

Schedule 13

Funding Request for the FY 2025-26 Budget Cycle

State

Request Title

R-01 2024 HAVA Election Security Grant State Match

Dept. Approval By: Christopher Beall, Deputy Secretary of State

Supplemental FY 2024-25

 X

Change Request FY 2025-26

OSPB Approval By: OSPB Approval Not Required

Budget Amendment FY 2025-26

Summary Information	Fund	FY 2024-25		FY 2025-26		FY 2026-27
		Initial Appropriation	Supplemental Request	Base Request	Elected Official	Budget Estimate
	Total	\$244,488	\$0	\$10,000	\$200,000	\$0
Total of All Line Items Impacted by Change Request	FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	GF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	CF	\$244,488	\$0	\$10,000	\$200,000	\$0
	RF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	FF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Line Item Information	Fund	FY 2024-25		FY 2025-26		FY 2026-27
		Initial Appropriation	Supplemental Request	Base Request	Elected Official	Budget Estimate
	Total	\$244,488	\$0	\$10,000	\$200,000	\$0
	FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	GF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Help America Vote Act Program	CF	\$244,488	\$0	\$10,000	\$200,000	\$0
	RF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	FF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
					Column 4 Total Funds	Column 5 Total Funds

CF Letternote Text Revision Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If Yes, see schedule 4 fund source detail.
RF Letternote Text Revision Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
FF Letternote Text Revision Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Requires Legislation?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Type of Request?	State Prioritized Request				
Interagency Approval or Related Schedule	No Other Agency Impact				



Department Priority: R-01 2024 HAVA Election Security Grant State Match

Summary of Funding Change for FY 2025-26

Fund Type	FY 2025-26 Base Request	FY 2025-26 Incremental Request	FY 2026-27 Incremental Request
Total Funds	\$10,000 ¹	\$200,000	\$0
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cash Funds	\$10,000	\$200,000	\$0
Reappropriated Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0

Summary of Request

Problem or Opportunity:

In April 2024, the Department of State (Department) was awarded an additional tranche² of \$1.0 million of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Grant funding from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). To leverage this federal funding, the Department must provide a \$200,000 (20.0%) state match.

Proposed Solution:

The Department requires the spending authority to transfer \$200,000 from the Department of State Cash Fund into the Federal Elections Assistance Fund³ within two calendar years of the award in accordance with § 104(d) of HAVA. Due to the timing of Colorado’s budget request cycle, the Department must obtain the spending authority for this transfer in FY 2025-26 to meet federal requirements. All money in the Federal Elections Assistance Fund is continuously appropriated pursuant to § 1-1.5-106(2)(b) C.R.S.

Fiscal Impact of Solution:

This is a one-time request for \$200,000 in spending authority to make the transfer to the Federal Elections Assistance Fund. By appropriating these funds, the State can leverage five times this amount in federal funding.

¹ The base \$10,000 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Appropriation is Informational and carries an “(I)” notation in the Long Bill (see for example HB 24-1430). In FY 2024-25, \$234,488 was appropriated from the Department of State Cash Fund to transfer to the Federal Elections Assistance Fund in order to meet the matching funds requirement on the 2023 tranche of HAVA Election Security funding. This transfer has been made. Absent approval of this R-01 Decision Item, the HAVA appropriation would revert to \$10,000(I) in FY 2025-26.

² The 2023 tranche of HAVA Election Security funding is added to the Department’s existing HAVA Election Security Grant (EAC-ELSEC18CO).

³ § 1-1.5-106(1)(a) C.R.S.

Requires Legislation	Revenue Impacts	Impacts Another Department?	Statutory Authority
No	No	No	§ 1-1.5-104(4) C.R.S. § 1-1.5-106(1)(a)(II) C.R.S. § 1-1.5-106 (2)(b) C.R.S. § 24-21-104.7 C.R.S.

Background and Opportunity

Under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), Congress has authorized funding to states for expenses that improve the administration of federal elections. Over the 22 years since Congress passed the original act, HAVA funds have supported: developing SCORE (the statewide voter registration system), upgrading county voting equipment and systems, increasing the number of secure ballot drop boxes, information technology systems upgrades to improve election security, supplemental election judge pay, training for county elections staff, among other things.

The terms of the grant from the EAC require that the State of Colorado commit \$200,000 in matching funds to leverage the \$1,000,000 in federal funds. The Department must demonstrate that the funds have been transferred to the Federal Elections Assistance Fund and that interest is being earned and accrued not later than April 25, 2026, although the Department has until the end of the grant period to fully expend the matching funds. This presents an opportunity for the State to obtain a five-to-one return.

That said, HAVA funds are restricted in their usage. The State is required to use this funding to improve the administration of federal elections. Further, HAVA funds cannot be used to supplant existing state or county expenditures. The funds must be used on new projects or activities.

Proposed Solution and Anticipated Outcomes

The Department requests \$200,000 in additional spending authority from the Department of State Cash Fund⁴ in order to transfer the full state match to the Federal Elections Assistance Fund in FY 2025-26 as required by the terms of the grant. The Department must demonstrate that it has the legal authority to meet the matching requirement not later than April 25, 2026, which is the driver of the timing of this request.

The Department does not plan to charge indirect expenses to the 2024 tranche of HAVA Election Security Grant. In so doing, the Department will maximize the grant funds for the direct purpose of the grant. This is consistent with both how the Department has managed HAVA grants for many years under the leadership of Secretaries of State from both parties as well as how the vast majority of states manage their HAVA grants.⁵

If this request is not approved, the Department would have to return to the federal government the \$1,000,000 it has received from the EAC and all accumulated interest. Colorado would lose the opportunity to use this funding to ensure that the state remains a leader in providing accessible, secure, and fair elections. If the State or counties were instead required to cover these expenses on their own, it could result in higher taxes or fees for some Coloradans.

By providing the \$200,000 in spending authority for the required match, Colorado will have access to \$1,000,000 in federal funds to support the improvement of elections in the state. These federal funds will allow the state to maintain its leadership in elections security, technology, and participation.

⁴ § 24-21-104(3)(b) C.R.S.

⁵ Based on information provided by the EAC.

Assumptions and Calculations

The Notice of Grant Award from the EAC provides the requirements for the state matching funds on the 2024 tranche of the HAVA Election Security Grant.