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Brian H. Leven, Deputy Secretary



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News Release

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Contact: Nancy T. Lynch 802-828-2148

Secretary of State Awards \$23,000 in Grants to Vermont Towns

Grants are Awarded to Improve Access to Voting in Vermont

Montpelier. Today, Secretary of State James Condos announced that over \$23,000 in grants were awarded to 5 municipalities to help them to continue to meet the mandates of the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) which was signed into law on October 29, 2002. HAVA provides opportunities for municipalities to improve the administration and access to elections in Vermont. As Vermont's chief election officer, the Secretary of State oversees this process.

This year's grants, in amounts of up to \$10,000, will be used by municipalities to improve accessibility to polling places used for both primary and general elections. Funds may be used for improvements such as paving parking areas, building ramps, and improving lighting. *"The timing of this funding was planned to coincide with rebuilding after tropical storm Irene,"* Condos said. *"Two of the towns awarded had storm related damage. We plan to issue another request for proposals in the future and hope more towns will take advantage of the funding."*

For more information on the Help America Vote Act, go to the Secretary of State's website at <http://vermont-elections.org/elections1/hava.html>.

2011 HAVA Awards		
Panton	\$5,000	Pave parking area and entryway
Lincoln	\$1,000	Build catch basin and upgrade culvert
Putney	\$2,607	Automatic door openers
Huntington	\$10,000	Replace ramp, fix drainage in parking lot
Salisbury	\$4,698	Exterior and interior lighting
TOTAL	\$23,305	

Secretary of State Jim Condos has over 20 years of elected public service, including 18 years of local government, and 8 years as a Vermont State Senator, in addition to more than 30 years of private sector business experience.



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