



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service
www.washoecounty.us

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 9, 2021

DATE: Wednesday, February 03, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Deanna Spikula, Registrar of Voters
(775) 328-3674, dspikula@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Christine Vuletich, Assistant County Manager
(775) 328-2016, cvuletich@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the acceptance of the Secretary of State's budget appropriation to Washoe County in the amount of **[\$321,061.56]** to reimburse the county for voting equipment licensing and support fees for fiscal year 2020 and 2021. The amount received for FY 2020 was [\$160,530.78]. The amount to be received for FY 2021 will be [\$160,530.78]. No match required. The award period is retroactive from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. If approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve the acceptance of the Secretary of State's budget appropriation to Washoe County in the amount of **[\$321,061.56]** to reimburse the county for voting equipment licensing and support fees for fiscal year 2020 and 2021. The amount received for FY 2020 was [\$160,530.78]. The amount to be received for FY 2021 will be [\$160,530.78]. No match required. The award period is retroactive from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. If approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

County Priority/Goal supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action has been taken on this item.

BACKGROUND

During the 80th (2019) Legislative Session budget appropriations were made to both State and local election offices to assist with the costs of election administration. A number of changes, including same day registration, both during early voting and on

AGENDA ITEM # _____

election day, changes to the implementation of the Automatic Voter Registration process (Initiative Petition 1(IP-1), Automatic Voter Registration, passed by voters in 2018 as State Ballot Question No. 5, and allows absentee ballots to be counted up to 7 days after an election. Section 148.8 of AB 345 appropriated funds to Washoe County in the amount of \$740,302.60 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions AB 345.

In addition, the Secretary of State received \$1,520,000 in funds to help county election offices with voting equipment costs. Accordingly, the Secretary of State's office allocated a portion of these funds to all 17 counties to pay a portion of voting equipment licensing and support fees for both fiscal years 2020 and 2021 on a reimbursement basis. Support fees incurred and paid between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2021 will be reimbursed to Washoe County in the amount of \$160,530.78 in both fiscal year 2020 and 2021.

The use of these funds is strictly limited to use for voting equipment licensing and support fees only. These funds cannot be used for expenses incurred to administer the 2020 elections or in relation to expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: **Dominion Licensing Fee Reimbursement**

Scope of the Project: Funds will be used to supplement the annual cost of voting equipment support licensing and maintenance fees paid each fiscal year to Dominion Voting.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: These funds will supplement the ongoing costs of administering elections in Washoe County for two fiscal years allowing resources to be used for other voter registration and election services.

On-Going Program Support: These funds will be used to provide supplement the annual costs for the licensing and maintenance of our voting equipment for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. On-going support is already supported by the existing operating budget of the Registrar of Voters.

Award Amount: \$321,061.56

Grant Period: *July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021*

Funding Source: *State General Fund*

Pass Through Entity: *Secretary of State*

CFDA Number: *Not applicable*

Grant ID Number: *2019 Legislative Session appropriation*

Match Amount and Type: *No match required*

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the Board accept this funding appropriation and approve these amendments, the FY2021 adopted budget will be increased by \$321,061.56 in revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
Revenues:		
IO11750 Dominion Licensing Fee Reimbursement	432100-State Grants	\$321,061.56
Expenditures:		
IO11750 Dominion Licensing Fee Reimbursement	710210-Software Maintenance	\$321,061.56

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the acceptance of the Secretary of State's budget appropriation to Washoe County in the amount of [\$321,061.56] to reimburse the county for voting equipment licensing and support fees for fiscal year 2020 and 2021 on a reimbursement basis. The amount received for FY 2020 was [\$160,530.78]. The amount to be received for FY 2021 will be [\$160,530.78]. No match required. The award period is retroactive from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. If approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "move to approve the acceptance of the Secretary of State's budget appropriation to Washoe County in the amount of [\$321,061.56] to reimburse the county for voting equipment licensing and support fees for fiscal year 2020 and 2021 on a reimbursement basis. The amount received for FY 2020 was [\$160,530.78]. The amount to be received for FY 2021 will be [\$160,530.78]. No match required. The award period is retroactive from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. If approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments."