

Help America Vote Act

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) was passed by Congress in response to the 2000 Presidential election. HAVA provided states with funds to:

- Improve elections administration.
- Replace outdated voting systems.
- Provide accessible voting options.

In addition, with HAVA a new federal agency was formed to serve as a clearinghouse and to establish minimum standards in key areas of election administration.

HAVA funds in Washington State

Washington State received \$65.3 million in federal funds to implement HAVA. The state provided a 5 percent match. State and federal funds were deposited into a state elections fund. (See table 1)

HAVA Funds:

Counties will receive over half of all HAVA funds. Funds are distributed through a grant process to ensure compliance with HAVA requirements.

Once all HAVA requirements are met, the state has some discretion in how remaining funds are spent. Discretionary spending must improve the administration of federal elections. (See table 2)

Required spending includes replacing punch card voting equipment, developing the state Voter Registration Database (VRDB), providing accessible voting units, and free access to provisional ballots.

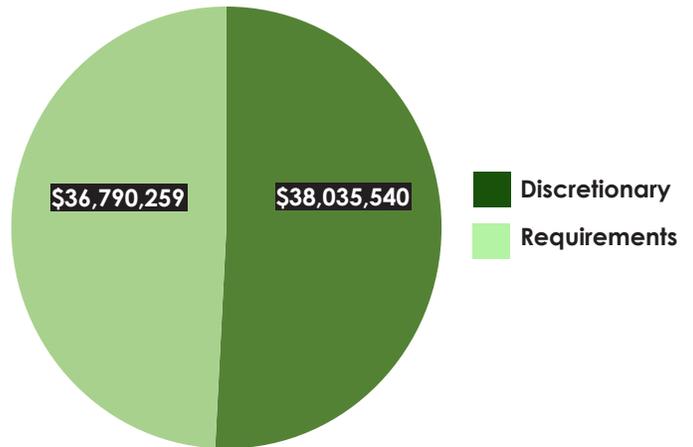
Discretionary spending includes improvements to federal elections, such as voter education, implementing the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act, training for election officials, and enhancements to the VRDB.

table 1

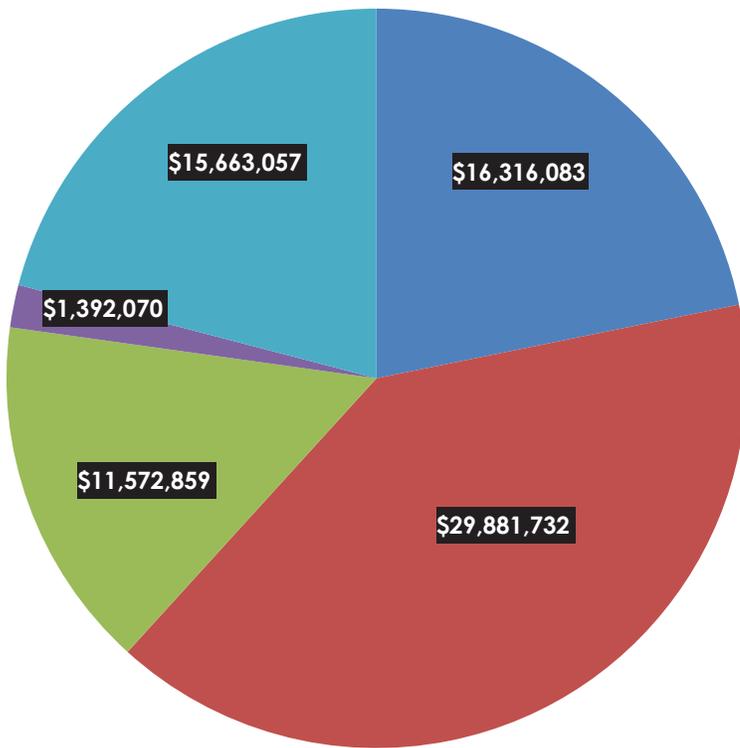
HAVA funds:	\$65,340,381
State matching funds:	\$2,790,877
Earned interest:	\$6,694,542
Total	\$74,825,800

table 2

Required and Discretionary Spending



HAVA Spending



- Voting Systems**
 - Punch Card replacement
 - Accessible Voting Units
- Voter Registration**
 - Development of the VRDB
 - Maintenance and enhancements to the VRDB
 - County Elections Management System
- Voter Access and Education**
 - Improving accessibility for voters with disabilities
 - Minority Language requirements
 - College Civics program
- Administration of HAVA**
 - Development of State Plan
 - Grants management and fiscal support
 - Local monitoring and federal audits
- Other Improvements to the Administration of Elections**
 - Implementation of the MOVE Act
 - State and County election officials training
 - Efficiency improvements

table 4

Funds Committed

Washington has spent 91 percent of its HAVA funds. Remaining funds are committed to a variety of uses. (See table 4)

Ongoing Costs

Systems and services built with HAVA funds need to be maintained when HAVA funds are no longer available. Estimated ongoing costs are:

- \$2.1 million per biennium for maintenance of existing voter registration systems and programs
- \$200,000 per biennium for accessible voting and minority language requirements

Voter Registration:	\$3,084,923
Voter Access and Education:	\$2,075,362
Administration of HAVA:	\$200,000
Other Improvements:	\$1,178,434
Total	\$6,538,720