

Analysis

Item 3: Secretary of State

Election Security

Analyst: Ken Rocco

Request: Increase the Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$2,500,000 for enhanced election security in county election offices and publicly accessible election webpages.

Analysis: The Secretary of State, Elections Division, is requesting a Federal Funds expenditure limitation increase of \$2,500,000 for enhanced election security in county election offices and for improvements to publicly accessible election webpages. Additional federal funding was provided to states in May 2018 to enhance election security. The Secretary of State is proposing on using \$1,500,000 of these federal resources to finance election security improvements in each of Oregon's 36 counties prior to the 2020 election cycle. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has been conducting assessments of election vulnerabilities in each county starting last fall. The projected need is an estimate based currently completed assessments of local physical and cyber security vulnerabilities. The Secretary of State also proposes using \$1,000,000 of the existing federal resources to secure and modernize the state's Oregonvotes.gov public election webpage. Enhancements include adding a redundant internet connection to the system, upgrading the server software, and making usability improvements.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$2,500,000 in the Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the Secretary of State Elections Division in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2020 legislative session for election security enhancements in county election offices and for the state's public election webpage.

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Secretary of State Cohen

Request: Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$2.5 million for increased election security in county election offices and publicly accessible election webpages.

Recommendation: The Secretary of State is not under executive budgetary authority.

Discussion: The mission of the Secretary of State (SOS) Elections Division is to conduct fair, secure elections and to promote participation in Oregon's democracy. To protect the integrity of Oregon's elections, the SOS utilizes multiple layers of defense designed to prevent cyber criminals from gaining access or misusing election systems. The SOS partnered with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC), the National Association of Secretaries of State, and the National Association of State Election Directors to ensure implementation of best policies and practices to protect and support election systems.

The SOS worked closely with federal partners at Homeland Security and CISA to develop security assessments for all 36 of Oregon's county election offices. To ensure further protections, the SOS requests an increase in Federal Funds expenditure limitation to assist election security in the 36 county election offices and publicly accessible election webpages. In partnership with EI-ISAC, Homeland Security conducted assessments and recommended upgrades to election system recovery and monitoring systems. The SOS determined \$1.5 million of the requested funds will be utilized to shore up security vulnerabilities previously identified. The remaining \$1.0 million will secure and modernize publicly accessible election webpages.

Legal Reference: Increase the Federal Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 672, section 3, Oregon Laws 2019, for the Secretary of State, by \$2,500,000 for the 2019-21 biennium.



December 6, 2019

Bev Clarno
SECRETARY OF STATE

The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Emergency/Request

The 2020 election cycle requires increased election security throughout the state.

Agency Action

Working with the US Department of Homeland Security to identify security vulnerabilities in county election offices.

Action Requested

Increase Elections Division HAVA Federal Fund expenditure limitation by \$2.5 million. \$1.5 million will be used to increase election security in county election offices based on findings from the US Department of Homeland Security assessments that are occurring in each of our 36 counties. These funds will be used to address security vulnerabilities identified for the 2020 election cycle. \$1.0 million will be used to secure and modernize the publicly accessible election webpages.

Legislation Affected

Oregon Law 2019, Chapter 672, Section (3) increase by \$2,500,000 Federal Fund

Sincerely,

Bev Clarno
Secretary of State

12/9/2019