



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

July 10, 2018

Brian Newby, Executive Director  
U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
1335 East-West Highway, Suite 4300  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**RE: Pennsylvania HAVA Program Narrative and Budget Outline**

Dear Mr. Newby:

In follow-up to my May 22, 2018 letter, I am providing Pennsylvania's Program Narrative and Budget Outline for use of the HAVA Funds under Notice of Grant Award #PA18101001. These funds will be used by Pennsylvania counties to support the purchase of new voting equipment.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Myers, Deputy Director of Policy, at (717) 409-3245 or [jessimyers@pa.gov](mailto:jessimyers@pa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Torres".

Robert Torres  
Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth

Enclosure

Cc. Mark Abbott, Director of Payments and Grants



## PROGRAM NARRATIVE - COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

### *Program Description*

Cybersecurity and resilience are of utmost importance to all of us who administer elections. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania wants to ensure that Pennsylvania voters are using the most secure, auditable, accessible, and resilient voting machines available. Since the bipartisan Presidential Commission on Election Administration issued its warning in 2014 about the “wearing out” of voting systems purchased after enactment of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), state and local jurisdictions across the Nation have wrestled with how and when to replace aging voting systems. Pennsylvania’s current systems are approaching the end of their usable life, and they are built on operating systems that are no longer supported or soon will not be supported by the manufacturers. Over the last year, experts across the country and the world have issued strong warnings about the risks and vulnerabilities we face from both cyber threats and aging voting systems. These experts are urging states to take action as quickly as possible to replace older voting machines with updated voting systems that produce a paper trail and have enhanced security and accessibility, as well as to conduct robust post-election audits.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is consequently very pleased to accept the funds authorized under Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-252) (HAVA) and provided for in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141), to address these issues and serve the direct purpose of improving the administration of elections. Specifically, we intend to use these funds for Voting Equipment replacement and upgrades, thereby enhancing security, resiliency, and accessibility for Pennsylvania voters.

### *Background and Approach*

In February 2018, the PA Department of State (Department) issued a directive requiring that all new voting systems procured by Pennsylvania counties must have a voter-verifiable paper record. The Department and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) are currently

evaluating voting systems and will certify those systems that meet state and federal standards. In April 2018, we released an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for vendors to submit proposals for these systems from which counties may choose. We also issued further direction that Pennsylvania counties must select new voting systems that meet these standards by December 31, 2019, and we are urging the counties to implement these new voting systems as soon as feasible.

Consequently, we expect most of these grants to be distributed over the next 24 months, though depending on financing arrangements with vendors, we may have some remaining funds distributed in the ensuing 12-24 months. The funds will be distributed as reimbursements for expenditures made on voting equipment that complies with the Department's voting system directives and the IFB. We will be distributing the grant award and matching funds to counties proportionally based on numbers of registered voters officially certified by the counties to the Department at the close of registration April 17, 2018. Counties will submit to the state documentation of their acceptance of the award and proof of use for voting equipment replacement and upgrades, in order to receive their funds.

To ensure the highest level of security, resiliency, and accessibility for Pennsylvania voters, new voting equipment must not only include voter-verifiable paper records and achieve EAC certification, but also must be certified to Pennsylvania's new comprehensive 2018 voting system security and accessibility standards, developed in conjunction with experts in these fields. We also intend to augment our post-election audit requirements to ensure accuracy and verifiability of election results, all of which will help to boost confidence for all Pennsylvanians in the security and reliability of our elections and our vote.

### *Budget and Progress Reporting*

We will use the funds provided under the Notice of Grant Award, Agreement # PA18101001, for activities consistent with the laws described in Section 906 of HAVA and will not use the funds in a manner that is inconsistent with the requirements of Title III of HAVA. It is our intent to draw down Pennsylvania's \$13,476,156 grant award on an as needed basis. Pennsylvania will also contribute its five percent match of \$673,808 in 2019. In addition to submitting annual financial reports, the Department will submit annual program narrative

reports. The program narrative reports will take the form of progress reports that track the Commonwealth's and counties' progress.

### *Conclusion*

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is pleased to accept the funds provided for in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) to improve the administration of elections in Pennsylvania, by distributing these funds to our counties for Voting Equipment replacement and upgrades as described herein, thereby strengthening security, resiliency, accessibility, and auditability for all Pennsylvania voters.