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## *Department of the Secretary of State*

### *Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions*

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**State of Maine**  
**Budget Narrative: 2022 Combined HAVA Election Security Grant Funds**  
**Submitted by Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State**  
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**Total Award and State Match:** Once the 2022 grant funds are awarded, the Maine Secretary of State will have received \$7,643,743 in HAVA Election Security Grants. The State Match of \$156,549 for the 2018 ES grant was allocated by the Legislature but has not yet been expended – we anticipate spending those funds during FFY 2022 or 2023. The State Match of \$702,553 for the 2020 ES grant was expended in FFY 2021 as State general fund expenditures for leasing accessible voting equipment for each voting place (\$343,896); tabulation equipment leases for 325 municipalities plus the software service fees for issuing blank ballots to UOCAVA voters (\$273,682); and maintenance costs for the existing central voter registration (CVR) system (\$84,975). The State Match of \$200,000 for the 2022 ES grant has not yet been obtained.

**Voting Equipment:** The State's previous plans to issue a competitive bid to lease a new ballot scanning and tabulation system have been delayed until the EAC-accredited independent test labs are able to fully test new systems that are compliant with VVSG 2.0, and the EAC is able to certify the new systems. Maine currently leases Election Systems and Software's DS200 precinct tabulators and provides them to 325 of Maine's 500 voting jurisdictions. Once there are certified systems available from the vendors (projected in 2024-25), the State intends to procure a new system through the competitive bid process. As part of this upgrade, we plan to lease additional precinct tabulators and/or high-speed central count tabulators to provide needed capacity for processing increased numbers of absentee ballots and to supply additional municipalities, as well as to fund the expected increase in the cost of the new system. We proposed to spend \$2,250,000 from ES funds over the 6-year initial lease period resulting from the bid process, in addition to State funds already being spent on these leases.

**Voter Registration Systems:** The State has signed a contract for a new CVR system (in April of 2022) and anticipates implementation of Phase I by the early Fall of 2023. Phase II implementation is planned for early Spring of 2024. The implementation cost for the customized software development is \$1,835,000. To ensure a successful implementation, the State has contracted for professional services to assist with contract work and development of regulations; Information Services consulting services, both to assist with maintaining our aging CVR until the new system is deployed and to help with deployment of the hardware and software for the new CVR; and an independent project manager for implementation of the new system. Additionally, the State is seeking to contract for an independent subject matter/testing expert for implementing the new system. These contracted resources are estimated to cost \$1,515,000 over 3 years. CVR server equipment costs (already expended for the existing system plus the equipment needed for the new system) are estimated at \$120,000. Additionally, the State is spending \$45,000 to implement Automatic Voter Registration

in the current CVR system, which must be deployed by June 1, 2022. The total budgeted cost related to the CVR is \$3,515,000, which includes \$3,178,418 from federal ES funds and \$336,582 from State match funds.

**Cyber and physical security.** Security costs for the new CVR, including central hardware, software, monitoring services, and procurement and maintenance of MFA tokens for the local jurisdictions is estimated at \$350,000. Physical security costs of \$650,000, include providing uniform ballot boxes for voting places in all 500 municipalities and replacing existing metal ballot security transfer cases and padlocks that are now over 27 years old. The State also intends to conduct a statewide NVRA list maintenance mailing as well as a mailing to eligible but unregistered voters and to use \$200,000 in election security funds for printing and postage costs. Total security costs are estimated at \$1,200,000.

**Accessibility.** Costs for providing a software service to generate accessible blank absentee ballots through a secure online portal (from 2020 through 2027) are estimated at \$205,100.

**Voting processes.** The State intends to earmark \$50,000 to procure and provide absentee ballot drop boxes to about 50 municipalities that did not obtain one through the 2020 efforts. Additionally, the State intends to undertake a competitive bid process to procure and deploy a robust online training platform and has budgeted \$200,000 for those efforts, for a total of \$250,000 budgeted in this category.

**Voter education.** The State anticipates using the remaining ES funds of \$132,175 to provide voter education efforts regarding implementation of the new online voter registration, absentee ballot request and voter lookup portals to be implemented by the early Spring of 2024 as part of the new CVR implementation, as well as to provide other education efforts around the 2024 Presidential Primary Elections and the new semi-open primary system to debut in 2024.

**Indirect costs.** The State's indirect cost rate is set each state fiscal year and has averaged 5.6 percent since 2018. Accordingly, the State used 5.6 percent as the indirect cost rate to apply to this budget process. The total anticipated amount of indirect costs for the federal expenditures is \$428,050. The total anticipated amount of indirect costs for the state match funds is \$19,967.

