



**Olene S. Walker**  
Lieutenant Governor

**Amy Naccarato**  
Director

# State of Utah

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
ELECTIONS DIVISION

115 State Capitol  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114  
(801) 538-1041  
(801) 538-1133 FAX  
[www.elections.utah.gov](http://www.elections.utah.gov)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

May 8, 2003

Contact: Amy Naccarato (801) 538-1041  
Katie Foutz (801) 538-1494

### **UTAH RECEIVES \$5,000,000 FOR ELECTION REFORM**

Utah has received the first installment of a \$28 million grant from the federal government, allocated to the state for implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The \$5 million payment is designed to defray the initial costs of updating election equipment and practices.

“We are delighted to receive this assistance,” says Lieutenant Governor Olene S. Walker, the state’s chief elections officer. “We have spent months developing the Utah State Plan on Election Reform. The arrival of our initial payment is very rewarding, as we are beginning see those plans set into motion.”

If fully funded, and if a 5 percent match is provided, Utah will receive an additional \$23 million in federal aid to implement its plan. The initial \$5 million was granted when the state, under the recommendations of Lt. Governor Walker’s State Plan Committee on Election Reform, agreed to comply with HAVA and “opt in” on the punch card buyout, or replace current voting equipment with electronic devices. This will provide each polling place with an audio component for voters who are blind or visually impaired.

While the majority of the funds, approximately \$20.5 million, will be allocated for voting equipment, the State Plan on Election Reform addresses several areas of change, including the development of a statewide voter registration database, voter education and poll worker recruitment and training.

“We are in a good position to implement the HAVA requirements,” says Lt. Governor Walker. “This isn’t a matter of reconstructing the election process in Utah. This is about always improving, and continually planning for the future.”

The State Plan is available for public review and comment at [www.elections.utah.gov](http://www.elections.utah.gov).