

**FEDERAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

(Follow form instructions)

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted  <b>ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION</b>				2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency (To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment)  <b>GA20101CARES</b>			
3. Recipient Organization (Name and complete address including Zip code)  <b>SECRETARY OF STATE, GEORGIA</b> <b>237 COLISEUM DR, MACON, GA 312173805</b>							
4a. DUNS Number	4b. EIN	5. Recipient Account Number or Identifying Number (To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment)		6. Report Type	7. Basis of Accounting		
				<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual		
8. Project/Grant Period (Month, Day, Year) From: <b>March 28, 2020</b>				9. Reporting Period End Date (Month, Day, Year) <b>December 31, 2020</b>			
To: <b>December 31, 2020</b>							
<b>10. Transactions</b>					Cumulative		
<i>(Use lines a-c for single or combined multiple grant reporting)</i>							
<b>Federal Cash (To report multiple grants separately, also use FFR Attachment):</b>							
a. Cash Receipts					\$10,875,912.00		
b. Cash Disbursements					\$10,875,912.00		
c. Cash on Hand (line a minus b)					\$0.00		
<i>(Use lines d-o for single grant reporting)</i>							
<b>Federal Expenditures and Unobligated Balance:</b>							
d. Total Federal funds authorized					\$10,875,912.00		
e. Federal share of expenditures					\$10,875,912.00		
f. Federal share of unliquidated obligations					\$0.00		
g. Total Federal share (sum of lines e and f)					\$10,875,912.00		
h. Unobligated balance of Federal funds (line d minus g)					\$0.00		
<b>Recipient Share:</b>							
i. Total recipient share required					\$2,175,642.00		
j. Recipient share of expenditures					\$2,175,642.00		
k. Remaining recipient share to be provided (line i minus j)					\$0.00		
<b>Program Income:</b>							
l. Total Federal share of program income earned					\$2,297.20		
m. Program income expended in accordance with the deduction alternative					\$0.00		
n. Program income expended in accordance with the addition alternative					\$2,297.20		
o. Unexpended program income (line l minus line m and line n)					\$0.00		
11. Indirect Expense	a. Type	b. Rate	c. Period From	Period To	d. Base	e. Amount Charged	f. Federal Share
g. Totals:					\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12. Remarks: Attach any explanations deemed necessary or information required by Federal sponsoring agency in compliance with governing legislation:  State interest earned (current fiscal year): \$0							
13. Certification: By signing this report, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the report is true, complete, and accurate, and the expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and intent set forth in the award documents. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)							
a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official					c. Telephone (Area code, number, and extension)		
<b>Orange, Robert</b>							
<b>Controller</b>					d. Email Address		
b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official					e. Date Report Submitted (Month, Day, Year)		
<b>Orange, Robert</b>					<b>March 5, 2021</b>		

Standard Form 425  
OMB Approval Number: 4040-0014  
Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

**Paperwork Burden Statement**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB Control Number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 4040-0014. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: US Department of Health & Human Services, OS/OCIO/PRA, 200 Independence Ave, SW, Suite 336-E, Washington DC 20201. Attention: PRA Reports Clearance Officer

**FEDERAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

(Additional Page)

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Federal Agency & Organization : ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Federal Grant ID : GA20101CARES

Recipient Organization : SECRETARY OF STATE, GEORGIA  
237 COLISEUM DR, MACON, GA 312173805

DUNS Number :

EIN :

Reporting Period End Date : December 31, 2020

Status : Awarding Agency Approval

Remarks : State interest earned (current fiscal year): \$0  
State interest expended (current fiscal year): \$0  
Program income earned (current fiscal year): \$2,297.20  
income earned breakdown (current fiscal year): \$0  
Program income expended (current fiscal year): \$2,297.20

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# EAC Progress Report

Response ID:199 Data

## 1. Login

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Please enter your userword and password to begin the Progress Narrative. If you require assistance or have any questions, please contact [grants@eac.gov](mailto:grants@eac.gov)

## 2. Verification

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### reCAPTCHA

reCAPTCHA answered

## 3. EAC Progress Report

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### 1. State or Territory:

Georgia

### 2. Grant Number:

GA20101CARES-01

### 3. Report:

CARES (Off-cycle report only due February 28, 2021)

### 4. Grant:

Please select only one.

CARES

### 5. Reporting Period Start Date

03/28/2020

### 6. Reporting Period End Date

02/28/2021

### 7. DUNS/UEI:

### 8. EIN:

### 9. Recipient Organization:

#### Organization Name

Georgia Office Of Secretary Of State

**Street Address**

State Capitol, Room 214

**City**

Atlanta

**State**

GA

**Zip**

30334

## 4. Progress and Narrative

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### 10. CARES Grant Specific:

#### Describe how you used the funds to address the pandemic.

The CARES funding Georgia received to deal with voting in the middle of the Covid pandemic was used in several ways to protect voting processes and voters themselves.

First, for the merged Presidential Preference and General Primaries, the state sent pre-filled absentee ballot applications to all active voters. The request forms were also printed with a bar code to allow for easier processing of the requests once filled out by the voter and received by the county.

Then the state contracted with our voting system vendor, Dominion Voting Systems (DVS), to craft a centralized absentee ballot fulfillment program. This program took the work off of counties that were short staffed due to the Covid outbreak. This system mailed approximate 800,000 ballots to voters, the balance of about 150,000 ballots fulfilled by the counties themselves.

In the primary and the general election, there was a voter education program to help voters understand how to request and return their absentee ballots. This was necessary because historically absentee by mail is the least used way to vote at normally 5% or less, with 95%+ choosing to vote in person, either in the three weeks of advanced voting or on the 12 hours of Election Day.

Moving towards the general election, the state election board passed an emergency rule to allow for dropboxes for safe delivery of absentee ballots. To help counties, the state allocated a portion of the CARES dollars to a matching grant program (up to \$3000.00) that would aid in the purchase and installation of absentee ballot drop boxes. The match was 3-1.

The state developed a similar matching grant program to help counties locally source Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). That program was also for up to \$3,000, but with a 9-1 match. The state also directly sourced re-usable masks and hand sanitizer that was then distributed to the counties based on voter population.

To prepare for the volume of absentee by mail ballots, the state purchased additional high-speed, high-capacity scanners. These are the ICCs supplier from the state's voting vendor DVS.

Also, for the General Election, the state used CARES dollars to establish an online absentee ballot request portal. The portal used the Drivers License Number as the identifier and tied back to the state's eNet Voter Registration System. This made it easy for voters to request ballots, easier for counties to process, and cut down on entry errors by county workers as all entry of information was done by the voter themselves.

### 11. Describe the major issues you faced in dealing with the pandemic in the election cycle.

The biggest issue at the beginning of the pandemic was postponing and merging the Presidential Preference Primary and the General Primary. We did that while simultaneously standing up the centralized absentee balloting system.

A large challenge was getting the requests turned around quickly enough to allow voters to return and then counties to process. Luckily, because of the pandemic large companies that do a lot of print advertising cancelled their planned mailings and the state was able to pick up that press time quickly. The CARES dollars allowed us to move quickly and from announcement of the request program to the requests going in the mail was only 6 days.

**12. Describe in detail what happened during this reporting period and explain how you implemented the approved grant activities.**

When the health emergency was declared, the state had just completed the second of three weeks of early/advanced voting in the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP). The decision was made to merge the PPP with the General Primary set for May. The state quickly moved to redesign and mailout 7 million absentee ballot requests, pre-filled with voters' data and bar coded for processing. This was accomplished with a single large vendor, RR Donnelley, in 6 days.

Knowing that the volume of absentees would be unprecedented, the state moved to procure more high-speed, high-capacity Central Scanning Devices (CSDs) from DVS, their ICC units.

Heading into the Spring, the state worked with DVS to find a sub-contractor to handle the anticipated volume of absentee ballots to be fulfilled. Counties were stretched thin losing personnel to Covid and fear of Covid. DVS worked out an agreement with Runbeck Election Services out of Arizona to fulfill absentee requests submitted by voters to counties.

An advertising program was launched on television and online to teach Georgians how to both request and return their absentee mail ballots, as it was a historically little used way of Georgians casting their votes.

The May Primary was approaching and the Secretary of State, using the powers granted from the health emergency declared by the President and Governor, moved the election once again to June 19. It was the latest date available under Georgia law to meet all deadlines to certify the November Presidential Election.

Nearly 1 million voted were cast by mail in the June Primaries. That was approximately 50% of all votes cast.

Learning from issues discovered from the June primary, the decision was made to build an online absentee request portal. Working with our voter registration vendor, the portal was built, tested and launched by the end of August.

In the General Election, 409,312 voters requested absentee ballots through the portal and for the January runoff 465,142 voters utilized the absentee portal to make requests.

CARES along with some HAVA dollars were used to fulfill the nearly 600,000 rollover ballots of those 65 and over or with disabilities, who requested to have mail in ballots in each election in the cycle.

**13. Provide a timeline and description of project activities funded to meet HAVA requirements. Provide an analysis of how such activities conform to the submitted State Plan or Program Narrative as applicable.**

March: Redesign and mailing of pre-filled absentee ballot request forms to active voters

April: Retain DVS to subcontract Runbeck for Ballot fulfillment

May: Procure additional high-speed, high-capacity scanners for absentee ballot in higher population counties

Voter Education media campaign to teach voters to request and return absentee ballots

PPE distributed and grant program launched

June: Primary Elections

August: Development and launch of absentee ballot request portal

September: Runbeck mails approximately 600,000 rollover ballots to voters

Voter Education program resumes

September-October: Counties opt-in for absentee fulfillment

November: General Election

**14. Describe any significant changes to your program during the course of the project, or if the project was implemented differently than described in your original State Plan or Program Narrative.**

**Otherwise enter - no significant changes during this period.**

No significant changes during this period

**15. Describe any favorable developments which enabled meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.**

**Otherwise enter N/A.**

The absentee request portal was launched just under the original schedule and was adopted much faster than anticipated by voters and made processing easier for counties and reduced human input errors as all data entry was done by the voter themselves.

**16. Report on the number and type of articles of voting equipment obtained with the funds. Include the amount expended on the expenditure table.**

**Otherwise enter - No articles of voting equipment purchased during this period.**

Fifty high-speed, high-capacity Central Scanning Devices (CSDs), ICC from DVS were purchased as part of these programs.

**17. Provide a description of any security training conducted and the number of participants.**

**Otherwise enter - no security training conducted during this period.**

No security training under this program

**18. Subgrants (if applicable):**

**Describe how you made funds available to local jurisdictions.**

**Provide a description of the major categories of subgrant activities local voting districts will accomplish with the funds.**

**Otherwise enter N/A.**

Two different categories of subgrants; drop boxes and PPE.

The dropbox program allowed for up to \$3,000 to counties for purchase and installation of absentee dropboxes. It was a matching grant program. For every dollar the county spent, they would receive three dollars. It was done as a reimbursement grant. The counties had to make the purchases, supply an application, a narrative, and receipts to receive the grant funding. The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) program allowed for up to \$3,000 to counties for purchase and distribution of PPE. It was a matching grant program. For every dollar the county spent, they would receive nine dollars. It was done as a reimbursement grant. The counties had to make the purchases, supply an application, a narrative, and receipts to receive the grant funding.

**19. Match (if applicable):**

**Describe how you are meeting the matching requirement.**

**Otherwise enter - match not required.**

The match has been achieved in two areas. The match of the counties from the grant program and the purchase of the Absentee Ballot scanners.

**20. Issues Encountered:**

**Describe all major issues that arose during the implementation of the project and the reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate. Address each issue separately in its own section, and describe whether and how the issues were resolved. Also, briefly discuss the implications of any unresolved issues or concerns.**

**Otherwise enter - no issues encountered.**

No issues encountered

**21. Upcoming Activities:**

**Provide a timeline and description of upcoming activities.**

No upcoming activities all CARES dollars expended

## 22. Current Period Amount Expended and Unliquidated Obligations

### CARES COST CATEGORIES

	Federal	Match
Voting Processes:	\$8,703,775.12	\$2,087,579.14
Staffing:		
Security and Training:		
Communications:	\$1,488,804.39	
Supplies:	\$685,629.71	\$88,062.70
Total	\$10,878,209.22	\$2,175,641.84

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 3265-0020

## 6. Certification

Name and Contact of the authorized certifying official of the recipient.

**First Name**

Robert

**Last Name**

Orange

**Title**

Controller

**Phone Number**

**Email Address**

Signature of Certifying Official:

Robert K. Orange

Signature of: Robert K Orange

## 7. Report Submitted to EAC

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Thank you, your progress report has been submitted to EAC. Please keep the PDF download of your submission as grant record.