



★ V I R G I N I A ★
STATE BOARD
of ELECTIONS



State Board of Elections, Use of HAVA Funds
and Fiscal Overview

Secretary Donald Palmer

First: What is HAVA Anyway?

- Legislation passed by Congress in 2002 that responded to problems encountered in 2000 Presidential Election.
- Required eliminating punch card and lever voting systems, funded new voting systems and equipment.
- Established Election Assistance Commission (EAC).
- Computerized statewide voter registration system, provisional voting, and other requirements.



2011 General Assembly Appropriation

- In 2011, General Assembly allocated \$367,235 to allow the SBE to draw down *remaining* HAVA matching funds from the federal government.
- Appropriation will allow agency to draw down HAVA funds totaling \$6,977,459.
- Funds were for fiscal years 2008-2010.

Why Now?

- Dire federal budget situation and potential pullback of existing HAVA “Requirement Payments” allocated to Virginia.
- No federal appropriation last few years.
- EAC is at risk of termination.
- Unlikely that funds will be appropriated by Congress in the future.
- Lost interest payments earned by Virginia.

Federal Funding of SBE

- SBE has approximately \$24 million in HAVA funds in cash account with Treasurer.
- Average annual burn rate of at least \$2 million of HAVA funds for federal-required activities.
- HAVA funds will run out by approximately 2025 at current burn rate, not including required projects or enhancements.
- Health and Human Services (HHS) Funds for voting accessibility: average of \$234,000/year for last 8 years.

Federal Funding of SBE Continued

- Little likelihood of future federal funds for HAVA requirements - turning HAVA into unfunded federal mandate.
- SBE will soon apply for a grant from Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) to assist in overseas military voting efforts and capabilities.
- Continued appropriated HHS funds should help with compliance with polling place accessibility.

Use of HAVA Funds (Short-Term)

- Costs Associated with Redistricting:
 - Voter Information Cards
 - Mitigate voter confusion and provide election-related information on 2011 and 2012 state and federal elections.
 - Training of local election officials, including enhanced online training.
 - Additional voting equipment to assist localities with new precincts and split precincts.
 - 109 split precincts in House Plan and 115 in Senate Plan.
 - Unknown number of new precincts.
- Enhancements to statewide voter registration system (VERIS).

Use of HAVA Funds (Long-Term)

- Statewide Voter Registration & List Maintenance Activities
 - Virginia needs a more accurate voter registration database and improved functional usability for localities.
 - Potential participation in multistate program that would allow Virginia to share its voter registration data with other states with reciprocity.
 - Other agreements with neighboring states to share data of residents leaving and entering Commonwealth.
 - Increase and improve database interoperability with other agencies (DMV, DSS, VDH, VSP, SCV).

Use of HAVA Funds (Long-Term)

- Support of federally required activities of SBE:
 - HAVA funds will account for approximately 57% of SBE's operating budget for FY2012.
 - Continued HAVA funding for SBE employees' salaries relating to federal activities, compliance with federal voting laws and disability compliance.
 - Continued funding and enhancements of VERIS, the statewide interactive voter registration database in Virginia.

Use of HAVA Funds (Long-Term)

- Support for Localities
 - Local governments are now responsible for a greater share of General Registrar and Electoral Board salaries.
 - Responsible for purchasing and maintaining voting equipment that is HAVA-compliant.
 - Required to comply with federal mandates, including language minority, disability, provisional ballot and voter registration requirements.
 - Localities need long-term assistance in the form of HAVA dollars.

Conclusion

- Federal strings (requirements) attached to money.
- General Assembly needs to consider long-term plans when HAVA funds do run out.
- Elections are getting progressively more technical and complex.
- SBE thanks you and the Governor for allocating the matching funds.



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Additional Questions or Concerns?

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