

Item Title: Acceptance and Appropriation of Grant Funds to Improve the Administration of Federal Elections

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates an additional allocation of \$240,000 of revenues and expenditures into the Grants and Donation Fund from the State of North Carolina to improve the administration of federal elections.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners must approve all additional revenues added to the FY 2021 Adopted Budget for the Wake County Board of Elections.

Background: The State of North Carolina Board of Elections has allocated additional Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funding to counties to improve the administration of federal elections. Wake County will receive an additional \$240,000 in the new allocation. This funding is in addition to the \$10,000 of HAVA funding the State distributed in July 2020. Wake County Board of Elections will use the funds to purchase additional voting equipment and document scanning equipment.

Board Goal: This action supports Great Government Goal 1: Engage our community to envision the County's future.

Fiscal Impact: This agreement provides an additional \$240,000 for project participation. There are no matching funds requirement.

Additional Information:

On June 12, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper signed into law Session Law 2020-17 to improve the administration of federal elections, as authorized under HAVA Title I, Section 101, for elections related matters. Funding for this Session Law includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Improving the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements.
- Educating voters concerning voting procedures, voting rights, and voting technology.
- Training election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers.
- Improving, acquiring, leasing, modifying, or replacing voting systems and technology and methods for casting and counting votes.

- Improving the accessibility and quantity of polling places, including providing physical access for individuals with disabilities, providing non-visual access for individuals with visual impairments, and providing assistance to Native Americans, Alaska Native citizens, and to individuals with limited proficiency in the English language.
- Establishing toll-free telephone hotlines that voters may use to report possible voting fraud and voting rights violations, to obtain general election information, and to access detailed automated information on their own voter registration status, specific polling place locations, and other relevant information.
- Expenditures incurred to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic during 2020 federal elections.

Wake County received an initial disbursement of \$10,000 in July 2020. In January, the State announced that additional HAVA funding was allocated to county Board of Elections. Wake County Board of Elections received an additional \$240,000 to purchase approved HAVA permissible use items such as additional voting equipment and document scanning equipment. This reimbursement-based funding must be spent by the end of FY2021 and cannot supplant County funds.

Attachments:

1. Wake Amended HAVA Notice
2. Letter to Accompany HAVA 2020 Grants
3. Budget Memo