



DELBERT HOSEMANN  
*Secretary of State*

June 29, 2018

Brian Newby, Executive Director  
U. S. Election Assistance Commission  
1335 East-West Highway, Suite 4300  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: Mississippi HAVA Narrative Statement

Dear Mr. Newby:

The Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2018 appropriated Four Million Four Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty-One and No/100 Dollars (\$4,483,541.00) in additional grant monies made available through the Help America Vote Act (“HAVA”) to the State of Mississippi. The State is required to match five percent (5.0%) of the federal grant allocation, either in cash or in-kind. By virtue of a specific appropriation by the Mississippi Legislature to the Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office (“MSOS”) during the 2018 Regular Session, the five percent (5.0%) match in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Twenty-Four One Hundred Seventeen and No/100 Dollars (\$224,117.000 will be available on July 1, 2018, and will be immediately deposited into the State’s interest-bearing HAVA account.

The State of Mississippi requested its entire grant award in a single disbursement, and all funds were received by MSOS on June 27, 2018. The entire amount has been deposited into the State’s interest-bearing HAVA account. The funds will be available to our counties as soon as possible, and we intend to exhaust the full amount within the five (5) year period ending March 22, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 23-15-211.1, Miss. Code Ann., the Secretary of State is the State’s Chief Elections Officer for purposes of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. In this capacity, the Secretary is responsible for the coordination among the various State agencies for the provision of voter registration services. In addition, MSOS conducts all training of local election officials and is charged under Mississippi law to certify said officials to conduct all primary, general, and special elections. The MSOS Elections Division assists the Secretary with his statutory duties. The Division composed of eight (8) full time, permanent employees, including two (2) attorneys, and two (2) additional staff members dedicated to Elections IT.

Under Mississippi law, elections are wholly conducted by local election officials, including five (5) county-elected commissioners who serve four (4) year terms, and between three (3) and seven (7) municipal commissioners who are appointed by the municipal governing authority for a term of four (4) years, which run contemporaneous with the terms of the other municipal officers. There are eighty-two (82) counties and two hundred and ninety-nine (299) incorporated municipalities consisting of towns, villages, and cities in the State of Mississippi.

#### Voting Registration Systems and Cyber Vulnerabilities:

The MSOS maintains industry IT security protocols as part of its service level for the Statewide Elections Management System (“SEMS”), which is Mississippi’s centralized voter roll implemented in 2004 in compliance with HAVA. Many of these standards were included in the original design and implementation of the system. Others have been added as enhanced security features within the preceding twenty-four (24) months, including:

- deploying regular systems updates,
- mandatory user password changes,
- user-account creation verification,
- mandatory execution of the State’s Acceptable Use Policy by each authorized user as a prerequisite to access,
- system administration control by MSOS Elections IT staff,
- geo-blocking,
- antivirus protection,
- Intrusion Protection Systems (IPS),
- specialized network configurations, and
- compulsory third-party security audits.

The MSOS implemented Oracle encryption to ensure the protection of personal information contained in voter registration data and installed an iSensor, which provides 24/7 IP traffic monitoring as well as threat mitigation. The MSOS has also worked in tandem with the Department of Homeland Security, the Mississippi National Guard, and the Mississippi branch of the FBI to facilitate the Secretary’s dedication to protect and secure the State’s voting systems.

Though all of the development and improvements described above represent permissible HAVA expenditures, all were financed by the MSOS elections budget. The continuation of development, maintenance of security protocols and further enhancements to SEMS will continue to be financed by the MSOS elections budget without the need to utilize HAVA funds.

Two-Factor Authentication:

Development currently is underway and near completion for the implementation of two-factor authentication required of all authorized users to access SEMS. This enhanced feature will be in production by the end of July 2018 and its development will be invoiced to the State no later than September 2018. This invoice, in the approximate amount of Forty Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$40,000.00) for the development hours dedicated to the implementation and installation of the two-factor authentication requirement will be paid from the State's HAVA funds.

SEMS Refresh Project II:

In 2013, the State expended approximately One Million One Hundred Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$1,100,000.00) paid from the MSOS general funds to update all of the hardware and software of SEMS. The useful life of the hardware and software purchased for this first refresh project was five (5) years.

The MSOS will again be undertaking its second major infrastructure refresh for SEMS to begin later this year, with final installation completed during the beginning months of 2019. Identical to the 2013 refresh project, this task will encompass all network hardware and software, Citrix and database servers, operating systems, storage networks, intrusion detection, virus protection, Windows upgrade, and Oracle database upgrades. Costs will also include support resources for planning, implementation, and testing to validate effective operation of all SEMS components and functionality.

As of this week, the MSOS has accepted the "lowest and best" bid from a third-party vendor for the purchase of all hardware and certain installation services for the refresh project. The cost of the infrastructure hardware and these limited services is approximately Seven Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$725,000.00), which will be paid solely from the Secretary of State's general funds. The remaining costs needed for the purchase of software, Oracle database upgrades, and additional installation services, estimated to be approximately Four Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$425,000.00), will be paid from the State's HAVA funds.

Post-Election Auditing:

Within the preceding four (4) months, the MSOS has developed a post-election audit pilot project. Immediately following the June 5, 2018 Primary Elections, the election officials in each county were asked to ready all election materials from the June 5, 2018 Primary Elections from one (1) precinct within the county to be received by the MSOS for its conduct of a post-election audit. The materials will be received within the Chain of Custody and Post-Election

Audit Report Form and will remain sealed and secured within the Election of the MSOS during the post-election audit process until return to each respective county.

The precinct documentation and ballots will be audited by Elections Division staff. All election materials, along with findings and results of these audits, will be returned to the county. Any errors discovered will be discussed with county election officials in order to provide direction prior to the upcoming 2018 November General Election. As a result of this pilot project, the MSOS will create a process document for utilization in all counties by which the individual county election officials may thereafter conduct randomized post-election audits.

MSOS may also continue to randomly select counties for post-election audits following each State election cycle. The only cost which may be incurred as a result of the pilot post-election audit project is travel expenses. These expenses, which will not exceed Five Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$5,000.00), may be paid from the State's HAVA funds.

Permissible County Expenditures:

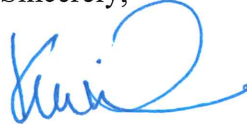
Referencing the decentralized system of conducting elections in the State of Mississippi, as described above, the MSOS intends to allocate approximately Four Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$4,250,000.00) of its HAVA funds to the eight-two (82) counties based upon voting-age population, for each to use toward permissible HAVA expenditures. This proposed allocation based upon voting age population is attached hereto as Exhibit "A". This allocation will be available to each county, based upon completion of the application process set forth below, until December 31, 2020. Beginning on January 1, 2021, all remaining HAVA funds will be made available to the counties, again based upon completion of the application process described below, on a "first-come, first-serve" basis.

Direct payment of the allocated funds will not be made to the individual counties. Through an application process, each county will submit an application for approval to the MSOS, describing the county's intended use of the allocated HAVA funds. Upon a determination the intended expenditures are permitted by HAVA, the MSOS will approve the application. It will then be the responsibility of the county to make the HAVA-related expenditures and thereafter seek reimbursement from the MSOS from the HAVA monies by providing proof of payment by the county for the previously approved HAVA-related expenditures.

The HAVA-related expenditures for which our counties may be reimbursed from the State's HAVA funds include, but may not necessarily be limited to, the purchase of new voting machines or voting equipment, the enhancement of election technology, election official's training for post-election procedures, improvements in election security, the performance of cybersecurity audits, enhancement of the county's own network and election-related technology, and improvements to county-owned polling places to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 23-15-281, Miss. Code Ann., as amended.

As prerequisites to the submission of an application and reimbursement of HAVA funds, the MSOS will require each county's participation and cooperation in the post-election audit project conducted by the State this year and will also require county election officials to inspect and complete an updated ADA Accessibility Survey for each county polling place.

Sincerely,



Kimberly P. Turner  
Assistant Secretary of State, Elections Division

Enclosures

EXHIBIT "A"

Name	State, Voting Age Population	County, Voting Age Population	%	x4.25m
Adams	2,267,438	24661	0.010876	46223.64537
Alcorn	2,267,438	28565	0.012598	53541.15526
Amite	2,267,438	9848	0.004343	18458.71861
Attala	2,267,438	14154	0.006242	26529.72209
Benton	2,267,438	6458	0.002848	12104.63087
Bolivar	2,267,438	24642	0.010868	46188.03248
Calhoun	2,267,438	11090	0.004891	20786.67642
Carroll	2,267,438	8231	0.00363	15427.87498
Chickasaw	2,267,438	12960	0.005716	24291.73367
Choctaw	2,267,438	6368	0.002808	11935.93827
Claiborne	2,267,438	7129	0.003144	13362.32788
Clarke	2,267,438	12322	0.005434	23095.8906
Clay	2,267,438	15272	0.006735	28625.25899
Coahoma	2,267,438	17325	0.007641	32473.32452
Copiah	2,267,438	21760	0.009597	40786.12072
Covington	2,267,438	14728	0.006495	27605.60597
DeSoto	2,267,438	129685	0.057195	243076.6574
Forrest	2,267,438	58558	0.025826	109758.8997
Franklin	2,267,438	5902	0.002603	11062.4855
George	2,267,438	17448	0.007695	32703.87107
Greene	2,267,438	10667	0.004704	19993.82122
Grenada	2,267,438	16250	0.007167	30458.38519
Hancock	2,267,438	36609	0.016146	68618.52452
Harrison	2,267,438	153817	0.067837	288308.7652
Hinds	2,267,438	181708	0.080138	340586.6004
Holmes	2,267,438	13216	0.005829	24771.57038
Humphreys	2,267,438	6179	0.002725	11581.68382
Issaquena	2,267,438	1122	0.000495	2103.03435
Itawamba	2,267,438	18364	0.008099	34420.78681
Jackson	2,267,438	107416	0.047373	201336.4864
Jasper	2,267,438	12758	0.005627	23913.11251
Jefferson	2,267,438	5635	0.002485	10562.0308
Jefferson Davis	2,267,438	9080	0.004005	17019.20846

Jones	2,267,438	50578	0.022306	94801.48961
Kemper	2,267,438	7925	0.003495	14854.32016
Lafayette	2,267,438	44071	0.019436	82605.015
Lamar	2,267,438	45574	0.020099	85422.18133
Lauderdale	2,267,438	59171	0.026096	110907.8837
Lawrence	2,267,438	9611	0.004239	18014.49477
Leake	2,267,438	16644	0.00734	31196.88388
Lee	2,267,438	63629	0.028062	119263.7902
Leflore	2,267,438	21688	0.009565	40651.16665
Lincoln	2,267,438	26134	0.011526	48984.58084
Lowndes	2,267,438	45554	0.020091	85384.69409
Madison	2,267,438	78632	0.034679	147384.8458
Marion	2,267,438	19292	0.008508	36160.1949
Marshall	2,267,438	27998	0.012348	52478.39191
Monroe	2,267,438	27537	0.012145	51614.31095
Montgomery	2,267,438	7868	0.00347	14747.48152
Neshoba	2,267,438	21033	0.009276	39423.45943
Newton	2,267,438	16127	0.007112	30227.83864
Noxubee	2,267,438	8258	0.003642	15478.48276
Oktibbeha	2,267,438	40955	0.018062	76764.50249
Panola	2,267,438	25479	0.011237	47756.87362
Pearl River	2,267,438	42646	0.018808	79934.04891
Perry	2,267,438	9390	0.004141	17600.26073
Pike	2,267,438	29128	0.012846	54596.42116
Pontotoc	2,267,438	23147	0.010208	43385.86105
Prentiss	2,267,438	19533	0.008615	36611.91618
Quitman	2,267,438	5559	0.002452	10419.57928
Rankin	2,267,438	114257	0.05039	214158.998
Scott	2,267,438	20695	0.009127	38789.92502
Sharkey	2,267,438	3414	0.001506	6399.072433
Simpson	2,267,438	20329	0.008966	38103.90846
Smith	2,267,438	12149	0.005358	22771.62595
Stone	2,267,438	14036	0.00619	26308.54736
Sunflower	2,267,438	20277	0.008943	38006.44163
Tallahatchie	2,267,438	11505	0.005074	21564.53672
Tate	2,267,438	21593	0.009523	40473.10224
Tippah	2,267,438	16731	0.007379	31359.95339
Tishomingo	2,267,438	15198	0.006703	28486.55619
Tunica	2,267,438	7205	0.003178	13504.7794
Union	2,267,438	21205	0.009352	39745.84972
Walthall	2,267,438	11140	0.004913	20880.39452

Warren	2,267,438	35676	0.015734	66869.74462
Washington	2,267,438	34818	0.015356	65261.54188
Wayne	2,267,438	15449	0.006813	28957.0211
Webster	2,267,438	7479	0.003298	14018.35464
Wilkinson	2,267,438	7085	0.003125	13279.85594
Winston	2,267,438	13847	0.006107	25954.29291
Yalobusha	2,267,438	9605	0.004236	18003.2486
Yazoo	2,267,438	20657	0.00911	38718.69925





County	2016 State Voting Age Population	2016 County Voting Age Population	%	x4m
Adams	2,267,438	24661	0.0108762	43504.6074
Alcorn	2,267,438	28565	0.0125979	50391.67554
Amite	2,267,438	9848	0.0043432	17372.91163
Attala	2,267,438	14154	0.0062423	24969.1502
Benton	2,267,438	6458	0.0028481	11392.59376
Bolivar	2,267,438	24642	0.0108678	43471.0894
Calhoun	2,267,438	11090	0.004891	19563.93074
Carroll	2,267,438	8231	0.0036301	14520.35293
Chickasaw	2,267,438	12960	0.0057157	22862.80816
Choctaw	2,267,438	6368	0.0028085	11233.82425
Claiborne	2,267,438	7129	0.0031441	12576.30859
Clarke	2,267,438	12322	0.0054343	21737.3088
Clay	2,267,438	15272	0.0067354	26941.42023
Coahoma	2,267,438	17325	0.0076408	30563.12896
Copiah	2,267,438	21760	0.0095967	38386.93715
Covington	2,267,438	14728	0.0064954	25981.7468
DeSoto	2,267,438	129685	0.0571945	228778.0305
Forrest	2,267,438	58558	0.0258256	103302.4938
Franklin	2,267,438	5902	0.0026029	10411.75106
George	2,267,438	17448	0.007695	30780.11394
Greene	2,267,438	10667	0.0047044	18817.71409
Grenada	2,267,438	16250	0.0071667	28666.71547
Hancock	2,267,438	36609	0.0161455	64582.14072
Harrison	2,267,438	153817	0.0678374	271349.4261
Hinds	2,267,438	181708	0.080138	320552.0945
Holmes	2,267,438	13216	0.0058286	23314.41918
Humphreys	2,267,438	6179	0.0027251	10900.4083
Issaquena	2,267,438	1122	0.0004948	1979.326447
Itawamba	2,267,438	18364	0.008099	32396.03464
Jackson	2,267,438	107416	0.0473733	189493.1636
Jasper	2,267,438	12758	0.0056266	22506.45883
Jefferson	2,267,438	5635	0.0024852	9940.734873
Jefferson Davis	2,267,438	9080	0.0040045	16018.07855
Jones	2,267,438	50578	0.0223062	89224.9314
Kemper	2,267,438	7925	0.0034951	13980.53662
Lafayette	2,267,438	44071	0.0194365	77745.89647
Lamar	2,267,438	45574	0.0200993	80397.34714
Lauderdale	2,267,438	59171	0.026096	104383.8905
Lawrence	2,267,438	9611	0.0042387	16954.81861
Leake	2,267,438	16644	0.0073404	29361.77307
Lee	2,267,438	63629	0.0280621	112248.2732
Leflore	2,267,438	21688	0.009565	38259.92155

Lincoln	2,267,438	26134	0.0115258	46103.1349
Lowndes	2,267,438	45554	0.0200905	80362.06503
Madison	2,267,438	78632	0.0346788	138715.149
Marion	2,267,438	19292	0.0085083	34033.12461
Marshall	2,267,438	27998	0.0123479	49391.42768
Monroe	2,267,438	27537	0.0121445	48578.17502
Montgomery	2,267,438	7868	0.00347	13879.98261
Neshoba	2,267,438	21033	0.0092761	37104.4324
Newton	2,267,438	16127	0.0071124	28449.73049
Noxubee	2,267,438	8258	0.003642	14567.98378
Oktibbeha	2,267,438	40955	0.0180622	72248.94352
Panola	2,267,438	25479	0.0112369	44947.64576
Pearl River	2,267,438	42646	0.018808	75232.04604
Perry	2,267,438	9390	0.0041412	16564.95128
Pike	2,267,438	29128	0.0128462	51384.86697
Pontotoc	2,267,438	23147	0.0102084	40833.75157
Prentiss	2,267,438	19533	0.0086146	34458.27405
Quitman	2,267,438	5559	0.0024517	9806.66285
Rankin	2,267,438	114257	0.0503904	201561.4098
Scott	2,267,438	20695	0.009127	36508.16472
Sharkey	2,267,438	3414	0.0015057	6022.656408
Simpson	2,267,438	20329	0.0089656	35862.50208
Smith	2,267,438	12149	0.005358	21432.11854
Stone	2,267,438	14036	0.0061902	24760.98575
Sunflower	2,267,438	20277	0.0089427	35770.76859
Tallahatchie	2,267,438	11505	0.005074	20296.03456
Tate	2,267,438	21593	0.0095231	38092.33152
Tippah	2,267,438	16731	0.0073788	29515.25025
Tishomingo	2,267,438	15198	0.0067027	26810.87642
Tunica	2,267,438	7205	0.0031776	12710.38061
Union	2,267,438	21205	0.009352	37407.85856
Walthall	2,267,438	11140	0.004913	19652.13602
Warren	2,267,438	35676	0.0157341	62936.23023
Washington	2,267,438	34818	0.0153557	61422.62765
Wayne	2,267,438	15449	0.0068134	27253.66691
Webster	2,267,438	7479	0.0032984	13193.74554
Wilkinson	2,267,438	7085	0.0031247	12498.68795
Winston	2,267,438	13847	0.0061069	24427.56979
Yalobusha	2,267,438	9605	0.0042361	16944.23398
Yazoo	2,267,438	20657	0.0091103	36441.12871
		2,267,438		