

ERIE COUNTY
Board of Elections

134 West Eagle Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

ECLEG MAR28'14 AM10:38

Ralph M. Mohr, *Commissioner*
Dennis E. Ward, *Commissioner*

March 27, 2014

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Grant Contracts: Poll Worker Training/ Voter Education NYS Accessibility Funds

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION REQUESTED

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution seeking authorization to extend two grants. In the first grant, the State of New York is providing \$291,901 to improve polling place access in order to expand participation in the election process by individuals with a full range of disabilities. In the second grant, NY State is providing \$583,803.00 for the purpose of conducting poll workers' training and voter education as required for compliance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA).

Should your Honorable Body require any further information, kindly contact Commissioners Dennis E. Ward and Ralph M. Mohr at the Board of Elections. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Dennis E. Ward
Commissioner

Ralph M. Mohr
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
FROM: Board of Elections
RE: Grant Contracts
DATE: March 27, 2014

SUMMARY

The proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum request authorization by the Erie County Board of Elections (ECBOE) to enter into agreement with the State of New York to extend two existing grants.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None. The grant for improving access to and participation by individuals with a full range of disabilities in the election process, as well as, the grant to provide poll worker training/ voter education are 100% reimbursable by the State of New York.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION & BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. The Federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) requires the improvement of Polling Place Access in order to expand participation by individuals with a full range of disabilities in the election process ,as well as, providing poll worker training/ voter education. Eligible costs are 100% reimbursable by the State of New York.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

1. The ECBOE will experience difficulties in meeting the Federal HAVA requirements.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Commissioners of the ECBOE will execute the three contract extensions with the New York State Board of Elections. After expenditures are made, appropriate claim will be submitted to NYS to recover all eligible reimbursements from the State of New York.

FROM THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the New York State Board of Elections has forwarded two grant extensions to the Erie County Board of Elections for approval and execution; and

WHEREAS, the acceptance and execution by the Commissioners of the Erie County Board of Elections would provide for the receipt of grant money in the aggregate amount of \$ 875,704.00 for the specific purposes of establishing, expanding and improving access to and participation by individuals with a full range of disabilities in the election process, as well as the education of poll workers and voters on the proper use of new voting systems including ballot marking devices; and

WHEREAS, a grant in the amount of \$ 5,697,914.64 in federal funds has been awarded to the Erie County Board of Elections by the State of New York for the purpose of purchasing, installing and maintaining equipment required for compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA); and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the Erie County Board of Elections believe the funds to be obtained under these contracts to be beneficial to the residents of the County and are desirous of entering into said contracts and extensions; and

WHEREAS, the approval of this legislative body is a pre-requisite for the acceptance of these agreements by the Erie County Board of Elections

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Erie County Legislature does hereby approve and accept the following contacts and does hereby authorize the Commissioners of the Erie County Board of Elections to execute the same entitled and designated as:

- 1) NYS Voter Education/Poll Training Grant - \$583,803.00 (C002539 - time extension 3/31/2015),
- 2) NYS Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities Polling Place Access Improvement Grant \$291,901.00 (C002655 -time extension 3/31/2015),

And be it further

RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Erie County Board of Election for the purpose of accompanying the transmittal of the aforesaid executed agreements, and also to the County Comptroller and Director of Budget & Management.