



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Dom Zanger
District No. 1
Vice-Chair

Kollin Kosmicki
District No. 2
Chair

Mindy Sotelo
District No. 3

Angela Curro
District No. 4

Ignacio Velazquez
District No. 5

Item Number: 1.17

MEETING DATE: 05/20/2025

DEPARTMENT: COUNTY CLERK/RECORDER/ELECTIONS

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Francisco Diaz

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Francisco Diaz

SUBJECT:

COUNTY CLERK/RECORDER/REGISTRAR OF VOTERS - F. DIAZ

Adopt Resolution acknowledging the acceptance of a Help America Vote Act (HAVA) reimbursement grant, to enhance and protect elections technology infrastructure, for an amount of \$15,789.00, and authorize the Chair to sign.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 285

RESOLUTION NO.: 2025-24

AGENDA SECTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Summary

The reimbursement grant agreement between the County of San Benito and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) provides federal funding under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), designed to enhance election security and technology. These funds, which are governed by HAVA Sections 101, 103, and 104, are specifically allocated to improve the administration of elections for federal offices.

The County of San Benito will utilize the grant funds to reimburse the County Elections Office for technology infrastructure upgrades, ongoing maintenance, and general security improvements. This reimbursement will not result in any increase to the budget previously approved by the Board of Supervisors.

HAVA Funds for Election Technology and Security Enhancements

The grant funds may be used for a range of election security and technology improvements, including but not limited to:

- **Cybersecurity:** Enhancements such as penetration testing, red team exercises, endpoint detection, multi-factor authentication, mobile threat defense, and network security upgrades. This includes vulnerability management, anti-malware protection, Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) protection, and monitoring systems to detect breaches or fraud.
- **Physical Security:** Initiatives to safeguard election equipment and facilities, including security personnel, crisis response kits, first aid supplies, panic alarms, intrusion detection systems, and securing voter registration and election systems, as well as offsite storage.
- **Security and Privacy Awareness Training:** Employee training on cybersecurity risks, user awareness, phishing, social engineering, conflict resolution, and emergency preparedness. This includes conducting emergency drills and tabletop exercises.
- **Incident Response:** Costs related to preparing for and responding to election security incidents, including the development and implementation of incident response plans and mitigation strategies for security breaches.

Certain expenditures are excluded from the grant, such as costs not directly related to election security, overhead expenses, office supplies, and travel-related costs.

Recent HAVA Funding Grants

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) grants are periodically awarded to the County of San Benito to help support and enhance election administration operations. These funds assist with the costs associated with changes in election administration, including technology upgrades, improvements to physical infrastructure, voting equipment, and other resources needed to strengthen election security.

On March 3, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved a \$100,000 HAVA grant to reimburse costs related to election technology and security improvements. This grant covered the expenses of a comprehensive countywide technology infrastructure assessment conducted by Consltek Inc., a technology consulting firm, as well as scheduled maintenance for general technology infrastructure.

On December 5, 2023, the Board of Supervisors also approved a \$20,000 HAVA grant for polling place accessibility training and compliance. This grant supported the costs of training election staff to ensure compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and the acquisition of American Sign Language (ASL) translation tablets for voters with hearing impairments.

Fiscal Impact

The acceptance of this resolution would secure a reimbursement of \$15,789.00 for committed technology infrastructure upgrades in the county for the fiscal year 2025/26.

Budget Adjustment

This grant will not require any increase to the budget previously approved by the Board of Supervisors.

RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

Yes

CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

N/A

RFP AND BID HISTORY:

N/A

LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:

N/A

CONTRACT HISTORY (Describe all amendments and previous contracts):

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community

Yes

BUDGETED:

Yes

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:

No

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

General Fund

UNFUNDED MANDATE:

N/A

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

101.32.1115.1000.250

CURRENT FY COST:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution acknowledging the acceptance of a Help America Vote Act (HAVA) reimbursement grant, to enhance and protect elections technology infrastructure, for an amount of \$15,789.00, and authorize the Chair to sign.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution HAVA Reimbursement Grant](#)
[HAVA Standard Agreement](#)