Here is the email from State Board of Elections Exec Dir Gary Bartlett to Rep. David Lewis that I obtained through public records request. Your help in advocating for critical importance of counties having adequate infrastructure to handle the demands of the 2012 elections will be greatly appreciated. County commissioners will be stuck with more expenses if the HAVA Title II funds are not released, as well as the embarrassment and “clean-up” cost if an election foul-up happens in their jurisdiction.

Thanks,

Bob Hall
Democracy North Carolina
Direct line: 919-489-1931

From: Bartlett, Gary  
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2011 12:20 PM  
To: 'Rep. David Lewis'; Sen. Peter Brunstetter  
Cc: 'Erika Churchill (Research)'; Kara McCraw (Research); Denise Huntley Adams (Research)  
Subject: Elections

Four crucial areas in which the State can assist counties in the 2012 elections are as follows:  
1) Provide funding for training and testing of voting equipment;  
2) Provide funding for primary and general election day support;  
3) Provide funding for licenses and maintenance of voting equipment;  
4) Provide funding for additional one-stop absentee voting sites to cut down on excessive lines on election day.

All the items above can be paid for through unfreezing Title II Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and appropriating sufficient Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds. It is my understanding that approximately $670,340 is needed to meet MOE requirement to utilize the remainder of the HAVA Funds. This appropriation would allow us to expend $4 million+ HAVA funds. It seems prudent to ultimately expend all HAVA funds in FY 2011 - 2012 to improve the administration of elections.

We requested Election Systems & Software (ES&S) to provide pricing for on-site Election Day support to assist the county boards of elections in performing duties leading up to and on the 2012 primary and election days.

One of the most successful recent steps to ensure successful elections has been the use of technicians specifically trained on NC voting equipment. On Election Day these are stationed throughout the State in assigned geographic areas to provide more efficient response time to an identified equipment problem. Recent plans at the county level involve the use of rovers and has helped to avoid problems at the polling locations and makes county board of elections members available at the board office on election day to deal with emergencies. Due to budget cuts at all levels, we fear this coverage may be an election cost the counties look to cut, but it is important and has proven that having a trained technician more readily available is good common sense.
A proposed plan provides four training sessions geographically located for the primary and two training sessions for the general election for rovers (training for a Lead Rover that then trains the other rovers assigned to that area), eight technicians for the Primary and 13 technicians for the General located for maximum statewide coverage plus one ES&S representative at the State Board office.

We were shocked at the pricing for the recommended coverage. We have been advised it is standard ES&S pricing, however, I have requested they review and provide a different proposal providing significant cost savings from the original submission.

Please let me know if there is interest in pursuing or providing additional information. Thanks.