

Common Appropriations Request Form Questions

This document captures information about HAVA Election Security Grants that is commonly requested from congressional offices during the programmatic appropriations request process as well as sample responses to common questions to help you think through your responses. We encourage you to customize the material below based on your local expertise and the particular needs of your election jurisdiction. The questions on your specific representative's form may be worded differently.

Appropriation Subdivision Title: Financial Services and General Government

Department: N/A

Agency: Election Assistance Commission

Account: HAVA Election Security Grants

Bureau: N/A

Type of Request: Programmatic Appropriation Request

Program/Language Title: HAVA Election Security Grants

Total Funding Request Amount (in dollars): \$400,000,000

Previous Program Funding Levels:

FY 2018 = \$380,000,000

FY 2020 = \$425,000,000 plus \$400,000,000 in CARES Act Supplemental

FY 2021 = \$0 - *CARES Act Funding Roll-over*

FY 2022 = \$75,000,000

FY 2023 = \$75,000,000

FY 2024 = \$55,000,000

FY 2025 = \$15,000,000

FY 2026 = \$45,000,000

Previous President's Budget Request Program Funding Levels:

FY 2024 = \$1,625,000,000

FY 2025 = \$1,625,000,000

FY 2026 = \$0

FY 2027 = \$0

Program funding level in FY26 enacted bill: \$45 million

Program Funding Level in President's FY27 budget request (if applicable/available): Not available

Is there a Dear Colleague? If so, who is leading it? Not available

Sample legislative language request:

\$400,000,000 is provided to the Election Assistance Commission for necessary expenses to make payments to States and local governments for activities to improve the administration of elections for Federal office. Further, at least two-thirds of Election Security Grants issued by the Election Assistance Commission shall be distributed directly to local election officials at the local election jurisdiction level, with the remaining funds being distributed to State governments.

Provide a short (1-2 sentence) description/summary of this funding request:

We are requesting \$400 million in funding under Title I Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 for 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.

Please explain why this is a good use of taxpayer funds and how the request will benefit this state/district:

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 election officials need to plan responsibly and maintain voter confidence.

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

Describe the problem to be addressed through this request, and why additional funding is necessary:

Election infrastructure is designated as critical to national security, but election officials are now 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 in every state have the resources needed to protect voting systems, polling places, and election workers.

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, with the same baseline protections.

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

Please include all such partners with whom you will be working or from whom you have requested additional funding for your program or project: Not applicable.