

Help America Vote Act implementation		Agency/Program #: 3201-01-G1
		Division: Business and Government Se
		Program: Business and Government Se
Agency Name:	Secretary of State	
Agency Contact:	Lisa Kimmet and/or Christi Jacobsen	444-5376/4284
LFC Contact:	Rep. Sesso and Rep. Taylor	
LFD Liaison:	Greg DeWitt	444-5392
OBPP Liaison:	Mark Bruno	444-4588

Program or Project Description:

The Elections and Government Services unit of the Secretary of State's office is responsible for interpreting state election laws, drafting applicable administrative rules, and ensuring that all are implemented uniformly throughout the state. The unit also certifies ballot language and format, qualifies candidates and ballot issues, publishes the official voter information pamphlet, conducts the official canvass, trains county election officials, and files all officials acts of the executive and legislative branches of state government.

Appropriation, Expenditure and Source					Approp & Expenditure numbers are as of April 15, 2008
Fund Name:	2008		2009		
	Approp.	Expended	Approp.	Expended	
General Fund					
State Special					
Federal Funds	1,040,000	153,730			
Total:	\$1,040,000	\$153,730	\$0	\$0	

Legislative Goal(s):

Continue to implement the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002.

Legislative Performance Measures :

- o Starting with the 2004 elections and continuing through the 2006 elections and beyond, the Secretary of State's office will work with the county election offices and advocates with disabilities to improve polling place access for persons with disabilities by providing grant money to counties wishing to upgrade the accessibility of their polling places.
- o By the 2006 primary election, each Montana polling place will be equipped with at least one accessible voting machine, allowing any person in Montana with a disability to vote independently and privately.
- o Starting with the 2004 federal election season, Montana counties will no longer use punch-card systems. This will involve payment by the state of the costs of replacement voting machines in the six counties with punch card voting systems.
- o By 2006, implement a single statewide computerized database that will be used by county election officials.
- o Starting in 2006 and continuing without a specified end date, the state elections office will provide matching grants to counties for the latter's purchases of precinct counters that notify voters of a potential overvote and allow them to request a replacement ballot.

2009 Biennium Significant Milestones:		Completion Dates	
		Target	Actual
1	The Secretary of State's office will verify partial social security numbers in the statewide voter database (Montana Votes) through an automated process.	12/31/2008	
2	The Secretary of State's office will finalize long term goals for polling place accessibility.	6/1/2008	
3	The Secretary of State's office will conduct regional trainings for county election administrators on the statewide voter database best practices.	4/1/2008	3/1/2008
4	The Secretary of State's office will conduct targeted trainings for county election judges in order to increase uniformity of HAVA implementation.	6/1/2008	
5	The Secretary of State's office will conduct regional trainings for county election administrators on use of precinct counters that meet the HAVA requirement of notifying electors of overvotes.	6/3/2008	3/1/2008

The Secretary of State's office will monitor desktop and system security at the county level through an audit process.	6/3/2008	
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Agency Performance Report:

- 1) Through a collaborative effort with the Montana Department of Justice, a voter identification verification service was implemented May 1, 2008. Although it is not done internally through the statewide voter database, it will significantly impact the effectiveness of the verification process.
- 2) Approximately 247 polling places across Montana received funding and expertise to improve accessibility for Montana voters. A comprehensive evaluation of polling places that have not applied for funding for accessibility improvements is being conducted by the office of the Secretary of State in conjunction with Disability Rights of Montana to ensure that every polling place has the opportunity for accessibility improvements.
- 3) The office of the Secretary of State conducted statewide and regional election official training over a period of 8 weeks. Over 120 election workers were trained on election best practices.
- 4) The office of the Secretary of State contracted with a retired county election administrator to conduct election judge training in an effort to provide instruction on uniform polling place processes. This effort was highly successful with over 30 counties requesting the training.
- 5) The office of the Secretary of State created a statewide voter registration database help desk, in order to create more efficient and effective assistance for counties.
- 6) A Data Integrity Plan was formulated and adopted to ensure the reliability, usefulness and accuracy of the data in the statewide voter database.
- 7) Election security procedures were drafted, in conjunction with county election administrators and the Election Technology Taskforce. The procedures include a security checklist, along with a directive instructing county election administrators to adopt the security procedures outlined in the checklist.
- 8) Thirty-three counties took advantage of a matching funds program offered by the Secretary of State's office and purchased precinct level optical scan vote counting systems that meet the HAVA requirement of notifying voters of an overvote.

LFD Narrative:

LFD ASSESSMENT - On-Track

DATA RELEVANCE - The information provided was relevant to the legislative goal

APPROPRIATION STATUS - Both appropriation and expenditure information were provided

COMMENTS - A key test of the efforts of the office will be the June 3, 2008 primary election. The following three milestones are expected to be complete between the time the agency reported the status report and the working group meeting:

- 1) The Secretary of State's office will finalize long term goals for polling place accessibility.
- 2) The Secretary of State's office will conduct targeted trainings for county election judges in order to increase uniformity of HAVA implementation.
- 3) The Secretary of State's office will monitor desktop and system security at the county level through an audit process.

OPTIONS - The working group may want to ask the office to report on successes and issues of the June 3, 2008, primary election. Also, the working group may want to have the office report on the status of the three milestones expected to be completed between the status submission and the working group meeting. If the June 3, 2008 primary and the above listed milestones are complete, the working group may want to drop the office from further reporting on this item.



Version	Date	Author
June 08 LFD	5/21/2008	G. DeWitt

Change Description
Added LFD Narrative