s election systems, including:

- Procuring new voting equipment, to replace machines that were 19 years old. The new secure voting machines have enhanced the voting experience for Rhode Islanders.
- Overseeing the development of a new Central Voter Registration System (CVRS) that provides a secure database to maintain the state’s voter registration information.
- Conducting training summits for local election officials to enhance awareness of cybersecurity protocols and best practices across the state.

In April 2022, Secretary Gorbea worked with state and local elections officials and cybersecurity leaders to discuss how best to spend and prioritize the \$1,000,000 in HAVA funds allocated to Rhode Island as part of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022.

After informative discussions regarding the proposed recommendations, the list below has been identified as priorities to receive funding in Rhode Island. These elections infrastructure and security improvement projects will enhance Rhode Island’s election systems at the Department of State, Board of Elections, and the 39 cities and towns across the state

The Department will continue to work with the Rhode Island Governor and General Assembly to include the HAVA funding in the Fiscal Year 2023 State budget. The Department will also identify the \$200,000 State matching commitment.

Project Categories	Post-2022 Election	Total by Project Category
Voter Registration Systems & Elections Equipment	\$250,000	\$250,000
Cyber Vulnerabilities	\$720,000	\$720,000
Training	\$30,000	\$30,000
Total	\$1,000,000	

Election Project Initiatives

Voter Registration System Enhancements

Estimated Investment: \$150,000

As election administration evolves and cybersecurity threats continue, it is important that election systems can quickly adapt to meet the changing demands. The agility of our voter registration system allows for modifications that improve elections administration. It is important that the state have the resources necessary to address any unforeseen investments in a timely manner to ensure the security and confidence of our elections.

Voting Equipment Upgrades

Estimated Investment: \$100,000

As Rhode Island continues to see a shift in the methods of voting used by voters (mail, early, Election Day), election equipment must be upgraded.

Cybersecurity Improvement Projects

Estimated Investment: \$280,000

Investing in cybersecurity and the development of security plans are costly and resource intensive. Funds will be utilized to assist state and local election officials to develop protections for their election systems.

Common cybersecurity projects such as:

- Incident Response Plan
- Disaster Recovery Plan
- Policy and Procedure Creation
- Patch Management Program
- Vulnerability Management Plan

Cybersecurity Assessment and Roadmap

Estimated Investment: \$280,000

Rhode Island cities and towns perform risk and vulnerability assessments based on CIS Critical Controls and NIST Cybersecurity Framework. This will provide the city/town with a plan that indicates their cybersecurity posture, where they need to be, and the best way to strengthen their systems.

Elections Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)

Estimated Investment: \$160,000

Help America Vote Act (HAVA) 2022 Funding Recommendations

Compiled by Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea

An Elections CISO, within the Department of State, to coordinate cybersecurity and election administration initiatives across all state and local election jurisdictions. The Elections CISO would also serve as the liaison to the federal government for elections programs and services. The CISO's responsibilities would include but not be limited to the following:

- Schedule trainings
- Meet routinely with city and town IT departments and election personnel
- Identify grants and cybersecurity opportunities
- Ensure state and local election officials are taking advantage of MS/EI-ISAC and CISA services
- Conduct cybersecurity assessments in coordination with CISA

Cybersecurity Support and Training for Local Election Officials

Estimated Investment: \$30,000

Trainings for Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns on elections administration and the latest in cybersecurity and technology.

In advance of the past three elections, Secretary Gorbea convened local elections and IT officials for a Cyber Security Summit. The half-day forums gave Rhode Island election officials from nearly every city and town an opportunity to learn from national and statewide cybersecurity experts on several topics, including:

- Current best practices to secure election systems ahead of the elections
- Combating misinformation and disinformation campaigns
- Common causes of data breaches and ways to prevent them
- Actions being taken on the federal level to protect elections for local election officials in advance of the past three general elections

HAVA funds will allow the Department of State to continue hosting Cyber Security Summits and dedicate additional resources to ongoing cybersecurity training for local election officials.

EAC HAVA GRANT - BUDGET WORKSHEET

GRANTEE NAME:	Rhode Island		
AWARD TYPE:	FORMULA	MATCH %:	20%
PROJECT PERIOD START DATE:	3/23/2018	INDIRECT COST % (IF APPLIED):	
PROJECT PERIOD END DATE:	9/30/2099	INDIRECT COST TYPE:	

SECTION A: GRANT BUDGET	YEAR ONE	YEAR TWO	YEAR THREE	TOTAL:
FEDERAL AMOUNT	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,216,181.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 7,216,181.00
NON FEDERAL MATCH	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 643,236	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 993,236.00
TOTAL:	\$ 3,150,000.00	\$ 3,859,417.00	\$ 1,200,000.00	\$ 8,209,417.00

SECTION B: BUDGET CATEGORIES (Federal Only)	Voting Equipment	Voting Processes	Voter Registration Systems	Election Auditing	Cyber and Physical Security	Voter Education	Accessibility	Other (Polling Place Operations)	Other (Election Day Operations)	TOTALS	% Fed Total
PERSONNEL					\$ 300,000.00					\$ 300,000.00	4%
FRINGE RELATED TO SALARY										\$ -	0%
EQUIPMENT	\$ 926,770.00		\$ 2,300,000.00	\$ 316,230.00	\$ 1,993,181.00	\$ 30,000.00				\$ 5,566,181.00	77%
TRAINING		\$ 60,000.00		\$ 75,000.00						\$ 135,000.00	2%
CONTRACTUAL										\$ -	0%
OTHER (Election Operations)								\$ 75,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	1%
OTHER (Cybersecurity)					\$ 30,000.00					\$ 30,000.00	0%
SUBGRANTS					\$ 1,100,000.00					\$ 1,100,000.00	15%
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$ 926,770.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 2,300,000.00	\$ 391,230.00	\$ 3,423,181.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,216,181.00	100%
INDIRECT COSTS (if applied)										\$ -	0%
TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	\$ 926,770.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 2,300,000.00	\$ 391,230.00	\$ 3,423,181.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,216,181.00	100%
PERCENTAGE BY CATEGORY	13%	1%	32%	5%	47%	0%	0%	1%	0%		

SECTION C: NON FEDERAL MATCH RESOURCES

SOURCE DESCRIPTION	STATE FUNDS	OTHER	TOTAL:
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -