



NEWS RELEASE

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NASS Releases Report Aimed at Dispelling Misperceptions About State HAVA Spending *States have spent more than 80 percent of the \$3 billion in federal funds they received through FY 2009*

Washington, DC – The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) today released a report on state spending related to \$3 billion in federal funds distributed for election improvements under the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). The report, entitled, "How States are Using Federal Funds to Carry Out the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)," details how states and territories have used their federal HAVA payments through Fiscal Year 2009 and provides insights on the long-term planning and budgeting efforts that account for HAVA fund balances. According to the report, states had spent 82 percent of the HAVA funding they received (factoring in the law's requirement that states establish interest-bearing accounts for HAVA payments, the spending total is 75 percent with interest).

The general breakdown of state HAVA funding includes the following:

- \$3.65 Billion: Amount Authorized by Congress for State HAVA Payments
- \$3.2 Billion: Amount Appropriated by Congress for State HAVA Payments
- \$3 Billion: Amount Disbursed to States for HAVA Payments Through Fiscal Year 2009
- \$2.5 Billion: Amount that States Have Spent Through Fiscal Year 2009
- \$852 Million: Balance of State HAVA Payments Through Fiscal Year 2009 (with Interest)
- \$396 Million: Amount Remaining to Be Appropriated for Full Funding of HAVA

In urging Congress and the White House to appropriate the remaining \$396 million that HAVA authorized for election reforms, states and territories are eager to address misperceptions about HAVA spending and interest payments. Based upon the rate of HAVA spending over the last three years, states will have spent their federal funding and interest payments (received through Fiscal Year 2009) by the end of Fiscal Year 2013. These funds were disbursed to states by the federal government under Section 101, Section 102 and Section 251 of HAVA.

According to preliminary state spending figures for Fiscal Year 2009, 34 states (32 with interest) have already spent at least 70 percent of their Section 101 funds, while 15 states (eight with interest) have spent 100 percent of this money. Meanwhile, 41 states (35 with interest) have spent at least 70 percent of their Section 251 funds. Eight states (one with interest) have spent 100 percent of this funding. Twenty-eight states (14 with interest) have spent at least 80 percent of their combined HAVA payments, while 22 states (10 with interest) have spent 90 percent or more.

The NASS report also profiles eight states (Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, Rhode Island and Washington) that continue to dedicate their state HAVA fund balances towards maintenance of effort, equipment upgrades or replacements, training programs and other long-term needs.

Download the full report at www.nass.org.

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