

[Insert Election Jurisdiction Letterhead here]

[Month] 2026

The Honorable **[First Name] [Last Name]**
[Congressional Building Name] Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Bipartisan Call to Fund Local Election Departments

Dear **[Senator/Representative]**,

We are requesting \$400 million in funding be appropriated for Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Grants in FY27. This funding supports state and local elections in addressing evolving cybersecurity threats, replacing aging voting equipment, training poll workers, and maintaining the secure administration of elections.

The \$45 million in HAVA funding included in FY26 appropriations will help local election offices address immediate security and infrastructure needs. However, continued, predictable HAVA funding at levels that reflect the true cost of election administration would give local officials the stability we need to plan responsibly and maintain voter confidence.

Election infrastructure is designated as critical to national security, but as a local official, I see our community facing increasingly sophisticated cyber threats, foreign interference, and physical security risks with limited resources. The HAVA Election Security Grant program helps ensure local election officials have the resources needed to protect voting systems, polling places, and election workers.

In my county, additional funding would... [insert jurisdiction-specific needs]

To meet the growing need for election administration resources, Congress must appropriate \$400 million in election security grants for Fiscal Year 2027. I also ask that Congress direct two-thirds of these grants to the local level, where the need is greatest. This funding is authorized under Title I Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, is administered by the Election Assistance Commission, and is housed in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill.

Federal elections are the costliest for local election officials to administer, due in part to their higher turnout and longer ballots. Yet the most recent federal budget allocation amounted to barely 18 cents per eligible voter.¹ To put this in perspective, recent studies estimate that even the lowest-spend states spend \$2 per eligible voter.²

The federal government shares with state and local governments the responsibility to overcome funding shortfalls in the most essential charge our government carries: to ensure safe, secure, and accessible elections. Because our elections are decentralized, one underfunded county can create vulnerabilities that undermine trust across an entire state or even the country. Federal funding helps ensure there are no weak links by providing every community, large and small, urban and rural, resources to implement the same baseline protections.

Local jurisdictions were never designed to fund million-dollar voting machines, cybersecurity defenses, or physical security upgrades on their own. Counties cannot sustain these costs without federal partnership, especially when funding fluctuates year to year. As election officials, we must plan years ahead for machine replacement, cybersecurity upgrades, and training, and we cannot make these investments responsibly without predictable, consistent funding.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Election Jurisdiction]

[State]

¹ \$45,000,000 in funding spread amongst the 240,833,679 voting age population according to the US Department of Commerce. See: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/voting-rights/cvap/2020-2024-CVAP.html>

² Mohr, et al, "A Republic If You Can Afford It," 2024