



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
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LANSING

## **MICHIGAN PLAN AND NARRATIVE: 2018 HAVA ELECTION SECURITY GRANT**

### **Introduction / General Summary**

The State of Michigan was awarded a total of \$10,706,992 in recently-released Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) election security grant funds. The required 5% match (\$535,350) has been appropriated into the Department of State's budget by the Michigan legislature, for a total of **\$11,242,342** available for use to implement improvements to further enhance Michigan's election security. Michigan takes pride in the robust security processes which are built into its elections administration. Michigan has checks and balances throughout the election lifecycle and continues to build strong partnerships with law enforcement and security agencies, while working closely with state and federal partners to continue to build and enhance our reputation for secure voting. Michigan is pleased to receive additional funding to further enhance our election system's security end to end.

In 2017, Michigan began the process of replacing its aging paper-based optical scan voting systems with upgraded digital optical scan systems; in doing so, the continued use of a paper ballot statewide was a major priority. Gradual rollout of the new systems began in August of 2017, and all jurisdictions statewide will use the new systems in Michigan's upcoming August 7, 2018 primary. Michigan was able to fund the purchase of this new generation of more secure voting systems by utilizing remaining funding from the original HAVA grant (\$30 million), along with an additional \$10 million appropriated by the Michigan legislature. Therefore, the recently-released additional HAVA funding will not be used to replace voting systems, but instead will be focused on assessing and enhancing election security at all levels (state, county, local); as well as continued enhancements to a major upgrade already underway for the statewide Qualified Voter File (QVF), with an overall emphasis on security. Additionally, Michigan will pursue several targeted efforts that involve data validation and integrity projects, as well as comprehensive training, auditing and communication efforts specifically focused on election security at all levels.

### **State-Level Security Assessments**

Michigan's 2018 HAVA grant spend plan focuses on cyber, information and physical security; specifically, our largest area of emphasis will involve providing funding and resources statewide to allow for the completion of detailed election system security assessments at the state, county and local (city-township) level. With Michigan being one of only eight states in the nation to administer elections at the local level (with over 1,600 different county, city and township officials each independently administering elections locally), a substantial portion of the security grant will be used to assist counties, cities and townships with assessing their end-to-end election systems,

identifying possible issues and making the necessary changes and improvements to ensure the highest possible level of security is present in all major systems involved in administering elections.

At the state level, the QVF is already secured and protected by Michigan's Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB), via a robust network and multiple layers of monitoring, including intrusion detection systems. All of these systems and tools are housed in the state's centralized Data Center, managed by DTMB. All counties, cities and townships access the QVF through this network. Advanced security testing has already been completed on the statewide QVF and is also occurring on the statewide Election Night Reporting (ENR) system. A portion of the funding will be used to ensure regular testing of this type continues to occur with key election system components at the state level.

In addition to major election IT-related systems, Michigan's statewide assessment of end-to-end election systems and processes will include a review of state-local procedures, responsibilities and communications. Currently in the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage, the state plans to award a contract to a qualified consultant group with specialized, multi-faceted expertise in election administration; cyber, information and physical security; and communications. The results of this assessment will also help to set further detailed plans into motion for continued use of the grant funds to assist county and local election officials with similar detailed assessments and completion of necessary improvements at the county and local level.

#### **County-Local Security Assessments**

Michigan expects to follow a model similar to the statewide election assessment currently underway to work with counties and local jurisdictions to conduct similar evaluations and implement improvements throughout their individual system configurations. Michigan plans to evaluate and qualify multiple service providers who may assist counties, cities and townships with local assessments; as well as provide multiple security-related product options (such as sensors, software, and intrusion detection systems) which may be purchased with HAVA security grant funds as needs are identified. Multiple qualified service providers will be available statewide to provide individualized assessments for county and local election officials to thoroughly review and evaluate election systems and develop plans for necessary changes to improve and enhance security. These assessments are expected to include a review of connectivity to the state QVF; voting system election management system software configurations and networks; county and local election night reporting systems; and other key election-related systems, configurations and procedures in place at the county and local level. Grant funding may also be allocated to implement needed and approved changes at the county and local level.

#### **State Qualified Voter File – Continued Advancement and Focus on Security**

A major upgrade to Michigan's QVF system is underway. Michigan's statewide QVF system has been an internally-developed product (and a national leader) since its inception in the mid-1990s. The upgrade continues with an internally-developed system and involves a migration to a secure, modern platform and programming language, along with numerous system enhancements to increase security and provide added features that have been requested by users at the county and local level. HAVA security grant funding will be utilized to ensure a dedicated focus on security and an overall structure to provide ongoing assistance and response to the needs of our over 3,000 users. Additionally, further security enhancements will be added to fully implement a security protocol that includes multi-factor authentication.

### Other Data and Security-Related Projects

Additional projects are planned that will involve a varied and wide-ranging approach to measuring and enhancing election-related data, including election audits; data validation and integrity projects; a statewide infrastructure change to a proven, cutting edge geo-spatial addressing system in the QVF; and an upgraded, improved, interactive and secure statewide Election Night Reporting system.

### Plan Implementation: Dedicated Election Security-Related Resources

To ensure a full focus on election security and to assist with the timely completion of all planned activities related to the HAVA election security grant, Michigan plans to employ dedicated resources who are focused on election security. These resources will include at least two limited term (5-year) employees; one working directly in Michigan's Bureau of Elections (Election Security Specialist), and a 2<sup>nd</sup> under the direction of the State's DTMB (Cyber Election Security Specialist). These resources will work closely together and with the Bureau of Elections and State DTMB to ensure completion of all facets of our HAVA security grant plan, and will be heavily involved in the various efforts and projects mentioned here. Additionally, the Election Security Specialist will also work with other Bureau of Elections staff to fully develop and implement a comprehensive training plan with a specific focus on security – cyber security as it relates to elections, as well as physical and information security; and additional thorough training on other key county and local procedural requirements that affect the overall security of the elections process.

### HAVA Election Security Grant Spend Plan - Summary by Category

Michigan's HAVA Security Grant Budget Detail is attached. A summary of the total estimated costs by major program category, including specific components under each, are listed below:

<b>Program Category</b>	<b>Total Estimated Spend Plan</b>	<b>Major Plan Components</b>
Cyber Security	\$5.5 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Statewide election security assessment</li><li>• State, county and local security assessments and improvements</li><li>• Dedicated resources</li></ul>
Voter Registration System	\$3.1 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State, county and local security assessments and improvements</li><li>• Dedicated resources</li><li>• Multi-factor authentication</li><li>• Geo-Spatial addressing structure</li><li>• Data validation and integrity initiatives</li></ul>
Communications / Training / Auditing	\$1.6 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dedicated resources</li><li>• Comprehensive election security training</li><li>• Election security procedural reviews</li><li>• Enhanced/expanded post-election audits</li><li>• Enhanced/expanded state-local election security, disaster recovery and overall communication plans</li></ul>
Election Night Reporting (ENR)	\$1 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State, county and local security assessments and improvements</li><li>• Enhanced, interactive and secure statewide ENR</li></ul>