

Fundamental Provisions of Emergency “Opt-In” Plan for 2008
The Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act of 2008 (HR5036)

Reimbursement for Conversion to Paper Ballot Voting Systems

- GSA will reimburse paperless jurisdictions that convert to paper-based voting systems in 2008; reimbursement would be available for the reasonable documented costs of providing a paper ballot voting system, including paper ballots, ballot marking stations, HAVA-compliant ballot marking devices, and precinct-based optical scanners
- Determinations as to the reasonableness of the costs and the sufficiency of the number of devices and stations deployed will be made by the GSA in consultation with the EAC

Alternative Reimbursement for offering emergency paper ballots

- Reimbursement for jurisdictions that use direct recording electronic voting system if they offer voters emergency paper ballots upon machine failure, provided the ballots are counted as regular, not provisional, ballots

Funding for Conversion to Paper Systems/Use of Emergency Ballots

- Authorization: \$500 million, available until expended

Reimbursement for Conducting Audits by Hand Count

- Reimbursement for conducting audits which meet basic minimum requirements; reimbursement will be for the “documented reasonable costs” of the audit
- Basic Minimum Requirements for Audits:
 - Random selection of audit units and hand counting of paper ballots, to be compared to corresponding electronic tallies
 - Election Auditor to be chosen by state but must have “independence”
 - Audit percentage: at least 3% or alternate sample that is at least as statistically effective
 - Commence within 48 hours of announcement of winner and complete (including resolving discrepancies and submitting audit report) before certification of results
 - Include all ballots associated with precinct being audited; include absentees
 - Additional audits if cause shown, at discretion of Election Auditor
 - Public observation must be allowed
- Authorization: \$100 million, available until expended

Reimbursement for Determining Result by Conducting Hand Count

- Reimbursement for determining the outcome of the election by hand count of paper ballots
- Basic Minimum Requirements for Hand Count:
 - Count all ballots by hand, on Election Day, without using electronic equipment or software
 - Include all ballots in the hand count, adding provisionals and absentees in as soon as eligibility is determined
 - At least two counters and one observer, and public observation must be allowed
 - Hand count determines winner, but recount laws are not pre-empted
- Authorization: \$30 million, available until expended

**CALL YOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE NOW AND URGE HIM/HER TO VOTE “YES”
ON H.R.5036! (<http://www.house.gov>)**