

## Help America Vote Act (HAVA) 2018 Funding Recommendations

Compiled by Rhode Island Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea

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### Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Project Funding in Rhode Island

The security of election systems has become a priority across the country, particularly the ability to guard against cyber intrusions by foreign actors. The reports of Russian activity to penetrate voter registration systems in 21 states during the 2016 election cycle raised awareness of the critical need to secure these systems to meet ever changing threats to our democracy.

Due to the significant costs faced by state and local governments to address these security needs, Congress included \$380 million in new Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funding as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 for such purposes.

Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea serves as the state's Chief Elections Official under HAVA. On April 30, she convened the HAVA 2018 Task Force to discuss how best to spend and prioritize security efforts with the \$3 million in HAVA funds allocated to Rhode Island. The funds are allocated to the states to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance technology and make certain election security improvements.

This document contains recommendations for elections infrastructure and security improvement projects to enhance Rhode Island's election systems at the Department of State, Board of Elections, and the 39 cities and towns as recommended by the HAVA 2018 Task Force.

After informative discussions regarding the proposed recommendations, the technology and security enhancements listed below have been identified as priorities to receive funding in Rhode Island. The Department of State will submit these items in its project narrative to the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

The Department of State will work with the Governor and General Assembly to include the \$3 million in federal funding outlined below in the Fiscal Year 2019 State budget.

Central Voter Registration System (CVRS) Upgrade	\$1,550,000
Implement cybersecurity and data recovery best practices	\$634,000
Risk Limiting Audits (RLA) Implementation	\$400,000
Electronic Poll Book (E-poll book) Resources	\$50,000
Election Day Incident Management Software and GPS Tracking	\$10,000
Mail Ballot Envelope Sorting & Scanning System	\$90,000
Mail Ballot Envelope Industrial Opener	\$11,000
Elections Administration Improvement Grants for the Cities and Towns	\$100,000
Polling Place Operational Improvement	\$155,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>