



## **County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors**

### **Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** County Clerk/Elections

**Subject:** HAVA Election Security Program

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2025

**Formal Title:** Adopt resolution to participate in the Help America Vote Act Election Security Program, approve a grant agreement in the amount of \$15,789, and take related actions

### **Recommended Actions**

1. Adopt resolution to participate in the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Program for the term of June 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026;
2. Approve a grant agreement with the California Secretary of State (SOS) for HAVA federal reimbursement funds in the amount of \$15,789; and
3. Authorize the County Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the County and to conduct all negotiations, execute all future changes to the agreement to either extend the contract or increase the amount of grant funds, and submit all documents including, but not limited to, payment requests for reimbursement of HAVA grant authorized expenditures.

### **Executive Summary**

The County Clerk/Elections Department requests the Board adopt a resolution approving participation in the HAVA federal reimbursement funds grant agreement, in the amount of \$15,789, for activities to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements.

### **Discussion**

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-252) enacted many changes to the voter experience during an election and created grant programs to help states meet requirements and make general improvement to election administration including enhancing election technology and security improvements.

HAVA grants are awarded by the SOS based on federal funds made available to the state and allocations are calculated using the number of registered voters. When counties do not accept the grant agreements with the SOS, those funds are reallocated to participating counties and the grant award term may be extended. Authorizing the County Clerk to execute all future changes to the agreement to either extend the contract or increase the amount of grant funds ensures we can maximize funds for the County.

This current award of \$15,789 will be used for purposes, including but not limited to: the improvement and enhancement of county cybersecurity, improvement and enhancement of county physical security, and training for staff that encompasses essential knowledge and skills that help maintain the security and integrity of elections. The term of participation for the HAVA grant award is June 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

**Financial Impact**

The California Secretary of State HAVA grant award of \$15,789 will be accepted in the FY 2024-25 budget and the proposed FY 2025-26 budget and appropriated for accessibility mitigations, equipment, and supplies. The department will return to the Board to accept and appropriate funds following execution of the grant award.

**Strategic Initiatives**

Operational Plan - Operational Excellence

**Submitted By:**

Tricia Webber, County Clerk

**Recommended By:**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

**Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.