

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

## Agenda Number:

**Prepared on:** 9/16/04  
**Department:** Clerk-Recorder-Assessor  
**Budget Unit:** 062  
**Agenda Date:** 9/28/04  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Joseph E. Holland  
Clerk, Recorder and Assessor & Registrar of Voters

**STAFF CONTACT:** Bob Smith,  
Elections Division, ex. 2204

**SUBJECT:** Election Assistance Grant Agreements

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## Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Authorize the Election Division Manager to execute an Agreement with the State of California for Voter Education and Poll Worker Training Assistance in the amount of \$85,000.00.
- B. Authorize the Election Division Manager to execute an Agreement with the State of California for Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities in the amount of \$30,000.00.

## Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with actions required by law or routine business necessity.

## Executive Summary and Discussion:

On October 29, 2002, President Bush signed the "Help America Vote Act of 2002," (HAVA), Pub. L. No. 107-252, 116 Stat. 1666 (2002) into law. The legislation aims to improve the administration of elections in the United States by providing funds to replace outdated voting systems, to educate voters and by creating minimum standards in several key areas of election administration.

Under HAVA, states and local governments must meet many new federal requirements such as issuing provisional ballots, allowing for "second chance" voting, and increasing access for disabled voters. California received over \$3 billion in HAVA administrative funds for voter education and poll worker training and \$1,371,756 in HAVA accessibility funds to help individuals with disabilities.

- A. Santa Barbara County was allocated \$85,000.00 HAVA administrative funds to revise printed materials and advertisements to educate voters and poll workers on the new HAVA requirements and how to use the voting system. Television, radio, and newspaper advertising will educate voters about 1) the ability to vote by permanent absentee ballot, 2) the right to vote provisionally and use the "free access" system, and 3) how to use the paper optical scan ballots. Approximately \$5,000.00 will be allocated to implement an interactive voice activated response system to provide provisional voters with a confidential report of their voting results, as required by HAVA.
- B. Over seventeen (17.2%) of population 16 to 64 years and 37% of the population 65 years and over in Santa Barbara County experience some type of temporary or permanent disability, according to the 2000 US Census. Of the estimated 61,680 people, 22,830 people or 37% are restricted from going outside the home. Two-thirds (67.9%) of people 65 and over with disabilities have some type of physical mobility problem. The Santa Barbara County HAVA Accessibility Program Plan encourages the use of permanent absentee ballots for the homebound, disabled person and purchases temporary solutions for Election Day for the 36 polling places that need improvements to provide enhanced accessibility for voters with mobility issues.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

The "Help America Vote Act of 2002," (HAVA), is Public Law Number 107-252, 116 Statute 1666 (2002). The HAVA is codified at 42 U.S.C. 15301 to 15545. The federal law created minimum standards for states to follow in the areas of voting systems, polling place accessibility, and election administration.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

- A. The State HAVA administrative grant amount of \$85,000.00 is based on the 195,010 eligible voters in the County as reported in the most recent Secretary of State's Report of Registration (February 17, 2004). The grant will fund \$85,000.00 of the estimated \$107,325.00 cost of voter education and poll worker training for the November 2004 General Election.
- B. The State HAVA accessibility grant will fund the full \$30,000.00 cost of removing barriers and increasing access to voters with disabilities.

The funding is additive to those budgeted and requires no match on the part of the county. The department has established a project code to track all expenses in order to apply for reimbursement. There is no impact on County facilities.

**Special Instructions:**

Please issue a minute order authorizing the execution of these agreements to the Department, attention: Election Division Manager.

**Concurrence:**

None