



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Steve Simon

January 15, 2026

The Honorable Senator Jim Carlson
The Honorable Senator Mark Koran
The Honorable Senator Tou Xiong
The Honorable Senator Andrew Lang
The Honorable Senator John Marty
The Honorable Senator Eric Pratt

The Honorable Representative Mike Freiberg
The Honorable Representative Duane Quam
The Honorable Representative Ginny Klevorn
The Honorable Representative Jim Nash
The Honorable Representative Paul Torkelson
The Honorable Representative Zack
Stephenson

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Minnesota statutes, section 5.38 provides in part:

The secretary of state may enter into agreements with a local governmental unit to provide a technological service or project to enhance the state's election system. The secretary of state and the local governmental unit shall agree to the amount of consideration to be paid under the agreement. In addition, the secretary of state may accept federal funds for election purposes.

The Office of the Secretary of State is required to report by each January 15 "the total amounts received in the preceding calendar year, the sources of those funds, and the uses to which those funds were or will be put." Minn. Stat. § 5.38.

As required by section 5.38, the Office of the Secretary of State reports that it received \$272,727.00 in federal funds from the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2025, authorized under Title I, Section 101, of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. These funds were deposited and are currently accruing interest in the HAVA account established in Minn. Stat. § 5.30, subd. 1.

These funds will be used for election purposes consistent with the requirements found in Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-47), which states that the purpose of this award is to "improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements to the systems, equipment and processes used in federal elections." The Office's intended use for the funds includes modernization of the Statewide Voter Registration System, supporting cybersecurity on Office operated systems, and continuing the Security Navigator program which supports county election officials.

The Office of the Secretary of State also received federal grant funds as a sub-grantee of the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) through the Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). The HSGP programs fund a range of preparedness activities, including planning, organization, equipment purchase, training, exercises, and management and administration.

The UASI grant award from the Fiscal Year 2024 funding cycle of \$150,000.00 was received in early 2025. These funds were used in accordance with HSGP guidelines to raise awareness of the robust security measures in place before, during, and after for every election across the Twin Cities Metro Area. The communications campaign the funds supported directed Minnesotans to learn more about how local election officials administer elections on behalf of voters across the state.

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant awards from 2023 and 2024 funding cycles were received by the Office. In early 2024, the Office received \$145,245.00 from the Fiscal Year 2023 grant award and in early 2025, the Office received \$133,882.50 from the Fiscal Year 2024 grant award. These funds have been and will be used by the Security Navigator program team to support statewide and regional elections security training events and physical security evaluations held in both 2024 and 2025. Additionally, funds from the fiscal year 2024 SHSP award are being used to enhance collaborative capabilities between state and local partners. To date, activities have included a civic roundtable and piloting a communication program to improve information sharing amongst jurisdictions.

Two statewide training events were held and brought together county election and IT officials from across the state. In 2024, state and federal partners trained local elections officials on how to respond to emergency scenarios that could impact election administration - including cyberattacks, disinformation schemes, physical security threats, and weather emergencies. At the 2025 event, attendees participated in tabletop training exercises, panel discussions, workshops, and focus groups. At the event they heard from the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State and state and federal partners including Minnesota Fusion Center, Minnesota County IT Leadership Association (MNCITLA), Minnesota IT Services, the Minnesota National Guard, Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM), the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Freeman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

NICOLE FREEMAN
Government Relations Director

cc: Legislative Reference Library