

Improving Washington State's Elections Through Federal Grants



Help
America
Vote
Act

financial report
2008

The Help America Vote Act

The United States Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) in response to complications surrounding the 2000 Presidential Election. HAVA is designed to improve elections administration, ensuring the fairness and accuracy of the electoral process. HAVA grants help counties meet stringent standards for poll worker training and voter registration. Additionally, HAVA grants replace outdated voting equipment, improving the accuracy of ballot tabulation.

HAVA Grant Advisory Board

In 2004 the Washington Office of the Secretary of State established a HAVA Grant Advisory Board. The board makes recommendations to the Secretary of State regarding the distribution of HAVA grants to counties.

Report Overview

This report is divided into three sections:

1. HAVA-required funding allocations;
2. HAVA discretionary allocations; and
3. Accessibility purchases.

HAVA Grant Advisory Board Members

Doug Cochran

Deputy Chief of Staff, State Auditor's Office

The Honorable Thad Duvall

Douglas County Auditor

The Honorable Kristina Swanson

Cowlitz County Auditor

The Honorable Vicky Dalton

Spokane County Auditor

Nick Handy

Director of Elections, Office of the Secretary of State

Michael Rogers

Receptionist, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Debbie Cook

Project Director, Washington Assistive Technology

HAVA Sections

HAVA is a federal law separated by sections. Washington State receives funding from three sections of HAVA.

Objective

The purpose of this report is to detail expenditures and allocations of Washington State's HAVA funds. A copy of this report may be downloaded at www.vote.wa.gov.

HAVA Revenue Sources

HAVA revenue sources are categorized by sections. Because HAVA funds are issued up front, interest accrues. The total funding received is reflected in the table below, and the appropriation of sectional funds follows.

HAVA Funding Available Through June 30, 2008	
Section 101	\$6,098,449
Section 102	\$6,799,430
Section 251	\$47,195,971
State Match	\$2,494,442
Interest through June 30, 2008	\$5,503,014
Total	\$68,091,306*

*Note: Of this total, \$65,966,055 has been allocated

Section Index

Section 101

Total revenue received: \$6,098,449

Section 101 funds are set aside for:

- Compliance with the requirements of HAVA Title III for uniform and nondiscriminatory election technology and administration;
- Improvement of federal elections administration;
- Education of voters;
- Training of elections officials, poll workers, and volunteers;
- Development of a state plan; and
- Operation of voter information phone lines.

Section Index (continued)

Section 102

Total revenue received: \$6,799,430

Section 102 funds are designated to replace punch card and lever voting systems utilized during the November 2000 General Election.

Section 251 and the State Match

Total revenue received: \$49,690,413

Section 251 and the State Match are set aside for:

- Provisional voting;
- Information to voters on Election Day;
- Voting systems;
- Statewide voter registration database (VRDB);
- Identification requirements for first-time voters who register to vote by mail; and
- Activities necessary to improve the administration of federal elections.

HAVA Improvements

Washington State and its counties have made vast improvements as a result of HAVA funds. In addition to the list of HAVA-enabled purchases and programs detailed in this report, readers will find a collection of images that depict the improvements made possible through HAVA dollars.

Interest

Total revenue received: \$5,503,014

HAVA is unique in that federal funds were received up front. Instead of states requesting periodic reimbursement, all money was sent directly to the states for deposit into each state's election fund. Further, HAVA requires that interest earned be retained by the state and used in accordance with Section 251 funds.

HAVA-Required Funding Allocations

HAVA funds are allocated for:

- Punch card replacement;
- Accessible voting units (AVU);
- Voter registration database (VRDB) development and maintenance;
- Updating voter registration forms (VR);
- County elections management systems (EMS); and
- Free access to provisional ballots.

Washington State and its counties have spent/allocated \$30,388,105 (46 percent of total allocated funds on required items allowed by HAVA). This is outlined in the table below.

State & County Required HAVA Allocations			
Expenditure/Commitment	State 30%	County 70%	Total
Voter registration database (VRDB) and forms (VR)	\$5,864,203		\$5,864,203
VRDB maintenance	\$2,381,772		\$2,381,772
HAVA administration	\$981,517		\$981,517
Punch card replacement		\$6,314,167	\$6,314,167
Accessible voting units (AVU)		\$8,886,375	\$8,886,375
County elections management systems (EMS)		\$5,948,526	\$5,948,526
Provisional ballots		\$11,545	\$11,545
Total	\$9,227,492	\$21,160,613	\$30,388,105

Improved Accessibility

With HAVA grants, many counties increased accessibility to their facilities through the installation of wider doors, equipped with automatic hydraulics.



HAVA Discretionary Allocations

States and local jurisdictions could use HAVA funds for other programs and products that improve federal elections administration once the requirements for HAVA were met. After Washington State received the federal HAVA funds, the majority of its counties changed to vote by mail. The Office of the Secretary of State funded grant requests for these discretionary goals:

- Improving accessibility in elections for individuals with disabilities;
- Producing local Voters' Pamphlets;
- Educating voters on changes to elections procedures, including multiple changes to Washington State's primary system;
- Upgrading ballot tabulation equipment;
- Purchasing and installing ballot drop boxes;
- Providing additional elections staff;
- Training elections officials;
- Purchasing other equipment that will improve the administration of elections; and
- HAVA administration.

Through June 30, 2008, the HAVA Grant Advisory Board committed \$35,577,950 (nearly 54 percent of the total allocated funds on discretionary items allowed by HAVA). The following table outlines the allocation of those funds.

State & County HAVA Discretionary Allocations			
Expenditure/Commitment	State 28%	County 72%	Total
Voting systems program	\$237,892		\$237,892
Improving accessibility for voters with disabilities		\$2,349,392	\$2,349,392
Minority language set aside		\$500,000	\$500,000
Educating voters	\$5,218,047	\$3,551,240	\$8,769,287
Election official training	\$85,017	\$640,396	\$725,413
VRDB enhancements	\$4,396,721	\$4,396,721	\$8,793,442
Improvements to the administration of elections		\$14,202,524	\$14,202,524
Total	\$9,937,677	\$25,640,273	\$35,577,950

Accessibility Revenue Sources

Health and Human Services (HHS) granted Washington State \$1,227,421 in funds between federal fiscal years 2003 and 2008. This is outlined in the table below.

HHS funds may only be used for the following four types of activities.

1. Making polling places accessible to individuals with a full range of disabilities (e.g., blindness or visual impairment, deafness or hearing impairment, mobility-related, dexterity-related, emotional, or intellectual disability).
2. Ensuring the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) by individuals with a full range of disabilities.
3. Training elections officials, poll workers, and elections volunteers on how best to promote access and participation by individuals with a full range of disabilities in elections for federal offices.
4. Providing individuals with information about the accessibility of polling places.

HHS Funding Received by Federal Fiscal Year	
2003	\$244,039
2004	\$175,020
2005	\$175,675
2006	\$199,841
2007	\$201,385
2008	\$231,461
Total	\$1,227,421

Ramps

Counties used HAVA funds to install ramps at voter service centers.



Accessibility Revenue Sources (continued)

At the recommendation of the HAVA Grant Advisory Board, Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed established an accessibility grant fund in the fall of 2007. This program's budget consists of the remaining balance of any HHS funds and \$1.7 million in HAVA funds. Under this grant program, both the counties and Washington State's Elections Division may apply for funding that will improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities. The HGAB determines grant cycle frequency and priorities on a yearly basis.

Grant funds available from HHS are not received up front like HAVA funds and interest is not accrued. Grant funds expire five years from the date of eligibility. Continued funding through HHS is contingent on congressional appropriations. The Office of the Secretary of State will continue to monitor eligible HHS funds for the accessible voting program. The following table outlines the total available funds.

Accessibility Funding Summary	
Total HHS funds received through fiscal year 2008	\$1,227,421
HAVA funds reserved for accessibility	\$1,700,000
Subtotal	\$2,927,421
Less approved grants through June 30, 2008	-\$1,184,691
Total available funds	\$1,742,730

Online Registration

HAVA funds enabled the Office of the Secretary of State to create the Online Voter Registration System. Washington and Arizona are the first states to offer this service.

Mail-In Voter Registration

Use Black or Blue Pen Only - Please Print Clearly NAME CHANGE ADDRESS CHANGE

1 NOTE: Voter registration requires U.S. Citizenship

Will you be at least 18 years of age or older before Election Day? YES NO

Are you a citizen of the United States? YES NO

Federal and state law require you to provide your Washington Driver's License number or Washington ID Card number. If you do not have a Washington Driver's License or Washington ID Card, provide the last four digits of your

2 A. Washington Driver's License or ID Number _____ B. Last four Digits/SSN _____ Check here if you do not have a Washington Driver's License, ID Card, or SSN. **3** Date of Birth _____

4 Last Name _____ Male Female Daytime Phone () _____



Accessibility Grant Fund Allocation

Through June 30, 2008, the HAVA Grant Advisory Board committed \$1,179,192 of the available accessibility funds to specific projects. The expenditures include these items:

- Accessible door hardware;
- Accessible path of travel improvements and parking;
- Accessible voting headphones;
- Education and outreach to the deaf and hard of hearing community;
- Accessible ballot drop boxes;
- Mobile voting program;
- Create Braille communication;
- Outreach to increase voter registration;
- Staffing to assist with making elections more accessible;
- Brochures to promote accessible voting equipment;
- Accessible signage; and
- Consultants to evaluate current accessibility needs.

A Combined Effort

The strength of the relationship between County Auditors and the Office of the Secretary of State greatly contributed to the successful distribution of HAVA funds.

Washington's HAVA Success

Washington State funded a variety of projects not required by HAVA that greatly improved the administration of federal elections. The decision to develop the voter registration database in-house, as opposed to using an outside vendor, likely saved millions in HAVA funds. Additionally, the decision of nearly all Washington counties to change to vote-by-mail resulted in substantial cost savings in poll site equipment.

The Office of the Inspector General recently completed an audit of the use and distribution of HAVA funds in Washington State. After a thorough review of financial records, contracts, inventory, payroll, and internal controls, Washington State received a clean HAVA audit. The audit report can be found at www.eac.gov .

HAVA is the most sweeping federal voting reform measure in decades. Washington State continues to be a leader in demonstrating not only how to meet HAVA requirements efficiently, but also how to maximize the use of limited HAVA resources in ways that are true to the spirit of the Act.

Appendix

HAVA Grants

Adams	\$121,832
Asotin	\$230,177
Benton	\$526,762
Chelan	\$647,860
Clallam	\$370,013
Clark	\$1,840,396
Columbia	\$234,120
Cowlitz	\$504,619
Douglas	\$341,569
Ferry	\$216,739
Franklin	\$880,095
Garfield	\$145,531
Grant	\$147,477
Grays Harbor	\$373,791
Island	\$664,048
Jefferson	\$346,552
King	\$14,595,360
Kitsap	\$555,678
Kittitas	\$275,506
Klickitat	\$412,563
Lewis	\$475,988
Lincoln	\$214,039
Mason	\$492,538
Okanogan	\$292,867
Pacific	\$316,527
Pend Oreille	\$298,072
Pierce	\$3,672,991
San Juan	\$278,651
Skagit	\$460,517
Skamania	\$68,730
Snohomish	\$1,542,660
Spokane	\$1,845,530
Stevens	\$383,582
Thurston	\$1,199,944
Wahkiakum	\$108,287
Walla Walla	\$269,629
Whatcom	\$1,350,622
Whitman	\$612,966
Yakima	\$1,359,714
Total	\$38,674,543

This table does not include purchases made at the state level on behalf of the counties.

This table does not include funding for accessible voting units statewide, as these costs are reported under HAVA requirements payments.

This table does not reflect funding for a county if the award was part of a multi-county grant request.

Many counties already have extensive accessibility programs in place and, as such, have not requested accessibility funds.

Accessibility Grants

Adams	\$0
Asotin	\$0
Benton	\$0
Chelan	\$45,458
Clallam	\$8,222
Clark	\$47,399
Columbia	\$9,892
Cowlitz	\$233,627
Douglas	\$4,680
Ferry	\$252,532
Franklin	\$2,500
Garfield	\$0
Grant	\$0
Grays Harbor	\$0
Island	\$0
Jefferson	\$61,336
King	\$85,302
Kitsap	\$49,986
Kittitas	\$62,733
Klickitat	\$0
Lewis	\$15,013
Lincoln	\$26,804
Mason	\$6,040
Okanogan	\$10,725
Pacific	\$17,959
Pend Oreille	\$6,039
Pierce	\$52,890
San Juan	\$0
Skagit	\$5,480
Skamania	\$36,303
Snohomish	\$0
Spokane	\$61,533
Stevens	\$0
Thurston	\$34,670
Wahkiakum	\$4,500
Walla Walla	\$32,569
Whatcom	\$5,000
Whitman	\$0
Yakima	\$0
Sec. of State	\$5,500
Total	\$1,184,691

HAVA 2008



Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED

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