

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
HAVA FAQs – PERMISSIBLE AND IMPERMISSIBLE USES

1. Would it be permissible to purchase an “emergency kit” that contained generators, power boxes, cords, led lights and other items to keep polling locations operational during a federal election? They would become necessary in the event of a cyber-attack that damaged the power grid.

Yes.

2. To make election security improvements it would be more beneficial and cost effective for some of our counties if they could purchase entirely new buildings. Could HAVA funding be used for this so long as the county matches or exceeds the federal funding?

No.

HAVA funds could be used to pay for elections-specific security components that would be part of the new building, such as a security camera system.

3. The county wants to move the Elections office. The place they have in mind will need extensive work to allow for all of the equipment with outside loading area to move machines, set up area for supplies and tailor for the needs of Election Administration. How much of the HAVA funds would be available to us to help improve this project. Would this even be a project we could count on?

HAVA funds could not be used to install a loading dock or build a supply room.

HAVA funds could be used to pay for elections-specific security components that would be part of the new location. This might include security systems for elections storage rooms where equipment is stored, and the electrical work necessary to install the system.

4. In the same area as establishing toll-free telephone hotlines could a chat bot be set up by the counties? This is when voters could just text their questions in and they would receive automated responses. This can be done in multiple languages and updated over time based on the questions the chat bot is receiving.

Yes.

5. I believe this would fall under educating voters concerning voting procedures, voting rights, and voting technology but would purchasing social media ads be permissible so long as they contained educational material? In that same vein, would hosting virtual town halls and using the funding to purchase cameras and a platform be permissible? I think this was the case with CARES but I feel some who missed out may want to try doing this now.

Yes.

6. Can funds be used to purchase “Stand alone” internet connectivity – cameras for live streaming of meetings, trainings, etc.

Yes.

7. Is it permissible to install glass barriers, push button entry, more security cameras, etc. with HAVA funds?

Yes. If the security items are installed in areas commonly used by other county agencies, only the cost of the work done in the elections area can be paid for with HAVA funds

8. Can this money go to recurring expenses such as security (that requires a monthly fee)?  
The answer depends on the expense. If, for example, the elections board installs security cameras in the elections area, and recurring fees are required to store and access the video feeds, then HAVA funds can be used.
9. Can HAVA funds be used for a curbside wireless bell notification systems – where the potential curbside voter can push a button or drive over a sensor, wirelessly alerting the poll workers of their presence?  
Yes.
10. Regarding a hotline – Can the funds be used to pay costs from our phone vendor to set up the hotline or a phone bank that is physically staffed?  
Yes.
11. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase a DS450?  
Yes.
12. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase a second (backup) ElectionWare system?  
Yes.
13. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase dollies for Balotar printers?  
Yes.
14. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase MiFi jetpacks?  
Yes.
15. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase power strips and extension cords?  
Yes.
16. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase letter opener machines?  
Yes.
17. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase walkie talkie radios for curbside voting at One-Stop sites?  
Yes.
18. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase canopy tents for curbside voting at One-Stop sites?  
Yes.
19. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase tabletop voting booths for provisional voting?  
Yes.
20. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase generators?  
Yes.
21. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase extra blue bins for DS200s?  
Yes.
22. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase 8gb USB sticks for DS200s?  
Yes.
23. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase a ballot-on-demand system?  
Yes.

24. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase paper-folding machines?

Yes.

25. Can HAVA funds be used to purchase an alarm system?

Yes.

26. Will there have to be a security assessment done by the SBE to determine which security issues on the report need to be done and which ones don't?

No.

27. What will the counties be required to do as far as security measures first with the HAVA funds before using it for other things. Who will make the determination on those security features that need to be done and who will see that they actually do them?

County boards of elections are ultimately responsible for determining which HAVA-eligible expenditures to make with their county HAVA funds. Counties report their expenditures, with receipts, to the State when invoicing for reimbursement. Reports of all expenditures made by the State and county boards are reported to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.