



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Minnesota Secretary of State
Steve Simon

January 14, 2019

The Honorable Senator Mary Kiffmeyer
The Honorable Senator Jim Carlson
The Honorable Senator Julie Rosen
The Honorable Senator Richard Cohen
The Honorable Representative Lyndon Carlson
The Honorable Representative Liz Olson
The Honorable Representative Pat Garofalo
The Honorable Representative Mike Nelson
The Honorable Representative Andrew Carlson
The Honorable Representative Tony Albright

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Minnesota statutes, section 5.38 provides in part:

The secretary of state may enter into agreements with a local governmental unit to provide a technological service or project to enhance the state's election system. The secretary of state and the local governmental unit shall agree to the amount of consideration to be paid under the agreement. In addition, the secretary of state may accept federal funds for election purposes.

The Office of the Secretary of State is required to report by each January 15 "the total amounts received in the preceding calendar year, the sources of those funds, and the uses to which those funds were or will be put." Minn. Stat. § 5.38.

As required by section 5.38, the Office of the Secretary of State reports that it received \$6,595,610 in federal funds from the 2018 HAVA Election Security Fund, authorized under Title I Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. These funds were deposited and are currently accruing interest in the HAVA account established by Minn. Stat. § 5.30, subd. 1. However, the Office of Secretary of State cannot use these funds until the legislature authorizes their use under Minn. Stat. § 5.30, subd. 2.

Pending authorization for use, these funds will be used for election purposes consistent with the requirements found in Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, including the following activities:

1. Modernize the statewide voter registration system;
2. Improve accessibility;
3. Prepare training materials and train local election officials;
4. Implement security improvements for election systems; and
5. Fund other activities that will improve the security of elections.

These funds, pending authorization, are onetime and available until September 30, 2023.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Samm Bonawitz
Government Relations Director

cc: Legislative Reference Library