



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE

July 6, 2022

Hon. Madison Circuit Clerk and Election Commissioners
PO Box 1626
Canton, MS 39046

Re: Mississippi Voting Modernization Act Grant Program

Dear Honorable Madison Circuit Clerk and Election Commissioners:

Pursuant to Senate Bill 2879 (2022 Regular Session), each county will be entitled to a pro rata share of a grant program, the purpose for which will be the upgrading of voting systems to paper-based voting machines. These systems cannot utilize pre-scored punch card ballots and must produce voter-verifiable paper ballots. By January 1, 2024, any election held in this state shall only use these types of voting systems. The pro rata share for Madison County has been calculated to be \$212,436.13.

To be eligible for purchase under this grant program, any voting machine, device, precinct ballot scanner, ballot marking device or vote tabulating device must meet the above requirements and not have the capability for wireless remote connections. Please note that the requirement that voting systems not have the capability for wireless remote connections is only for fund eligibility and does not prohibit their use in elections after January 1, 2024.

If the county is already in compliance with voting systems as described above, or if there are funds remaining from the county's pro rata share after purchasing the necessary voting systems to bring the county in compliance, then the county may be eligible for other expenses such as, but not limited to: (i) encumbered debt of previously purchased voting machines; (ii) additional voting machines; (iii) machine maintenance; (iv) software upgrades; (v) additional ballot-marking devices; (vi) central scanners, (vii) ballot-on-demand printing systems, (viii) electronic poll books; (ix) paper ballots or ballot-printing supplies; and (x) costs associated with voter roll maintenance, such as printing confirmation cards and postage. If there is a balance owed for any previously purchased voting hardware or software, the county must first apply received funds under the grant program to satisfy the existing indebtedness.

A copy of the grant application is attached. Please make certain documentation associated with any purchases, and/or indebtedness is attached.

Sincerely, yours,

Kyle Kirkpatrick,
Assistant Secretary of State, Elections Division

cc: Madison County Board of Supervisors