



# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
www.gastongov.com

## Elections Board Action

File #: 21-042

Commissioner Brown - Elections - To Accept and Appropriate a Grant of Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Funds (\$185,912.00)

### STAFF CONTACT

Adam Ragan - Elections - 704-852-6015

### BUDGET IMPACT

Appropriate grant revenues. No additional County funds.

### BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

Increase federal and state grant revenues of \$185,912 and appropriate into Elections account.

### BACKGROUND

The Gaston County Board of Elections has received \$185,912.00 in federal HAVA funds in the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 to improve the administration of federal elections and/or improve, acquire or replace voting systems and technology and methods for casting and counting votes.

These funds will be used to replace our ADA-required ballot marking devices (AutoMARKS) that have been used in Gaston County since 2005.

### POLICY IMPACT

N/A

### ATTACHMENTS

Budget Change Request (BCR), County Award Letter and Notice of Subgrant - 2020 HAVA Funds

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	AFrale	BHovis	KJohnson	TKelgher	TPittman	BWorley	Vote
2021-052	02/23/2021	TP	BH	A	AB	A	A	A	A	AB	U

### DISTRIBUTION:

Laserfiche Users

A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS

## GASTON COUNTY BUDGET CHANGE REQUEST

TO: Dr. Kim S. Eagle COUNTY MANAGER

FROM: 4170 Elections  
           Dept. #                      Department Name

Adam Ragan                                      02/03/2021  
           Department Director's Name                                      Date

### TYPE OF REQUEST:

☐ Line Item Transfer Within Department & Fund

☐ Line Item Transfer Between Funds \*

☐ Project Transfer Within Department & Fund

☒ Additional Appropriation of Funds \*

☐ Line Item Transfer Between Departments\*

\* Requires resolution by the Board of Commissioners

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION (As it appears in the budget)	ACCOUNT NUMBER Fund - Function - Dept - Division - Object - Project xxx - xx - xxxx - xxxx - xxxxx - xxxxxx	AMOUNT Whole Dollars Only (See Note Below)
2018 HAVA Election Security	010-01-4170-0000-420000-21593	\$185,912.00
F&E<5K: 2018 HAVA Election Grt	010-01-4170-0000-540001-21593	(\$181,775.00)
2018 HAVA Election Security	010-01-4170-0000-560000-21593	(\$4,137.00)

### JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:

Appropriation of federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds to be used for replacement of ADA-required ballot marking voting machines.

Note: Decreases in expenditures & increases in revenue accounts require brackets. Increases in expenditures & decreases in revenue do not require brackets. Please note that transfers between funds require interfund transfer accounts.

## NOTICE OF SUBGRANT -2020 HAVA Funds - NC Amended February 2, 2021

Subgrantee:	Gaston County Board of Elections
CFDA Number: 90.404 Agreement Number: NC20101001-036	Budget Period: 7/1/2020 – 6/30/2021
<b>Funds Description</b>	
This obligation of funds constitutes the Subgrantee's share, as authorized under Session Law 2020-17, Sec. 11.2(a), of \$11,677,441 of federal and \$2,335,488 of state matching funds awarded under Election Security Grants in the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 to improve the administration of federal elections.	
<b>Funding Information</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Allocated funding based on percentage of voter registration within Department of Commerce Tier as of 1/9/ 2021	\$185,912
Reimbursements as of 1/27/2021	\$0
Remaining Balance of Allocation after reimbursements paid as of 1/27/2021	\$185,912
<b>Permissible Uses</b>	
<p>Reimbursement-eligible expenditures are those incurred to improve the administration of federal elections, as authorized under HAVA Title I, Section 101, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements</li> <li>• Educating voters concerning voting procedures, voting rights, and voting technology.</li> <li>• Training election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers.</li> <li>• Improving, acquiring, leasing, modifying, or replacing voting systems and technology and methods for casting and counting votes.</li> <li>• Improving the accessibility and quantity of polling places, including providing physical access for individuals with disabilities, providing non-visual access for individuals with visual impairments, and providing assistance to Native Americans, Alaska Native citizens, and to individuals with limited proficiency in the English language.</li> <li>• Establishing toll-free telephone hotlines that voters may use to report possible voting fraud and voting rights violations, to obtain general election information, and to access detailed automated information on their own voter registration status, specific polling place locations, and other relevant information.</li> <li>• Expenditures incurred to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic during 2020 federal elections.</li> </ul>	
<b>Grant Administration</b>	
Grant Administration Award recipients and sub-recipients must adhere to all applicable federal requirements including Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance: Title 2 C.F.R. Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200-Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 C.F.R. § 200).	



# NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

*Mailing Address:*  
P.O. Box 27255,  
Raleigh, NC 27611  
(919) 814-0700 or  
(866) 522-4723  
*Fax:* (919) 715-0135

TO: County Boards of Election  
RE: Considerations for Expending 2020 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grant Funds  
DATE: January 29, 2021

Session Law 2020-17 designated \$9,616,929 in nonrecurring funds to county boards of elections and entitled each county a minimum of \$10,000 and no more than \$250,000. The General Assembly further stipulated that in reimbursement of these funds, counties must certify that HAVA funds will not be used to supplant county funds. Use of the funds must adhere to the categories and permissible purposes established by the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission and the federal standards set by the Congressional grant authorization.

While we considered an application process to receive additional funds above \$10,000 (not to exceed \$250,000), we were concerned that this would not be a fair and equitable decision-making process and would limit a county's ability to address its specific needs. Similar to the criteria used by the General Assembly to award CARES Act funds, we have calculated each county's award based upon economic tiers defined by the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the number of registered voters. Through this formulary, we aim to give the decision making to you directly since you know your county's needs best. The session law appropriating these funds requires the counties to seek reimbursement from the State Board for eligible expenses. The attached FAQ document explains the reimbursement process, which is the same as CARES Act reimbursement processes.

As you determine the needs of your county, please be mindful that at present time no additional funds have been authorized by Congress or the General Assembly. This means it is important to prioritize and effectively address multiple needs. While many counties may consider voting equipment to be a top priority, the designation of elections as critical infrastructure means it is also our duty to place even greater emphasis on both physical and cyber security than ever before. Please review any assessments conducted by the Department of Homeland Security or the National Guard and consider applying HAVA funds to remedy identified issues or areas of concern. Ideally, counties have designated capital funds to purchase voting equipment since there has been no federal or state commitment of funds for this purpose since the initial statewide procurement in 2006. Bottomline – please spend your funds wisely as we are not guaranteed additional funds in the near future.

Please carefully review the additional documents provided with this letter. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Amy Strange, COO; Neil Baddour, Voting Systems Certification Manager; or me.

Thank you for all you do,

Karen Brinson Bell  
Executive Director