following: (1) Type of review requested, *e.g.,* new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: November 9, 2005.

Angela C. Arrington,

Leader, Information Management Case Services Team, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Institute of Education Sciences

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Title: National Assessment of Adult Literacy.

Frequency: One time.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 250.

Burden Hours: 1,000.

Abstract: As part of completion of the National Assessment of Adult Literacy 1992 work, this study is a field test of a real-world tasks study. The information gathered through this data collection effort will be used to ensure that the assessment reflects a suitable and appropriate range of authentic materials and tasks.

Requests for copies of the information collection submission for OMB review may be accessed from *http://edicsweb.ed.gov*, by selecting the ''Browse Pending Collections'' link and by clicking on link number 2822. When you access the information collection, click on ''Download Attachments'' to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202–4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address *OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov* or faxed to 202–245–6623. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Katrina Ingalls at her e-mail address *Katrina.Ingalls@ed.gov*. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.

[FR Doc. 05–22734 Filed 11–15–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Publication of State Plan Pursuant to the Help America Vote Act

AGENCY: Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to sections 254(a)(11)(A) and 255(b) of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), Public Law 107–252, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) hereby causes to be published in the **Federal Register** material changes to the HAVA State plan previously submitted by Michigan.

DATES: This notice is effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bryan Whitener, Telephone 202–566–3100 or 1–866–747–1471 (toll-free).

Submit Comments: Any comments regarding the plan published herewith should be made in writing to the election official of the individual State at the address listed below.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 24, 2004, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission published in the **Federal Register** the original HAVA State plans filed by the fifty States, the District of Columbia and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. 69 FR 14002. HAVA anticipated that States, Territories and the District of Columbia would change or update their plans from time to time pursuant to HAVA section 254(a)(11) through (13). HAVA sections 254(a)(11)(A) and 255 require EAC to publish such updates.

The current submission from Michigan amends the budget of the previous State plan to explain how the State will utilize approximately $18.3 million in FY 2004 requirements payments, which were not included in the original plan, and to reallocate funds among the election administration programs presented in the original plan. The amendment also clarifies the State's intention to add or to develop new capabilities to improve its statewide voter registration system, provisional ballots, voter education and election training programs, and other applications to improve the administration of Federal elections. In accordance with HAVA section 254(a)(12), the submission also provides information on how the State succeeded in carrying out the previous State plan.

Upon the expiration of thirty days from November 16, 2005, Michigan will be eligible to implement the material changes addressed in the plan that is published herein, in accordance with HAVA section 254(a)(11)(C). At that time, in accordance with HAVA section 253(d), Michigan may file a statement of certification to obtain the balance of its fiscal year 2004 requirements payment allocation. This statement of certification must confirm that the State is in compliance with all of the requirements referred to in HAVA section 253(b) and must be provided to the Election Assistance Commission in order for the State to receive a requirements payment under HAVA Title II, Subtitle D.

EAC notes that the plan published herein has already met the notice and comment requirements of HAVA section 256, as required by HAVA section 254(a)(11)(B). EAC wishes to acknowledge the effort that went into revising the State plan and encourages further public comment, in writing, to the State election official listed below.

State Election Official

Michigan

Rayan Anastor, Michigan Bureau of Elections, 430 W. Allegan St., 1st Floor, Lansing, MI 48918, Phone: 517–373–2540, Fax: 517–241–2784, E-mail: *elections@michigan.gov*.

Thank you for your interest in improving the voting process in America.

Dated: November 9, 2005.

Gracia M. Hillman,

Chair, Election Assistance Commission.

BILLING CODE 6820–KF–P

HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT

STATE OF MICHIGAN
TERRI LYNN LAND, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

November 2, 2005

Ms. Gracia Hillman, Chair
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
1225 New York Ave, NW - Ste 1100
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Hillman:

In accordance with section 255 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), I am pleased to file Michigan's Revised HAVA State Plan with the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) for publication in the *Federal Register*. Michigan's Revised State Plan is comprised of material revisions contained within Elements 1, 3, 6 and 12. All additional Elements contain either non-material changes or no changes.

After consultation with the EAC staff, the State of Michigan has elected not to include the non-material change and the no change elements for publication in the *Federal Register* as they were deemed unnecessary under HAVA. Instead, we direct the EAC and members of the public to the Michigan Department of State's website (www.michigan.gov/hava) to view the complete amended Michigan State Plan.

As required by section 254(a)(12) of HAVA, Element 12, as amended, describes the material changes to the Michigan State Plan filed in 2003, and notes the progress the State of Michigan has made in regards to the Michigan State Plan filed with the Federal Election Commission on December 19, 2003.

The 2005 Amendments to Michigan's State Plan were developed in accordance with section 255 of HAVA and the requirements for public notice and comment prescribed by section 256 of HAVA.

On behalf of Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, I thank the Commission for its assistance. I look forward to our continued collaboration to fully implement HAVA.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Thomas
Director of Elections

pc: Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land

BUREAU OF ELECTRONS
TREASURY BUILDING • 1ST FLOOR • 430 W. ALLEGAN • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48918
www.Michigan.gov/sos • (517) 373-2540

Michigan's
STATE PLAN

Revised as of September 27, 2005

As required by Public Law 107-252,
HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002

TERRI LYNN LAND
Michigan Secretary of State
Lansing, Michigan 48901-0726
(517) 373-2540

September 27, 2005

STATE OF MICHIGAN
TERRI LYNN LAND, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

Dear Michigan voter:

I am pleased to present Michigan's final State Plan for implementing the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002.

HAVA requires state and local governments to upgrade elections processes and systems. Every Michigan voter and election administrator has a stake in these enhancements. The changes will ensure the integrity of our voter registration process, increase privacy and independence for voters with disabilities, improve access for military voters stationed overseas, upgrade systems that support our elections process, and provide residents with better information on how to vote.

Equally important, HAVA provides critical federal funding to help implement these improvements. Michigan is fortunate it can build upon its record of election excellence despite lean budgetary times.

To access its share of the $1.5 billion authorized by Congress, each state must develop and submit a State Plan outlining how it will comply with the requirements. The completion of Michigan's plan caps a 9-month process that began with my appointment of a 30-member advisory committee. This diverse group of dedicated residents sought extensive public input and drafted a plan that truly reflects Michigan's voice. We are grateful for their service.

HAVA is without question the most sweeping federal voting reform measure in decades. Its successful implementation demands well-trained, dedicated election administrators who fulfill their responsibilities with the utmost integrity. We are fortunate to have administrators of this caliber at all levels of Michigan's election process. State and local election officials must forge a new level of cooperation to ensure a seamless integration of these comprehensive reforms. I have no doubt we will meet this challenge.

Please take time to review Michigan's plan. You can find it on the HAVA page of the Department of State Web site at www. Michigan.gov/hava. Printed copies are also being sent to each county clerk.

I look forward to continuing to work with you as we ensure Michigan's status as a national leader in election integrity, efficiency and innovation.

Sincerely,

Terri Lynn Land
Secretary of State

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. **Title III Requirements and Other Activities** 1

III. **Voter Education, Election Official Education and Training, and Poll Worker Training** 14

VI. **Michigan's HAVA Budget** 21

XII. **Changes to State Plan from Previous Fiscal Year** 28

September 27, 2005

I. Title III Requirements and Other Activities

How the State will use the requirements payment to meet the requirements of title III, and, if applicable under section 251(b)(2), to carry out other activities to improve the administration of elections. -- HAVA §254 (a)(1)

Section 301(a): Voting System Standards Requirements

There are five different types of balloting methods employed throughout the United States to administer elections: (1) optical scan voting systems, (2) direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems, (3) punch card voting systems, (4) mechanical lever voting machines, and (5) paper ballots. Michigan employs all five types. Within the optical scan, DRE and punch card balloting method categories, there is a certain degree of variety as the equipment involved is marketed and sold under different brand names by private sector firms. Mechanical lever voting machines were similarly produced and sold by a number of different manufacturers throughout the years.

By the mid-1990s, the unprecedented acceleration in the development and introduction of new voting systems in the State had created a series of issues that required a legislative response. Most critically, Michigan election law needed updating to ensure the comprehensive and meaningful evaluation of the technology built into the systems. In answer, PA 583 of 1996, an amendment to Michigan election law was enacted to:

- Stipulate all new voting systems used in Michigan be approved by an independent testing authority (ITA) to ensure the system's conformance with all federal voting system standards.
- Require vendors seeking approval of *a new voting system* to file a $1,500 application fee. Require vendors seeking approval of *a voting system upgrade* to file a $500 application fee.
- Require voting system vendors to submit on an ongoing basis: (1) information on other states using the system, (2) performance evaluations produced by any state or local governmental unit, (3) copies of all standard contracts and maintenance agreements, and (4) all changes made in standard contracts and maintenance agreements.

- Direct the Board of State Canvassers to field test under "simulated election day conditions" all new voting equipment as a part of the certification process. Require the vendor to pay for the cost of the testing.
- Require all governmental units to notify the Secretary of State within thirty (30) days before purchasing a new voting system. Require the Secretary of State to forward to any governmental unit providing such notification all information concerning the operation of the voting system in Michigan or any other state.
- Grant the Board of State Canvassers the authority to "decertify" voting systems.

As noted in the Introduction, Michigan's cities and townships are currently in the process of migrating from mechanical voting machines, paper ballots and punch card voting systems that use "central count" tabulation technology and are moving toward optical scan voting systems that use "precinct based" tabulation technology.

Jurisdictions of all sizes are participating in the migration from Michigan's largest cities (e.g., City of Detroit, Wayne County: 606,900 registered voters) to Michigan's smallest townships (e.g., Warner Township, Antrim County: 225 registered voters). Since the 1998 election cycle, cities and townships containing *over 1.5 million Michigan voters* have replaced their voting machines, paper ballots and punch card voting systems with updated optical scan voting technology.

Despite the fact that many cities and townships in the State have been quick to embrace the new voting equipment technology marketed in Michigan over the last 12 years, a sizable number of jurisdictions continue to use outdated equipment to administer elections.

As recently as the November 5, 2002 general election, lever style voting machines were used in 445 of Michigan's 5,305 precincts (8.4%); paper ballots were used in 98 precincts (1.8%); and "central count" punch card systems were used in 866 precincts (16%). The resulting "technology gap" has created significant disparities in the measures implemented at the precinct level to protect voters from spoiling their ballots and losing votes.

To address the emergent "technology gap" and associated concerns noted in the Introduction, the Michigan Legislature adopted legislation in 2002 – calling for the implementation of a statewide, uniform voting system (PA 91 of 2002).

The legislation directs the Secretary of State to convene an "advisory committee" for the purpose of selecting a "uniform voting system" for the State if and when funds are appropriated for selecting, acquiring and implementing a statewide, uniform voting system. It further directs the Secretary of State to proceed with the implementation of a statewide, uniform voting system after the selection of the voting system best suited for the State's needs.

The use of the funds available under the Help America Vote Act and how to proceed with the implementation of a statewide, uniform voting system was a primary topic discussed by the members of the Secretary of State's State Plan Advisory Committee. The committee's activities included the following:

- On April 17, 2003 the Secretary of State hosted a "Voting Equipment Technology Fair" in Lansing. It provided the public, members of the State Plan Advisory Committee, media and all interested parties with the opportunity to view the most recent voting technology developed by manufacturers throughout the country.
- The requirements of Public Act 91 of 2002 were reviewed and discussed.
- Optical scan, punch card and direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems were demonstrated by local clerks who employ the systems.
- Presentations on the relative advantages and disadvantages of optical scan, punch card, and direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems under recount conditions were offered.
- Public testimony on the implementation of a statewide, uniform voting system was accepted.

On June 20, 2003, the Secretary of State convened the State Plan Advisory Committee and obtained the members' agreement to also serve on a special advisory committee. The special advisory committee, a requirement under PA 91 of 2002, provided input on the selection of a statewide, uniform voting system. After receiving the committee's input, the Secretary of State announced on August 4, 2003, that optical scan voting equipment using "precinct based" tabulation technology had been selected for the implementation of Michigan's statewide, uniform voting system.

The implementation of PA 91 of 2002 in conjunction with the federal funding Michigan is eligible to receive provides the State with an excellent framework for ensuring timely compliance with Section 301 of the Help America Vote Act including all accessibility requirements. The following actions are planned:

- **Assessment of the voting system procurement options.**
- **Creation of a project management framework to guide the implementation of the statewide voting system and a successful transition to the system.**
- **Procurement of needed equipment and services pursuant to Michigan's procurement laws.**
- **Delivery of the equipment to the affected jurisdictions.**
- **Development and implementation of appropriate training programs.**

In addition to the voting system requirements, Section 301(a) of the Help America Vote Act requires states to define what constitutes a legal vote for each type of voting system used.

Michigan is fully compliant with this requirement at the present time as both Michigan election law and the rules promulgated to administer electronic voting systems clearly address what is and what is not a valid vote in specific terms.

Section 302: Provisional Voting and Voting Information Requirements

The Help America Vote Act provides a "provisional" balloting process to ensure that no individual who goes to the polls to vote is turned away without having the opportunity to obtain a ballot.

Prior to the passage of the Help America Vote Act, the Michigan Legislature addressed this issue through the enactment of PA 441 of 1994, an amendment to Michigan election law that established an "affidavit" balloting process for all elections conducted in the State.

The following compares and contrasts the "affidavit" balloting process currently established in Michigan and the "provisional" balloting process provided under the Help America Vote Act:

Current Procedure ("Affidavit" Balloting Process): In an instance where (1) a voter who appears in the polls to vote cannot be found on the precinct's Qualified Voter File list, *and* (2) the voter is unable to demonstrate his or her registration status by producing a validated voter registration receipt, the voter can obtain a ballot if he or she:

(1) signs an "Affidavit of Voter Registration" affirming that he or she submitted a voter registration application through a Secretary of State branch office, a designated voter registration agency, the county clerk or the mail on or before the "close of registration" for the election at hand;

(2) provides identification to confirm his or her identity and residence within the jurisdiction and precinct where he or she has offered to vote; and

(3) completes and submits a new voter registration application.

Such voters are issued a paper, punch card or optical scan ballot. The election inspectors write the number appearing on the voter's ballot in pencil on the back of the ballot. If a punch card ballot is used, the election inspector writes the ballot number on the secrecy envelope. After writing the ballot number on the ballot, the election inspector conceals the number with tape and/or a slip of paper as directed by the election official administering the election.

After the ballot has been prepared in the above manner, the elector votes the ballot in a voting station. The ballot is then counted under routine procedure. The "Affidavit of Voter Registration" completed by the voter is forwarded to the

local clerk's office immediately after the election. Upon the receipt of the form, the clerk enters the voter in the Qualified Voter File system.

It merits emphasis that in all cases, the votes cast on a ballot issued under the above procedure are counted. If an interested party wishes to dispute the qualifications of a voter who cast a ballot under the above procedure, he or she must seek redress through the courts. (If the retrieval of the ballot is ordered by the courts, the ballot number concealed on the ballot is used to identify the ballot.) Unless a court order is obtained, a ballot cast under the above procedure cannot be retrieved for inspection or invalidated for any reason. It merits further note that if a recount is conducted, a ballot cast under the above procedure is recounted under the same procedures employed to recount any other ballots cast in the precinct. The fact that the ballot was cast under the above procedure is *not* a matter that can be questioned or disputed under the recount proceedings.

Requirements Provided Under the Help America Vote Act ("Provisional" Balloting Process): In an instance where (1) a voter who appears in the polls to vote cannot be found on the precinct's registration list, *and* (2) the voter is unable to demonstrate his or her registration status by producing a validated voter registration receipt, the voter can obtain a ballot if he or she:

(1) asserts that he or she is a "registered voter in the jurisdiction"; and

(2) executes a "written affirmation" attesting that he or she is a "registered voter in the jurisdiction" and is eligible to vote in the election.

Such voters are issued a paper, punch card or optical scan ballot. The voter then votes the ballot in a voting station. After the voter returns the ballot, it is secured in an envelope for later disposition. Here, it merits observation that a voter who executes the above referenced "written affirmation" is eligible to receive and vote a "provisional" ballot *even in an instance where the election official administering the election "asserts that the individual is not eligible to vote."*

After the polls close, any ballots issued and voted under the above procedure are forwarded to the local election official for verification. If the election official determines the individual is eligible to vote, the ballot is counted. On the other hand, if the election official determines that the individual is *not* eligible to vote, the ballot is *not* counted.

The Help America Vote Act stipulates that in any instance where voters are permitted to vote after the close of the polls pursuant to a court order or other

order, the voters must cast "provisional" ballots. "Provisional" ballots cast in such instances must be kept separate from any other "provisional" ballots cast at the election.

The Help America Vote Act further stipulates that the State must establish "a free access system" which permits any individual who casts a provisional ballot to discover whether his or her ballot was counted and, if the ballot was not counted, the reason why the ballot was invalidated.

The Help America Vote Act provides that at the time an individual casts a "provisional" ballot, the election inspectors must give the individual written instructions for accessing the above referenced information system.

As the "provisional" balloting process provided under the Help America Vote Act differs in some respects from the current "affidavit" balloting process established in Michigan, it is Michigan's intent to modify its current law and processes as necessary. Through these modifications, the State will ensure full compliance with the "provisional" balloting process provided under the Help America Vote Act, establish the required "free access system" and arrange for the distribution of instructions for obtaining information through the "free access system." The following actions are planned:

- **Development of new capabilities to improve the provisional ballots.**
- **Development of revisions to Michigan election law to authorize "provisional" balloting for all public elections. The "provisional" balloting process will supplement the current "affidavit" balloting process.**
- **Implementation of revised procedures to allow for the issuance of a "provisional" ballot in instances where the "affidavit" balloting procedure cannot be employed.**
- **Establishment of a "free access system" that any individual who casts a "provisional" ballot can use to discover whether his or her ballot was counted and, if the ballot was not counted, the reason why the ballot was invalidated.**
- **Development and implementation of a program to track and compile data on the "provisional" balloting process.**

In addition to the "provisional" balloting process, Section 302 of the Help America Vote Act stipulates that the information listed below must be posted in the polls whenever a federal election is conducted:

- A sample ballot.
- The date of the election and the hours the polls will remain open.
- Voting instructions.
- Instructions on voting a "provisional" ballot.
- The identification requirements that apply to voters who register to vote by mail.
- General information on voting rights including information on the right of an individual to cast a "provisional" ballot and instructions on how to contact the appropriate officials regarding alleged voting rights violations.
- General information on the laws that prohibit fraud and misrepresentation.

Michigan currently provides informational posters for display in the polls on Election Day. The Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections intends to modify the information provided on these posters as necessary to ensure compliance with the Help America Vote Act. The posters will be redesigned to prominently list pertinent information and clearly state "what every voter should know."

Section 303: Computerized Statewide Voter Registration List Requirements and Requirements for Voters Who Register by Mail

As noted in the Introduction, the Michigan Legislature adopted legislation in 1994 that required the Secretary of State to establish a statewide Qualified Voter File (QVF) system (PA 441 of 1994). Placed in operation in 1998, the QVF is a distributed database that ties Michigan's city and township clerks to a fully automated, interactive statewide voter registration file. It provides a wide variety of significant advantages including the elimination of all duplicate voter registration records in the system; the streamlining of the state's voter registration cancellation process; the elimination of registration forwarding errors; and the elimination of duplicative voter registration processing tasks.

The QVF was populated with every registered elector appearing in the Department of State's driver's license/personal identification card file and the

voter registration files held by the state's city and township clerks. Data on the voters is maintained on a UNIX-based computer located in Lansing.

The system also offers Michigan's election officials a full array of election management features including components created to assist with absent voter ballot processing; petition and candidate tracking; election planning; and election inspector tracking. The election management components, designed in consultation with a special task force of county and local election officials, have introduced a new level of convenience to the administration of elections in Michigan. The election management components have also standardized many of the election-related forms and procedures used throughout the State. Proper and consistent application of the state and federal laws that govern the voter registration process is essential given the various disenfranchisement protections provided under Michigan election law and the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

Michigan's 83 county clerks and the clerks of all local jurisdictions with a voting age population over 5,000 were provided with the hardware and software needed to establish a direct link with the QVF. Smaller cities and townships (i.e., those with a voting age population under 5,000) have either purchased the hardware and software needed for a direct link with the QVF or access the QVF through their local county clerk's office.

The QVF system comprises three primary components:

Lansing File Server: The heart of the QVF system is the file server located in Lansing, the state capital. The file server holds the voter registration database for the entire state. It also holds all system software (QVF application software and Oracle database software). The file server exchanges information with the driver file database (new registrations originating in branch offices) through a series of "server processes" (automated computer programs). The file server exchanges information with local system users through a data replication process.

To facilitate the exchange of data with the State's driver file database, every voter registration record is identified with the voter's driver license number or personal identification card number. (If the voter does not hold a driver license or personal identification card, a similar unique number is assigned to the voter's registration record.)

County/Local QVF Installations: All of Michigan's 83 counties and 236 of Michigan's largest cities and townships (voting age population over 5,000) were

provided with QVF installations at state expense. At their own expense, one hundred and forty-nine (149) additional cities and townships opted to purchase QVF systems.

Telecommunications Network: The QVF system uses the Internet as its telecommunications network. Each QVF jurisdiction was provided with an Internet account (Merit is the Internet provider) and an Internet browser that includes e-mail and web searching capabilities. The data replication process is automated and operates on a daily basis. Local QVF users may also establish an Internet connection if they wish to initiate a manual replication. Replication updates the Lansing server with new information provided by the local jurisdiction and updates the local jurisdiction with new information provided by the file server (usually branch office transactions). An average replication takes 10 to 15 minutes.

The Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections maintains a Help Desk to assist the county and local clerks throughout the State with any questions they have regarding the operation of the QVF. The Help Desk offers assistance in the following areas:

Replications: The replication process involves the transfer of data between the QVF server in Lansing and the remote QVF installations throughout the State. If there is a problem with the replication process, it generally stems from a user error, an equipment failure or a network failure. The Help Desk is able to trace such problems, find the source and offer corrective measures.

Equipment Problems: The Help Desk troubleshoots all equipment-related problems. In some cases, a contract vendor is sent to the site. In other cases, the Help Desk staff members pick up the equipment for in-house problem solving.

Training: The Help Desk provides training and on-site consultations to QVF users throughout the State. The Help Desk is also responsible for updating all user guides and training materials.

Software Support: The Help Desk offers QVF users advice and instruction on using the QVF software and documents requests for QVF software enhancements. The majority of all inquiries received by the Help Desk involve questions over the operation and functions of the QVF software.

While Michigan's Qualified Voter File system is in substantial compliance with the Help America Vote Act's requirements for a centrally administered

statewide voter registration system, the following actions are planned to enhance the performance of the system:

- **Exploration of the potential for electronically exchanging data with Michigan's Family Independence Agency.**
- **Exploration of the potential for providing Michigan's smaller jurisdictions with additional methods of electronically accessing the QVF system.**
- **Exploration of new technology to expand the street index functionality for the QVF system (I.e. – GIS Mapping Technology).**
- **Use digitized signatures in the QVF database which are already on the department's driver's license file.**
- **Development of a process that permits the QVF system to electronically remove voters who have not responded to notices pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act. (The review of the action by clerks will continue to be a requirement.)**
- **Development of new capabilities that permit the QVF system to store the last four digits of a voter's Social Security Number.**
- **Development of revisions to Michigan election law to provide for any additional processes needed to electronically verify new registrants who register to vote by mail.**
- **Establishment of an agreement with the Commissioner of Social Security to provide for the verification of voter identification information.**
- **Development of new capabilities to improve the computerized statewide voter registration system.**

Section 303 of the Help America Vote Act further addresses the identification of voters who register to vote by mail and the contents of mail-in voter registration application forms as indicated below:

- Stipulates that an individual who (1) submits a mail-in voter registration form, *and* (2) has never participated in a federal election conducted in the state must provide an identification document with the mail-in voter registration form. Provides that if the applicant does not submit an acceptable identification document with the mail-in voter registration form,

he or she must produce identification *the first time* he or she attends the polls to participate in a federal election. It further provides that if such a voter wishes to cast an absentee ballot, he or she must submit an acceptable identification document when returning the absentee ballot.

- Provides that if a voter subject to the above identification requirements does not produce or submit an acceptable identification document, he or she may cast a "provisional" ballot in the polls or a "provisional" absentee ballot as desired.
- Provides that the above voter identification requirements are waived if (1) the voter registration applicant enters his or her driver license number or the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number on the mail-in voter registration form, and (2) the state or local election official has a program in place which permits the identification of the voter through the comparison of the entered number against another "State identification record" which bears the same number and the voter registration applicant's name and date of birth.
- Directs the Secretary of State to include the following two questions on the mail-in voter registration application form with "yes" and "no" checkoff boxes: (1) "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?" and (2) "Will you be 18 years of age on or before Election Day?" It further directs the Secretary of State to include the following statement on the form: "If you checked 'no' in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form."
- Stipulates that if a voter registration applicant fails to answer the citizenship question on the mail-in voter registration application form, the registrar must notify the applicant and provide him or her with an opportunity to complete the form no later than the voter registration deadline for the next federal election.

The following actions are planned to ensure compliance with the requirements associated with the identification of voters who register to vote by mail:

- **Implementation of the identification requirements imposed on individuals who (1) submit a mail-in voter registration form, and (2) have never participated in a federal election conducted in Michigan.**

- **Establishment of procedures that permit a voter who is subject to the identification requirements to obtain a "provisional" ballot if the voter is unable to produce or submit an acceptable identification document.**
- **Modification of Michigan's Mail-In Voter Registration Application form as necessary.**
- **Development and implementation of a process that provides individuals who (1) submit a mail-in voter registration, and (2) fail to respond to the citizenship question with an opportunity to complete the form no later than the voter registration deadline established for the next federal election.**

Section 251(b)(2): Other Activities

Michigan intends to use requirements payments to fund other activities to improve the administration of elections, including, but not limited to the following:

- **Development of applications to improve the administration of federal elections.**
- **Establishment of a polling place accessibility program to ensure that all polling places in Michigan are and continue to be compliant with all applicable state and federal laws.**
- **Extension of necessary assistance to persons with limited proficiency in the English language as required by the Voting Rights Act.**
- **Implementation of a variety of voter education and outreach activities including public service announcements and voting equipment demonstrations.**
- **Development of election official and poll worker training initiatives.**

III. Voter Education, Election Official Education and Training, and Poll Worker Training

How the State will provide for programs for voter education, election official education and training, and poll worker training which will assist the State in meeting the requirements of Title III. -- HAVA §254 (a) (3)

Voter Education

As voter turnouts continue to dwindle, voter education has become an increasingly important component of the elections process. At the present time, the majority of voter education efforts in Michigan for statewide and federal elections are coordinated through the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections and the offices of Michigan's city and township clerks. The voter education initiatives currently in place include the following:

Citizens Guide to Voting Systems: Internet-based instructional system where voters can learn what type of voting equipment is used in their jurisdiction of residence and how it operates. The site utilizes video clips, slides, audio and printed text.

Electronic Voter Guide: Internet-based informational guide established for November general elections where voters can learn about the political parties, state level candidates and statewide ballot proposals on the ballot. Candidates and political parties are invited to post statements on the site. Candidates are also extended the opportunity to post a photograph on the site.

Voter Information Center: Internet-based informational site where voters can preview their ballot for November general elections, confirm their registration status, obtain information on the location of their polling place (including a map), link to candidate websites and obtain other election-related information.

Both the Citizens Guide to Voting Systems and the Electronic Voter Guide are linked to the Voter Information Center. The Voter Information Center, in tandem with the Citizens Guide to Voting Systems and Electronic Voter Guide, provides Michigan voters with the most comprehensive on-line election information available in the nation.

Voter Education (continued)

Secretary of State Web site: Provides dates for upcoming state and local elections, general information on the registration process, a mail-in voter registration form that can be printed for immediate use, information on obtaining an absent voter ballot and other general information on registering and participating in elections.

Local Web sites: Many counties and local jurisdictions have established Web sites that provide information on registering to vote and participating in elections.

Published Notices: All cities and townships publish a notice to announce each upcoming voter registration deadline and a notice to announce each upcoming election. As Michigan has 1,514 cities and townships, this results in the publication of over 3,000 election-related notices prior to each August primary and 3,000 additional notices prior to each November general election.

Voter Instruction Placards: Prior to each August primary and each November general election, the Secretary of State produces and distributes over 10,000 voter instruction placards for display in the polling places located throughout the state.

Ballot Proposal Information: When a statewide proposal is presented on Michigan's August primary ballot or November general election ballot, the Secretary of State produces and distributes over 10,000 informational posters on the proposals for display in the polling places. The information is also distributed to all newspapers, television stations and radio stations in the state. Information on the proposals is also distributed through the 173 Secretary of State branch offices operated and managed by the Michigan Department of State.

Assistance in the Polls: Michigan election law stipulates that all election workers appointed to serve in the polls must ask each voter if he or she would like to receive instruction on voting the ballot. To assist with the instruction, "demonstration models" are placed in each polling place. Comprehensive voting instructions are also printed on each ballot.

Voter ID Cards: Michigan's local clerks issue "Voter ID Cards" to all registrants which list their voting districts, their polling place location and a contact office for additional information.

Absent Voter Ballot Application Distribution Lists: Many local clerks maintain lists of regular absentee voters that are used to mass mail absent voter ballot application forms prior to elections.

Registration Reminder Cards: The Secretary of State sends all Michigan citizens a birthday greeting when they reach age 18 with a reminder that they are now eligible to register and vote. The postcard directs the newly eligible voter to the mail-in voter registration application form provided on the Secretary of State's Web site.

University/College E-mails: The Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan, the Association of Independent College and Universities of Michigan and the Michigan Community College Association, sends a specially developed e-mail message to all university and college students to provide them with pertinent registration and voting information.

Public Service Announcements (PSAs): The Secretary of State regularly develops PSAs on registering and voting for distribution to all media outlets in the State.

Informational Brochures: The Secretary of State prints and distributes a voter information brochure prior to every election cycle that provides concise information on registering to vote, obtaining absent voter ballots and voting in the polls.

Michigan recognizes the need to enhance its voter education programs to better inform voters and promote participation in the electoral process. In addition to the maintenance of the voter education programs detailed above, Michigan will pursue the following initiatives:

- **Development of new capabilities to improve the voter education programs.**
- **Establish a Voter Education and Outreach Fund. The fund will be used to support public and private sector programs designed to educate voters and promote electoral participation.**
- **Double the current efforts made to ensure that all voter outreach materials produced through the Department reflect and meet the needs of Michigan's diverse voting populations.**

- **Develop educational outreach initiatives designed to instruct voters on the operation of the voting equipment selected for the implementation of Michigan's uniform voting system.**
- **Coordinate voter education efforts with nonpartisan community organizations and advocacy groups committed to voter education including groups that provide services to individuals with disabilities.**
- **Encourage local jurisdictions to partner with nonpartisan community organizations and advocacy groups committed to voter education to promote voter registration and participation. Facilitate such efforts through the development and dissemination of voter outreach materials.**
- **Improve and increase public service announcements and informational materials.**
- **Expand and improve upon the use the Internet-based Voter Information Center and the voter instruction posters provided for display in the polls.**

Election Official Education

Trained, professional election officials are essential to the administration of efficient and secure elections. At the present time, the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections administers a variety of mandated and discretionary training programs. These programs are designed to familiarize the State's county clerks, city clerks, and township clerks with the laws and processes that govern Michigan's elections system. Current election official training programs administered through the Bureau of Elections include the following:

Election Officials Accreditation Program: Michigan election law, MCL 168.31(j), directs the Secretary of State to establish a curriculum for comprehensive training and accreditation of all county, city, and township election officials. Participation is mandatory. To date, over 3,700 county clerks, local clerks and election assistants appointed on the county and local level have attended the accreditation program.

County Clerk Training: Michigan election law, MCL 168.33(1), directs the State Elections Director to "...conduct training schools throughout this state preceding the general November election, and preceding such other elections as the director considers advisable, for county clerks and their representatives with

respect to the conducting of elections in accordance with the election laws...." The training programs are routinely conducted every two years in advance of the November general election.

County Board of Canvasser Training: Conducted in conjunction with required County Clerk Training programs.

City/Township Clerk Training: Conducted on a regional basis prior to the August primary. All city clerks and township clerks are encouraged to attend.

New Clerk Training: Michigan election law, MCL 168.31(k), directs the Secretary of State to "Establish and require attendance by all new appointed or elected election officials at an initial course of instruction within 6 months before the date of the election." New Clerk Training is offered to new clerks on a regional basis. Participation is mandatory.

Michigan recognizes the need to enhance its training programs to better ensure that all election officials possess the training, tools and resources critical to the successful administration of elections. In addition to the maintenance of the programs detailed above, Michigan will pursue the following initiatives:

- **Development of new capabilities to improve the election training programs.**
- **Improve training and accreditation materials to promote the retention of the information.**
- **Research and implement new and innovative training delivery methods such as interactive web-based training and video teleconferencing.**
- **Develop "training partnerships" with the various clerk associations established in the State, state universities and community colleges.**
- **Establish an advisory group to review and evaluate the training programs and materials developed to train election officials.**
- **Contract with training consultants to enhance the skills of the trainers.**
- **Develop educational programs designed to instruct election officials on the operation of the voting equipment selected for the implementation of Michigan's statewide, uniform voting system.**

Poll Worker Training

Trained poll workers who have a full understanding of the laws and procedures that govern the administration of the polls on Election Day are critical to the successful conduct of elections. In view of this need, Michigan election law, MCL 168.683, directs the State's county clerks to provide the poll workers appointed in their respective counties with the training needed to perform their duties. MCL 168.683 further extends to a city or township, having a population of 10,000 or more, the option of conducting its own poll worker training if desired.

To ensure the quality of the training programs and the consistency of the instruction, Michigan election law, MCL 168.33(2), directs the State Elections Director to "... train all county, city and township clerks who are involved in the training of precinct inspectors ...." MCL 168.33(3) further directs the State Elections Director to conduct all poll worker training in counties where the county clerk has not been accredited to conduct the training programs.

The Bureau of Elections also provides a various materials and training aids to augment the materials developed at the county and local level. The training materials and aids available through the Bureau include the following:

- ***Training Outline*** – A general training outline developed for use by trainers conducting instructional programs for poll workers.
- ***Election Inspectors' Procedure Manual*** – A 24-page quick reference guide to the laws that govern the operation of polling places. Developed for use as a training aid and as a reference tool on Election Day.
- ***Training Video on the Management of Polling Places*** – Used to motivate poll workers and reinforce instruction on the state laws that govern the operation of polling places.
- ***Training Video on Accommodating the Needs of Voters Who Are Disabled*** – Used to heighten poll worker sensitivity to the needs of disabled voters.
- ***Video Exam*** – A self-administered test developed for use with the training video. Used to focus attention on the points of emphasis in the video.
- ***Technical Sheets*** – Step-by-step instructions on the operation of the various

voting systems employed in Michigan to administer elections. Developed for use as a training aid and as a reference tool on Election Day. Used by trainers to instruct poll workers on the proper administration of the voting system they will use in the polls.

- ***Voting Equipment Q & A Exercises*** – Used by trainers to reinforce instruction on the operation of the voting equipment used by the jurisdiction involved.
- ***Model Overheads*** – Suggested overheads developed for use by trainers conducting instructional programs for poll workers. Used by trainers to instruct poll workers on the proper completion of the various forms and documents which must be completed in the polls on Election Day.

Michigan recognizes the need to continually improve the training programs for poll workers to promote the efficient operation of the polls and the effective administration of the laws that govern the voting process. In addition to the poll worker training programs and services detailed above, Michigan will pursue the following initiatives:

- **Development of new capabilities to improve the election training programs.**
- **Improve the content of the "train the trainer" programs offered county, city and township clerks.**
- **Update and expand the materials provided county, city and township clerks to assist with the instruction of poll workers.**
- **Develop and produce an updated poll worker training video.**
- **Contract with training consultants to enhance the skills of the trainers.**

VI. Michigan's HAVA Budget

The State's proposed budget for activities under this part, based on the State's best estimates of the costs of such activities and the amount of funds to be made available, including specific information on—

(A) the costs of the activities required to be carried out to meet the requirements of Title III;

(B) the portion of the requirements payment which will be used to carry out activities to meet such requirements; and

(C) the portion of the requirements payment, which will be used to carry out other activities. -- HAVA §254(a)(6)

Title I Funds: Election Administration and the Replacement of Voting Equipment

Title I of the Help America Vote Act authorizes the General Services Administration (GSA) to administer $650 million in payments to (1) implement election administration improvements, and (2) replace punch card voting systems and lever voting machines.

Election Administration Improvements ($325 Million): States are guaranteed a minimum payment of $5 million. The remaining funds are allocated according to the state's voting age population. Michigan is eligible for approximately $9.9 million. (This $9.9 million is detailed in the Overall HAVA Compliance Budget chart on page 35.) In addition to the maintenance of the program above, Michigan will pursue the following initiatives:

- Implement Election Administration technology enhancements.
- Purchasing software to improve the administration of federal elections.
- Purchasing voting systems.

Election Maintenance: A portion of the allocated Election Administration Improvement funds will be utilized in the following initiatives:

- Establishing maintenance funds to support Title III requirements.

Replacement of Punch Card Voting Systems and Lever Voting Machines ($325 Million): The funds must be used to replace the State's punch card voting systems and lever voting machines in advance of the November 2, 2004 general election. An extension through the first federal election conducted after January 1, 2006, can be requested for good cause.

Each State is eligible to receive up to $4,000 for each "qualifying precinct." A "qualifying precinct" is a precinct that used a punch card voting system or lever voting machines to administer the November 7, 2000 general election.

Michigan is eligible for approximately $6.8 million. If the total claimed exceeds the $325 million appropriation, the payments will be proportionately reduced.

Titles II and III: Election Assistance "Requirements Payments"

The Election Assistance Commission is required to make election assistance "requirements payments" to qualifying States. Under this section, the Appropriations bill authorized payments of $1.4 billion for FY 2003, $1 billion for FY 2004 and $600 million for FY 2005. However, only $830 million was actually appropriated and made available for spending for FY 2003. The funds "authorized" for each fiscal year must be appropriated under separate action before the funds are available to the States.

The funds are allocated according to the State's voting age population with a guaranteed minimum payment equal to ½ of 1% of the total appropriation for each year. Michigan is eligible for approximately $28 million this fiscal year.

Future Funding Assumptions

The remaining federal funds available to Michigan through FY 2005 are calculated by multiplying the total available amount of federal funding in that year by 3.3%. These portions require a 5% State match for all funds spent in each fiscal year. However, the State may draw down funds each fiscal year without providing the match if the State's election plan accounts for the future expenditure of the matching funds.

The following table outlines the assumptions regarding federal funding that Michigan used in creating its budget.

Federal Fiscal Year	Total Federal Funds Authorized [1]	Total Federal Funds Appropriated [2]	Michigan's Share
Early Payments	$650 million	$650 million (appropriated)	
Section 101			$6.8 million
Section 102			$9.9 million
2003	$1.4 billion	$830 million (appropriated)	$28,257,000 million
2004	$1 billion	$1.5 billion (appropriated)	$50,704,000 million
2005	$600 million	Pending	Pending
Total	**$3.65 billion**		**$95,661,000 million**

[1] "Authorized funds" represent the amount Congress recommended for the implementation of the Help America Vote Act when the Act was adopted.

[2] "Appropriated funds" represent the amount Congress has actually made available to the States for the implementation of the Help America Vote Act.

Projected Budget

Michigan's projected budget, based on the funding assumptions detailed above, represents the cost of implementing the requirements of Title I and Title III of the Help America Vote Act. The budget will be revised as appropriate to reflect the most current information available on federal funding, and any changes that may be made in the implementation schedule.

OVERALL HAVA COMPLIANCE BUDGET - 2003

HAVA Requirements	Estimated Total Cost	Source of Funding			Implementation Period
Title III Requirements		§102	Title II	State 5% Match	
(§301) Voting System	$55 million	$6.8 million	$45.45 million	$2.75 million	FY 2004 to FY 2006
(§302) Provisional Voting and voting information requirements	$500,000		$475,000	$25,000	FY 2004 to FY 2006
(§303) Computerized statewide voter registration list requirements and requirements for voters who register by mail	$5 million		$4.75 million	$250,000	FY 2004 to FY 2006
"Other" Activities					
Programming software, ballot production licensing, service contracts and polling place accessibility supplements to HHS grants	$5 million		$4.75 million	$250,000	FY 2004 to FY 2006
(§254 (3)) Voter education, election official education and training, and poll worker training which will assist the state in meeting the requirements of Title III	$5 million		$4.75 million	$250,000	FY 2004 to FY 2006
(§402) Establish a State-based HAVA administrative complaint procedure to remedy grievances	$500,000		$475,000	$25,000	

OVERALL HAVA COMPLIANCE BUDGET – 2005-2008

HAVA Requirements	Estimated Total Cost	Source of Funding				Implementation Period
Title III Requirements		Title I Section 101	Title I Section 102	Title II	State 5% Match	
(§101) Implement Election Administration technology enhancements.	$7,800,000	$7,800,000				
(§301) Voting System.	$57,100,000	$2,100,000	$6,800,000	$45,790,000	$2,410,000	FY 2004 to FY 2006
(§302) Provisional Voting and voting information requirements.	$26,316			$25,000	$1,316	FY 2004 to FY 2006
(§303) Computerized statewide voter registration list requirements and requirements for voters who register by mail.	$22,700,000			$21,565,000	$1,135,000	FY 2004 to FY 2006
"Other" Activities						
(§251 (b)(2)) Programming software, ballot production licensing, service contracts and polling place accessibility supplements to HHS grants.	$6,330,000			$6,014,000	$316,316	FY 2004 to FY 2006
(§254 (3)) Voter education, election official education and training, and poll worker training which will assist the state in meeting the requirements of Title III.	$5,850,000			$5,557,000	$292,632	FY 2004 to FY 2006
(§402) Establish a State-based HAVA administrative complaint procedure to remedy grievances.	$11,000			$10,000	$1,000	
Totals	**$ 99,817,000**	**$9,900,000**	**$6,800,000**	**$78,961,000**	**$4,156,000**	

*Interest earned on HAVA funds will be used to fund HAVA activities.

XII. Changes to State Plan from Previous Fiscal Year

In the case of a State with a State plan in effect under this subtitle during the previous fiscal year, a description of how the plan reflects changes from the State Plan for the previous fiscal year and of how the State succeeded in carrying out the State Plan for such previous fiscal year. -- HAVA §254(a)(12)

The FY 2003 Plan is Michigan's initial plan under the Help America Vote Act. This section will be updated in the FY 2004 Plan to reflect the changes made in the Plan as well as a summary of the 2003 successes.

HAVA State Plan FY 2005 Changes

The FY 2004 Plan has been updated in this FY 2005 Plan. The following reflects the changes made in the Plan as well as a summary of the 2003 and 2004 successes. Changes in the Plan consist of the following:

- The addition of $18.9 million in Title II funds and the appropriated amount to complete the full state match to the HAVA State Plan as noted in the overall HAVA Compliance Budget chart.
- Detailed documentation pertaining to the Title I, Section 101 HAVA funding.

Summary of the 2003 and 2004 Successes

The State of Michigan has been working diligently to implement the needed HAVA updates. Below are the HAVA successes in FY 2003 and FY 2004.

Voting Equipment:

The State of Michigan issued and Invitation to Bid (ITB) to provide precinct based Optical Scan Voting Equipment for all cities and townships in Michigan. As a result of the ITB process, three vendors were certified to sell optical scan systems in the state. Each county chose one of the three vendors to provide optical scan systems for every jurisdiction in the county.

To date, the State has purchased optical scan voting systems to replace punch card systems, lever machines, central count optical scan systems, DRE systems

and paper ballots in approximately 1,025 cities and townships across the state. Many of the systems have already been used in at least one election. The State has also purchased updated optical scan systems for most jurisdictions that had purchased and used optical scan systems prior to the November 2000 Presidential Election.

The following are HAVA Voting Equipment Projects underway:

- *Accessible Voting Equipment*
  Provide accessible and HAVA compliant voting systems for every polling location in the state. An Invitation to Bid will be issued in October of 2005.

- *Voting Equipment Reimbursement*
  Reimburse jurisdictions that purchased new optical scan voting systems after the 2000 Presidential Election. This project will be complete in late 2005 or early 2006.

Qualified Voter File (QVF) System Enhancements

In order to provide local election officials with tools to comply with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), the State of Michigan enhanced the QVF to automate the cancellation process. The QVF software now produces the notice to voters that fall into this category and each record is marked with the date the notice is sent. If no action is taken by the voter during the two federal election cycles, the QVF will automatically forward lists of registered voters subject to cancellation to each election official. If the voter votes during this period, the QVF will automatically remove the voter from the cancellation category.

The State of Michigan enhanced the QVF software to capture the last four digits of a registered voter's social security number when provided pursuant to HAVA. The State is finalizing its procedures to verify the voter's identity by matching the last four digits of social security number with Social Security Administration records.

The following are HAVA project in process:

- *Replacement of the QVF Server in Lansing*
  The Bureau of Elections purchased a new QVF server. DIT is currently testing its functionality. The new server is required for HAVA related initiatives to move digitized signatures from the driver file to the QVF and to

provide additional QVF access alternatives to smaller jurisdictions. The QVF server will be operational in early 2006.

- *Replacement of Local QVF Equipment*
  The Bureau of Elections drafted specifications and completed a cost analysis to replace the local equipment used by counties and larger cities and townships to access the QVF. New equipment is required to handle digitized signatures. The project plan estimates replacing this equipment during the first quarter of 2006.

- *Digitized Signature Project*
  As note above, the Bureau of Elections plans to move digitized driver license signatures to the QVF system, which will provide local election officials and Bureau of Elections staff electronic access to voter signatures. The technical specifications and work plan for this project are in progress. The actual project will begin when the new QVF server and local equipment are in place.

- *Providing Additional QVF Access Options to Smaller Jurisdictions*
  The Bureau of Elections created QVF software for any small jurisdiction with a PC with a Windows-based operating system (Windows 2000 or newer) and Internet Access to download and use. Pilot sites will test this process once the QVF server and local equipment are in place.

- *Development of a New Statewide Election Results Reporting System*
  It has long been a Bureau of Elections goal to streamline the process by which election results are reported on the nights of general elections. It has also been a long time goal to streamline and greatly reduce the time needed to collect precinct vote totals. The Bureau of Elections has begun a project to build a new computer application to accept results. Election results will be imported from software provided by the vendors of the new voting equipment. The new system is under development and an alpha version is expected to be in place and thoroughly tested prior to the August 2006 Primary Election.

- *Street Index Move from QVF Database to CGI Mapping System*
  Street and address information are constantly flowing to the State of Michigan in order to update and maintain the Qualified Voter File (QVF) street index. The QVF street index is the core of the statewide voter registration system and it maintains all official street names and their corresponding address ranges, zip codes, and election geography.

An evaluation process for maintaining and updating the QVF street index to assist with the creation of a more efficient system has been initiated to incorporate GIS technology. This would ease the maintenance of the street index and provide local election officials with mapping tools.

"Provisional" Balloting Process

Michigan election law was amended under PA 92 of 2004 to authorize "provisional" balloting for all elections.

A convenient, easy to use four-step procedure form was developed and distributed to implement the "provisional" balloting process in the polls. Additional procedures for evaluating the validity of "provisional" ballots not counted on election day were also developed and distributed.

Procedures for complying with the "free access system" requirements were developed and distributed. This system notifies voters who cast a provisional ballot off the disposition of their ballot.

Procedures for tracking and compiling data on the "provisional" balloting process were developed and distributed.

All procedures and materials were posted on the Bureau's web site for easy access by Michigan's election officials and voters.

Voter Education

- The Bureau produced and distributed a new election inspector training video; a new voter education video; and a new voting instruction video. The election inspector training video was used to instruct election inspectors throughout the state on the new requirements provided under the Help America Vote Act; the voter education video was used to inform Michigan voters on the procedures for registering and participating in elections; and the voting instruction video was used to acquaint Michigan voters with the use of optical scan voting equipment.
- The Bureau also updated and redistributed a training video designed to heighten the awareness and sensitivity of election workers to the special needs of elderly voters and voters with disabilities.
- Michigan election law was amended under PA 96 of 2004 to expand the information that must be posted in the polls on election day. The new posting requirements reflect the information which must be posted in all polling places under the Help America Vote Act. Informational posters that meet the new and expanded requirements are now distributed prior to every election scheduled in Michigan.
- The voter information which was posted in the polls was also made available in Braille and audio versions for others in need of the information in alternative formats.
- A new informational poster on the "rights and responsibilities" of Michigan voters was developed and distributed. A companion "palm card" was also produced for distribution to voters.

[FR Doc. 05–22663 Filed 11–15–05; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6820–KF–C