

Election Infrastructure and Security

West Virginia Secretary of State

Creative Funding Solution
Using Local Excise Tax Revenue



Election Infrastructure and Security Funding

Issue:

Local funds decreasing for election administration and security improvements.

Heavy reliance on HAVA funds for major purchases.

Needed a long term, reliable, state-level solution.



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Property excise taxes – a quick history

- counties required to split property transfer fees with State
 - 10-year plan to return revenue to Counties to offset waning budgets
 - during expedition of that return, WVSOS proposed amendment
 - earmark – by statute – 2.5% specifically for “election infrastructure”
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- **LOGIC**: Creates a State-mandated, **sustainable** fund, similar to HAVA, positioning Counties to cover improvements, including equipment and security, in a **self-reliant** model



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forward

- local election officials have authority to spend from this **election-specific fund**, as needed, as long as they demonstrate compliance with minimum cyber and physical security **requirements** outlined by WVSOS administrative rule
- the fund can be swept for non-election purposes as long as it still contains enough money to replace 100% of the County's voting equipment (calculated by table in the admin rule)
- **BASELINE REQUISITES:** cybersecurity training, infrastructure protections, authorized user management, physical security controls, incident response planning, and more ...



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election security strategy

- establish baseline security best practices
- conduct assessments against baseline
- identify gaps and prioritize needs
- map need to **resources**

options

- State-provided enterprise-level services
- no cost services and solutions
- low-cost services and solutions
- grants funding opportunities
- **Creative Election Security Fund**



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Contact Us

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Thank You

