

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon

2024 Legislative Report on Voting Equipment Grant Account Awards

COST OF REPORT PREPARATION

Estimated costs to prepare the report are provided in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 3.197. The total cost for the Office of the Secretary of State to prepare this report was approximately \$50. These costs are exclusively staff time needed to prepare the written report.

Background

In 2021, \$1,500,000.00 was appropriated to the Voting Equipment Grant Account (VEGA-3) for use in Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. The legislature authorized an ongoing appropriation of \$750,000 annually thereafter. The legislature authorized use of these funds to offset up to 50% of the cost of optical scan precinct counters, optical scan central counters, or assisted voting devices; up to 75% of the cost of electronic rosters. See Minn. Laws 2021, 1st Spec. Sess., Chap. 12, Art. 1, sect. 6. In addition, the balance remaining from VEGA-1 and VEGA-2 was made available for the VEGA-3 round of grants. A total of \$1,936,575.04 was awarded through the VEGA-3 in calendar year 2022 by combining the fiscal year 2022 and 2023 funds with the balance remaining from VEGA-1 and VEGA-2 prior appropriations. The report submitted in January of 2023 detailed the distribution of all but \$1,914.53 of the funds.

Report of VEGA Grant Expenditures

In calendar year 2023, VEGA grant payments were not distributed to local governments.

The balance of the VEGA account as of December 31, 2023 is \$751,914.53.