## The State of Texas

**Elections Division** P.O. Box 12060 Austin, Texas 78711-2060 www.sos.state.tx.us



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TO:

Texas County Judges

CC:

County Election Officials

County Financial Officer

FROM:

Hope Andrade, Texas Secretary of State

DATE:

May 11, 2010

RE:

Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Supplemental Funding

As you are aware by now, funds were made available to your county pursuant to the Help America Vote Act ("HAVA") of 2002. The original State Plan developed in response to HAVA allocated the "Requirements Payments," which was the bulk of the HAVA funding, into two grants: Voting System Accessibility and General HAVA Compliance. I am pleased to announce that effective immediately, we are making approximately \$19 million in additional Requirements Payments available to the counties.

The supplemental funds have been apportioned to the counties based on the original Voting System Accessibility and General HAVA Compliance allotments formulated in the State Plan. For the sake of simplicity, we have placed all supplemental funds under General HAVA Compliance. Please refer to the attached spreadsheet to view your county's supplemental amount.

The terms and conditions of the grant award agreement have been updated, and will require your acknowledgement when submitting a budget via the online grant system located at https://hava.tamu.edu/. You should have a user ID and password to access the grant system. If you do not, please email hava@sos.state.tx.us in order to obtain one. You can also view the new terms and conditions at http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/hava/index.shtml. While most of the changes are "housekeeping" in nature, the following are more substantive:

- The General HAVA Compliance fund has been expanded to allow for costs previously eligible under the TEAM Compatibility Fund. Additionally, Military Overseas Voters Empowerment ("MOVE") Act costs will be eligible pending further guidance from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission ("EAC"). Once our office has the EAC's consent to expend HAVA funds on MOVE, we will notify the counties.
- The General HAVA Compliance and County Education Fund grants have been extended through December 31, 2011.

The following grants have been closed out and are no longer available:

- Voting System Accessibility
- TEAM Compatibility Fund
- Polling Place Accessibility
- Opportunity for Access

As a reminder, certain requirements may still apply to grants that are closed out. For example, property management requirements remain in effect (e.g., inventory lists for the equipment, including disposition information). Additionally, the EAC may still require the reporting of various data, such as program income. Program income is defined as gross income received from a grant-supported activity during the grant period and includes items such as fees from the use or rental of voting systems acquired with grant funds.

If you need assistance, or if you have questions, please call toll-free at (800) 252-8683 or e-mail elections@sos.state.tx.us. Agency staff are here to assist you and answer questions you may have. It is our goal to make this transition as easy as possible.