

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 2/4/13
HB 2

MONTANA
SECRETARY OF STATE



LINDA McCULLOCH



Fergus County

712 W. Main • Lewistown, MT 59457
Ph: 406-535-5119 • Fax: 406-535-9023
email: commissioners@co.fergus.mt.us

Commissioners:
Carl Seilstad
Ken Ronish
Sandra Youngbauer

January 17, 2013

Honorable Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch
Montana State Capitol
PO Box 202801
Helena MT 59620-2801

Re: MT Votes – Statewide Voter Registration System

Dear Honorable Secretary of State McCulloch:

We are in support of asking the State of Montana to carry the costs of administering and maintaining the current MT Votes system. This system has and continues to serve the State well.

Having a system such as MT Votes is vital to our Montana Election Administrators and their staffs. Accurate registration and voter records are kept and available Statewide. Transfers from County to County are easily and accurately maintained. Administering elections, processing absentee ballots, provisional ballots, ballot issue and candidate petitions, and annual absentee mailings are completed efficiently and with confidence in the system.

Our State electors deserve nothing less than an accurate and well-maintained voter registration system. Funding MT Votes at the State level assures that all electors across Montana can have equal voter confidence in their local system.

Sincerely,

Ken Ronish
Fergus Co Commissioner, Presiding Officer

Sandy Youngbauer
Fergus Co Commissioner

Carl Seilstad
Fergus Co Commissioner

Cc: Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government
Ryan Osmundson, Chair

Received
MT Secretary of State
2013 JUN 18 AM 9:33

Flathead County
Board of Commissioners

(406) 758-5503



Pamela J. Holmquist
Gary D. Krueger
Calvin L. Scott

January 28, 2013

TO: Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government Members
Montana Legislature 63rd Session
RE: House Bill 2

During the 2000 General Election, the State of Florida suffered the hanging chad debacle. As a result, over the next two years various states considered a total of 3,643 bills addressing elections, 492 of those bills were passed into law. Part of the bills passed resulted in election reform titled, "Help America Vote Act" (HAVA) which had an impact in 48 states. Under HAVA, punch-card ballots had to be replaced in six Montana counties that still were using them, Flathead being the largest county.

During legislative session years 2003 and 2011 additional bills addressing elections were passed, all with an expense to Montana counties.

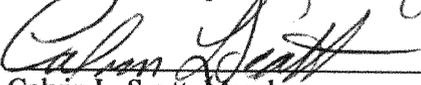
In 2002, HAVA shifted some responsibilities for voter registration from local jurisdictions to the state. HAVA, in particular, mandates that each state maintain a statewide voter registration list. Thus, this Legislative Session you have before you House Bill 2, which is requested by Madam Secretary of State Linda McCulloch for funding from the State Legislature for ongoing support and maintenance of MT Votes (voter registration).

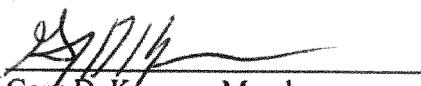
The requirement to replace punch card ballots added the extra cost of new equipment and technology to the budgets of local governments. Although the newly required equipment and their technology were purchased with HAVA grant funds beginning in 2004, maintenance and operation have added close to \$40,000.00 to the budget for Flathead County, with the additional maintenance of a statewide database, Flathead County will be looking at an additional \$24,017.36.

We respectfully request your support of HB 2, which will disburse a portion of the cost of elections to multiple levels of government.

FLATHEAD COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Pamela J. Holmquist, Chairman


Calvin L. Scott, Member


Gary D. Krueger, Member



MINERAL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PO Box 550
300 River Street
Superior, MT 59872
Phone (406) 822.3577
Fax (406) 822.3552
mccommissioners@co.mineral.mt.us

January 31, 2013

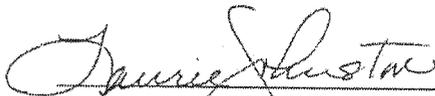
Dear Representative Schwaderer,

We are writing in support of Secretary of State, Linda McCulloh's proposal to require maintenance costs of the MT Votes program included in House Bill 2. This was a federal program from 2003 (HAVA) Help America Vote Act. The system was established in 2005-2006.

This system which is called MT Votes tracks registered voters, tracks history and petitions. The federal government funded this petition for four years and then intended to pass on the full cost to the counties. Counties like Mineral County cannot afford the additional 8 to 10 thousand dollars that this would add to election costs. The requested funding has been submitted and is currently in HB2, the Governor's budget bill for the 2014-2015 biennium.

We think that the cost of maintaining this system should be a cost of state government and funding that our legislative body should support, especially given the large surplus currently being carried. We encourage you to support House Bill 2 with this funding intact.

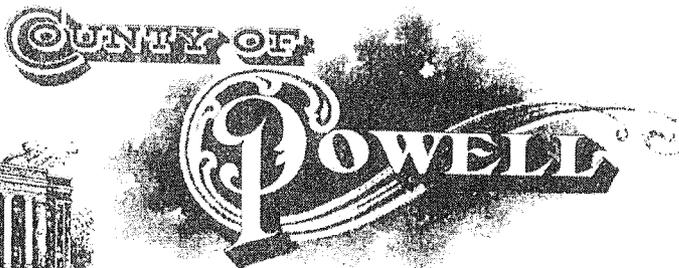
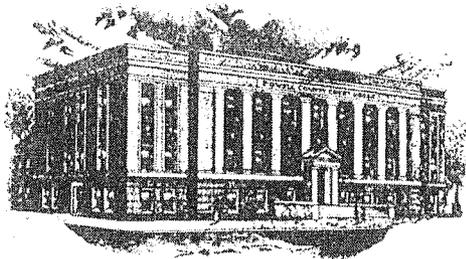
Sincerely,
Mineral County Commissioners


Laurie Johnston, Member


Duane Simons, Member


Roman Zylawy, Chairman

Cc: Jennifer Fielder
Lisa Kimmet, Deputy – Elections and Government Services Division



409 Missouri Avenue
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
406-846-9786

To: Linda Stoll
From: Powell County Commissioners and Clerk and Recorder
Date: January 31, 2013
Re: HB2

We would encourage the legislature to support state funding for the Montana Votes program in House Bill 2. Powell County cannot afford this unfunded mandate from the State.

As a medium-small sized county our portion of the Montana Votes bill would be \$10,025.18. We have no idea where that money would come from. The Clerk and Recorder's office operated with the Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator/Assessor and one deputy and we work with a bare bones budget. The only place we would be able to cut would be the deputy's hours, which would be an enormous hardship on this office. We do not use the Montana Votes except for the Primary and General Elections held in the even years. We do not use Montana Votes for our city or school elections.

Powell County would highly recommend a do pass on the Montana Votes Program.

POWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Ralph E. Mannix, Jr., Chair Cefé Pohle, Member Donna Young, Member

POWELL COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER/ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR


Diane S. Grey

Office of
The Board of County Commissioners
Granite County

Post Office Box 925, Philipsburg, Montana 59858-0925
Office Telephone 406-859-7022 Office Fax 406-859-3817 Web Site www.co.granite.mt.us

Scott C. Adler, Chairman
750 Frontage Road West
Drummond MT 59832

Clifford Nelson, Commissioner
25 Nelson Lane
Philipsburg MT 59858

Bart C. Bonney, Commissioner
P O Box 701
Philipsburg MT 59858

January 29, 2012

Ryan Osmundson Chair
Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government
State Capitol
Helena MT 59620

RE: MT Votes

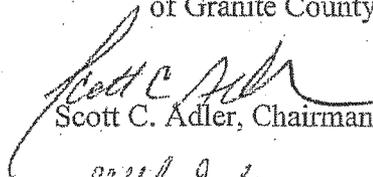
Dear Chair Osmundson and Subcommittee Members:

We feel that it is vitally important to stress the significance of funding for the MT Votes program through the Office of the Secretary of State.

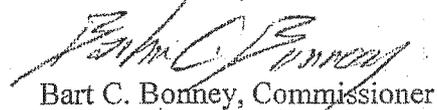
MT Votes is an excellent program with statewide importance which we feel strongly should be funded on a statewide basis. The shifting of the financial burden to counties would be extremely unbalanced, particularly as small counties would be required to shoulder a disproportionate amount of the cost.

We urge you to continue to statewide funding of the MT Votes program for the equal benefit of all Montana citizens without placing an undue burden on small counties.

Board of County Commissioners
of Granite County


Scott C. Adler, Chairman


Clifford Nelson, Commissioner


Bart C. Bonney, Commissioner

cc: Secretary of State
Granite County Election Administrator Blanche McLure



Lake County Commissioners

406-883-7204

Fax (406) 883-7283

LAKE COUNTY

106 4th Ave. E.

Polson, Mt. 59860

January 28, 2013

Honorable House Budget Sub-committee members, Ryan Osmundson, Chair; Alan Olson, Vice Chair; Edward Buttrey, Member; Champ Edmunds, Member; Kelly McCarthy, Member; David E. Wanzenried, Member

We ask for your support of funding for MT Votes, the statewide voter registration data base, in HB 2. The data base is a Federal requirement. The data base keeps a current, accurate list of registered voters in Montana. This is the data base County Election Administrators use to run all Federal and State elections; therefore we feel it should be up to the state to fund the system since the Federal money is running out. We do not believe this should be a burden to the local taxpayers as this is not a local requirement. We hope that common sense will prevail and the impacts to local government not reduce the current services provided by the Counties.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please feel free to contact us at the above listed number.

Respectfully,

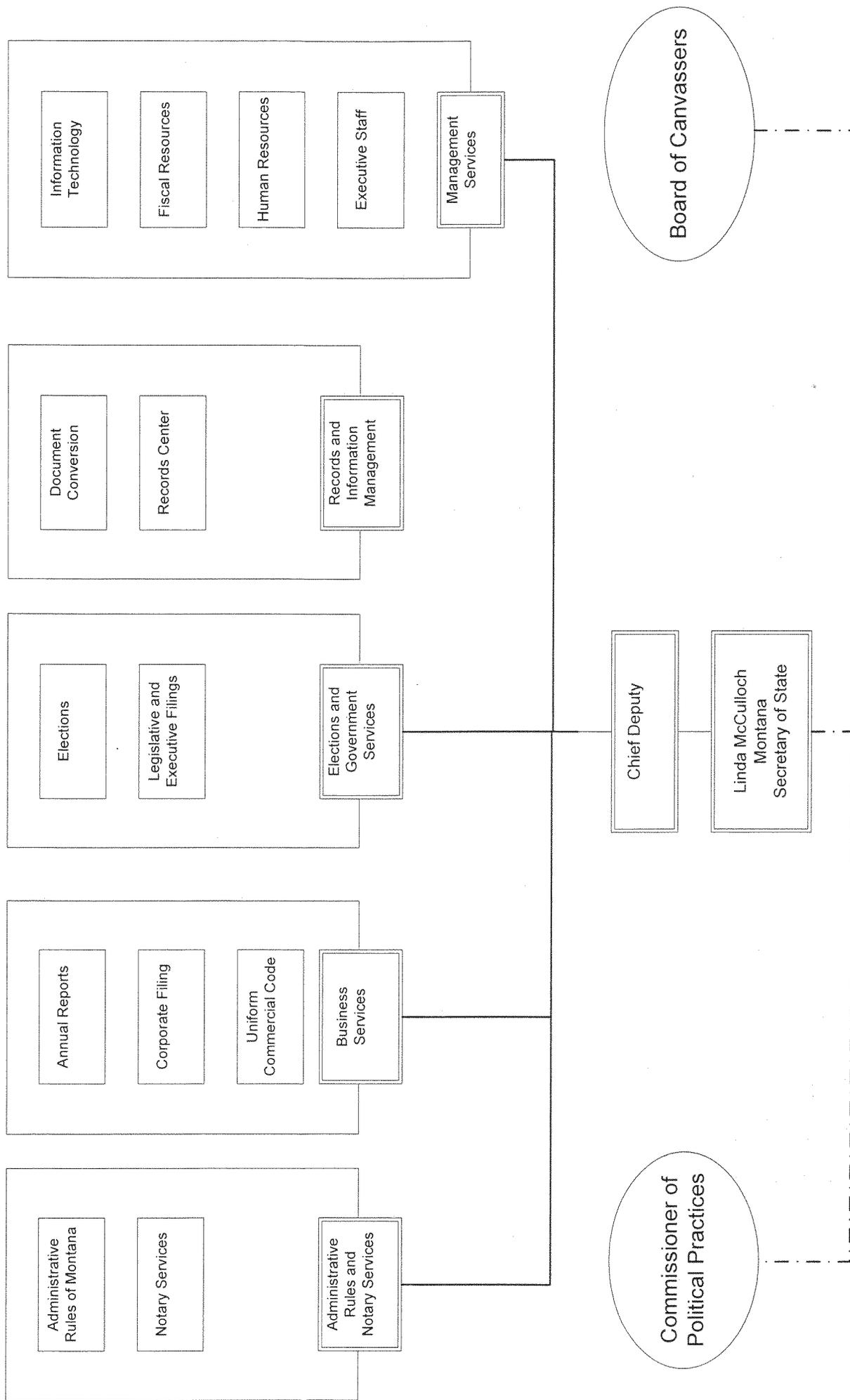
Bill Barron, Lake County Commissioner

Ann Brower, Lake County Commissioner

Gale Decker, Lake County Commissioner

Kathie Newgard, Lake County Election Administrator

Montana Secretary of State (406) 444-4195





MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

LINDA McCULLOCH

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Secretary of State to improve services to Montana's voters, business community, and governmental agencies through open communications, effective use of technology, and transparent accountability.

Goals and Objectives

GOAL: The Secretary of State will enhance services to the public utilizing technology throughout all divisions to improve the user's ability to receive information and access services provided by this office.

- **Digitized Ballot Creation:** Create a uniform and digitized precinct level ballot creation mechanism for all 56 counties – easing the work load for County Clerks and Recorders and Election Administrators and providing the public a downloadable sample ballot to preview before Election Day.
- **Expanded E-Notification Service for Annual Report Filers:** Continue to expand the use of e-notifications for Annual Report filing reminders – reducing costs by decreasing the number of paper filings and encouraging greater use of the office's online filing services.
- **Improved Notarial Training:** Provide professional online and in-person training for notaries public to provide easily accessible and valuable training for all notaries in Montana.
- **Modernized Election Night Reporting:** Implement a customized "Follow this Contest" election reporting function, allowing any online user on Election Night to create an individualized page detailing and displaying statewide, county, and precinct level results for the user's selected election contests.
- **Local Election Results:** Implement results for local election races (County Commissioner, Clerk and Recorder, Justice of the Peace, etc.) and make available online through the statewide election night reporting system.
- **Improved Online Business Services:** Enhance online business forms through ongoing web and business system development to improve online services and ensure user-friendly computer formatting for our business services customers.
- **Personalized Absentee Ballot Tracking:** Support the personalized absentee ballot tracking function that will allow a voter visiting sos.mt.gov to check and see if their absentee ballot was sent and received. The service will provide peace of mind for absentee voters and reduce calls to the county election offices.

- **Online Training for Records and Information Management:** Implement new training and information services to help state agencies with Records Management components, such as retention schedule creation and a web-enabled records management system to help track storage measurements for state and local agencies.
- **Digitizing Ballot Initiative Signature Sheets:** Scan and digitize submitted, and county approved, ballot initiative petition sheets – making them available to interested parties earlier and in a secure manner for future election cycles.
- **Modernized Businesses Information System:** Modernize the office's outdated, 30 plus-year-old business information system. SOS will support and upgrade existing systems while implementing a new information system for the office. The first phase includes the new UCC Lien Filing application and office accounting application. The following phases will replace the corporate filing system, notary filing system, and other smaller legacy applications.
- **Electronic Voting for Absent Military and Overseas Citizen Voters:** Implement a system for voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) to be able to receive, mark, and transmit a ballot for state and federal elections in a seamless, electronic process.
- **Enhance the Online Administrative Rules System:** Host and maintain the program in-house, and resolve unsettled programming errors that occurred during system development in 2007 and 2008.
- **Electronic transmission of Voter Registration records from MT Motor Vehicle Division:** Evaluate resources and refine technology upgrade plan to transmit voter registration information and electronic signature from MVD to the Secretary of State VR database.
- **State-to-state voter registration data sharing initiative:** Join a national effort to compare VR information between states to help with VR list maintenance and to identify eligible but not registered individuals.
- **Provide mobile access to SOS services:** Develop application to allow mobile devices access to My Voter Page and other SOS services.
- **Enhance Information Technology Support:** Develop in-house IT staff capacity with up-to-date skill sets, depth of knowledge, cross-training to support agency IT applications and customer needs while ensuring compliance with state security and continuity of government policies.

Office of Montana Secretary of State - Projected Costs for Statewide Voter Registration System (MT Votes)

	FY14	FY15
Vendor Software Support Contract	\$350,000.00	\$350,000.00
State ITSD		
Hosting	90,600.00	92,000.00
Oracle Licensing	67,000.00	69,000.00
Citrix Licensing	20,193.00	20,193.00
Total State ITSD	177,793.00	181,193.00
AAMVA	36,000.00	36,000.00
Help Desk		
1 FTE	42,000.00	42,000.00
Employer Contributions	6,720.00	6,720.00
Health Benefits	8,796.00	8,796.00
Operations	5,000.00	5,000.00
Citrix GoToAssist	4,320.00	4,320.00
Total Help Desk	66,836.00	66,836.00
Change Control Board	20,000.00	20,000.00
Total Annual Costs	650,629.00	654,029.00
Equipment Refresh Required per SITSD every 5 years Appx. \$200,000 every 5 years	40,000.00	40,000.00
Grand Total	\$690,629.00	\$694,029.00

Ongoing Annual HAVA expenses not part of MT Votes Costs (estimate)

Salaries & Benefits 1 FTE	48,000.00
Electronic Statewide Election Reporting System (eSERS) Annual Support and Ma	30,000.00
Post Election Audit costs reimbursed to counties (every even-numbered year)	20,000.00
Statewide Election Official certification training (HAVA portion)	30,000.00
Approximate Non MT Votes Annual Expense Total**	128,000.00



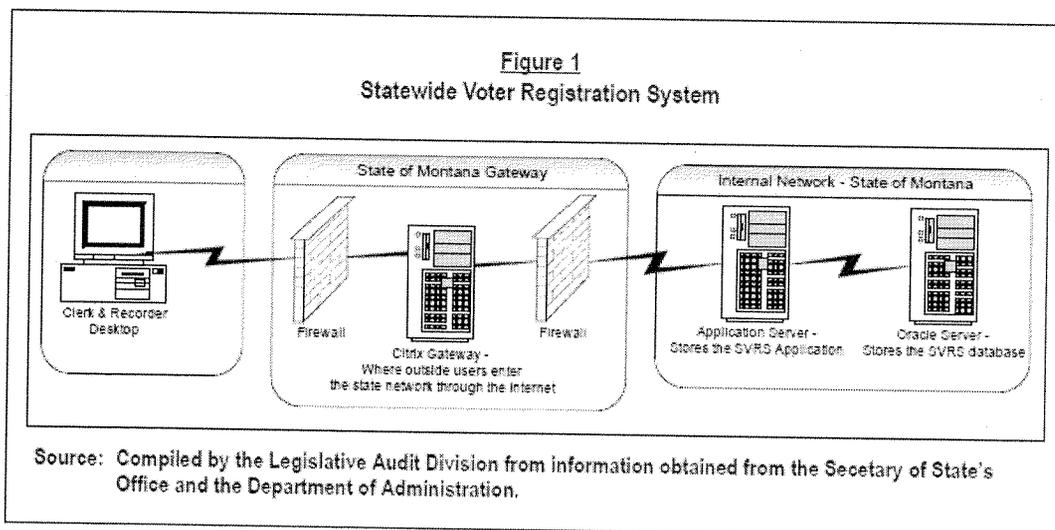
Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch Elections and Government Services Division

Montana's Statewide Voter Registration System

In order to comply with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), the Secretary of State's (SOS) office implemented the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) in August of 2005. The Montana SVRS is a voter registration database where all voter records for the state of Montana are held.

Another function of the SVRS is to serve as an interface for county election officials to enter, update, and delete voter information, as well as identifying potential ineligible voter records to be removed from the active voter list. The SVRS has controls in place to identify the records of voters who are deceased, incarcerated felons, and underage, as well as voters who have duplicate records.

The SVRS is a centralized application system used by all counties to access all Montana voter records. When an individual registers to vote at a county election administrator's office, their information is entered and stored in the SVRS. The following figure illustrates SVRS functionality.



System Access

To access the SVRS, an individual is required to have an authorized user account with a unique state issued ID and password. These accounts are created by SOS office administrators and at the county level. It is the election administrator's responsibility to limit the level of access an individual has by assigning different privileges based on job responsibilities.

System Functions

The SVRS currently has functionality that includes the following:

- Register voters, maintain voter records, cancel voters
 - Includes an interface for deceased voters (DPHHS) and for felon voters (DOC)
 - Prevents duplicate voters
- Issue absentee ballots, track absentee ballots, receipt absentee ballots
- Track provisional ballots
- Process and track ballot issue and candidate petitions
- Process annual absentee mailings
- Process National Voter Registration Act mailings

Help America Vote Act Funding and On-Going Expenses

The SVRS implementation, and the support, maintenance, hosting and equipment replacement costs has been funded from Federal monies states received from the Help America Vote Act Program. The Federal funding was discontinued by Congress, even though states have ongoing HAVA related expenses, including but not limited to the costs of the statewide voter registration system. HAVA funding received by Montana is in the chart below:

Calendar Year	Section 101	Section 251	Total
2003	\$5,000,000.00		\$ 5,000,000.00
2004		\$ 4,150,000.00	\$ 4,150,000.00
2005		\$ 7,446,803.00	\$ 7,446,803.00
2006			\$ -
2007			\$ -
2008		\$ 575,000.00	\$ 575,000.00
2009		\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00
2010		\$ 375,000.00	\$ 375,000.00
2012		\$ 6,454.00	\$ 6,454.00
Totals	\$5,000,000.00	\$13,053,257.00	\$18,053,257.00

Ongoing Annual HAVA expenses not part of MT Votes Costs (estimate)	
Salaries & Benefits 1 FTE	48,000.00
Electronic Statewide Election Reporting System (eSERS) Annual Support and Maintenance	30,000.00
Post Election Audit costs reimbursed to counties (every even-numbered year)	20,000.00
Statewide Election Official certification training (HAVA portion)	30,000.00
Approximate Non MT Votes Annual Expense Total**	128,000.00

For more information:

Montana Secretary of State
 Elections and Government Services
 406-444-5376
soselections@mt.gov

	Improv. Admin of Federal Elections	Educating Voters	Training Local Officials and Poll Workers	Developing State Plan	Voting Systems (replacing punch card systems)	Improving Accessibility	Toll Free Hotline	Voting System Standards/Com pliant Voting Systems
2004	\$ 235,408.32	\$ 572,300.96	\$ 11,092.60	\$ -	\$ 360,228.66	\$ 238,355.68	\$ -	\$ 376,760.75
2005	\$ 172,594.30	\$ 57,252.27	\$ -	\$ 1,517.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2006	\$ 122,482.94	\$ 500,491.72	\$ 1,010.21	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 518,401.98	\$ -	\$ 408,701.00
2007	\$ 69,418.71	\$ 22,009.96	\$ 9,291.32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 111,755.22	\$ -	\$ 534,342.22
2008	\$ 236,237.61	\$ 53,371.03	\$ 41,218.87	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,759.53	\$ -	\$ 127,488.97
2009	\$ 43,609.10	\$ 422.65	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,019.31	\$ -	\$ 102,816.74
2010	\$ 138,964.66	\$ 228.93	\$ 31,947.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,600.00	\$ -	\$ 86,462.39
2011	\$ 49,066.82	\$ 258.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,297.43	\$ -	\$ 243.26
2012	\$ 136,142.54	\$ -	\$ 23,514.36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,365.13	\$ -	\$ -
2013								
Total	\$ 1,203,925.00	\$ 1,206,336.46	\$ 118,525.13	\$ 1,517.20	\$ 360,228.66	\$ 982,554.28	\$ -	\$ 1,636,815.33

Statewide Voter Registration List	Improving accessibility and quantity of polling places (AutoMARKS)	Total
\$ 8,130.25		\$ 1,802,277.22
\$ 1,967,240.94	\$ 187,403.04	\$ 2,386,007.75
\$ 3,134,560.42	\$ 3,798,820.27	\$ 8,484,468.54
\$ 674,703.74	\$ 2,886.19	\$ 1,424,407.36
\$ 638,146.29		\$ 1,187,222.30
\$ 553,726.53		\$ 709,044.33
\$ 877,189.68		\$ 1,141,393.43
\$ 650,252.15		\$ 703,118.60
\$ 555,292.61		\$ 720,314.64
\$ 9,059,242.61	\$ 3,989,109.50	\$ 18,558,254.17