

ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL
600 DEXTER AVENUE
SUITE S-105
MONTGOMERY, AL 36130



(334) 242-7200
FAX (334) 242-4993
WWW.SOS.ALABAMA.GOV
JOHN.MERRILL@SOS.ALABAMA.GOV

JOHN H. MERRILL
SECRETARY OF STATE

December 17, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell S.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart S.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
1236 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader of the House
House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and House Minority Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for your generous financial support during the 2020 Federal Election Cycle. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds used to assist in the administration of the election ensured a safe and sanitary election was observed on November 3.

As we move forward, it is of utmost importance that election officials are equipped with the necessary resources to continue providing open, fair and secure elections, while also maintaining public confidence in the process.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), which was established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), provides support, guidance and assistance to state and local election officials for voter registration, voter participation, election equipment certification, cyber security, voter file maintenance and much more. Between 2010 and 2019, the EAC's budget was cut significantly by almost 50%, severely limiting their ability to assist states and localities with the administration of the election.

While we are most appreciative of the funds appropriated to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a great deal of work to be accomplished to address the issues witnessed during this election cycle.

December 17, 2020

Page 2

Therefore, as the chief election officials of our respective states, we encourage robust funds be allocated to the EAC for fiscal year 2021 for various initiatives including, but not limited to:

- a) Conducting a comprehensive post-election review with a special focus on procedures implemented due to COVID-19;
- b) Improving the security and auditing of election systems;
- c) Implementing a robust training program available to all election officials nationwide;
- d) Assembling a team of experts to research and establish non-voting technology best practices and resources to better secure voter registration systems and other election related systems that are not a part of the current testing and certification program;
- e) Implementing procedures and a process to certify electronic poll books;
- f) Establishing a team dedicated to recommending improvements to the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines and maintaining modern and agile certification requirements;
- g) Recruiting election personnel to assist with the clearinghouse function of the EAC to disseminate election administration information to election officials and educate the public;
- h) Developing web tools for voters and election officials to provide information such as deadlines, registration, legislation, voter options, education, etc.;
- i) Implementing a voter helpdesk team to assist voters;
- j) Increasing grant related resources to assist states with technical guidance and oversight of grant funds, including CARES Act and other HAVA grants; and
- k) Establishing a new Federal Advisory Committee Act Board consisting of local election officials who will serve to increase the EAC's ability to communicate with and reach local officials with relevant information related to the elections process.

We are committed to protecting the integrity and credibility of the electoral process, and with your assistance, the EAC will be able to continue to support election officials in this pursuit. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any additional information.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter,



John H. Merrill
Alabama Secretary of State



Paul Pate
Iowa Secretary of State



Kevin Meyer
Alaska Lt. Governor



Scott Schwab
Kansas Secretary of State



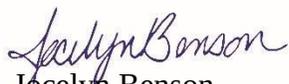
Katie Hobbs
Arizona Secretary of State



Kyle Ardoin
Louisiana Secretary of State

December 17, 2020

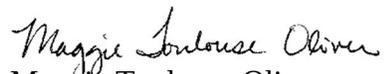
Page 3



Jocelyn Benson
Michigan Secretary of State



Steve Simon
Minnesota Secretary of State



Maggie Toulouse Oliver
New Mexico Secretary of State



Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State



Shemia Fagan
Oregon Secretary of State-Elect



Nellie Gorbea
Rhode Island Secretary of State



Steve Barnett
South Dakota Secretary of State



Jim Condos
Vermont Secretary of State



Mac Warner
West Virginia Secretary of State



Ed Buchanan
Wyoming Secretary of State