



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2005

Joshua B. Bolten
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office Building
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Bolten,

We are writing to request that **\$859 million** in election reform funding be included in the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2006. It is essential that these FY06 funds be appropriated to make certain that states and local communities have the resources they need to successfully implement HAVA, especially state-wide computerized registration systems that are required to be in place in all 50 states by January 1, 2006. We urge you to lend your support to this effort.

President Bush signed HAVA into law on October 29, 2002. The Act authorized \$3.86 billion in election reform spending in fiscal years 2003 through 2005 to assist state and local efforts in updating their voting systems, streamlining voter registration processes, and providing voter education and poll worker training. So far, approximately \$3.0 billion in HAVA funds have been appropriated.

We have an obligation to every American to ensure that our Nation's election system is one that will inspire pride and confidence. This is especially important at this moment when the United States is helping to lay the foundation for democratic rule in Iraq. We will have failed in our duty, however, if we do not provide state and local governments with the resources they need to make vital improvements to our country's election infrastructure. By fully funding HAVA, we will be substantially enhancing the health of American democracy and ensuring that the United States will continue to serve as an exemplar for established and nascent democracies throughout the world.

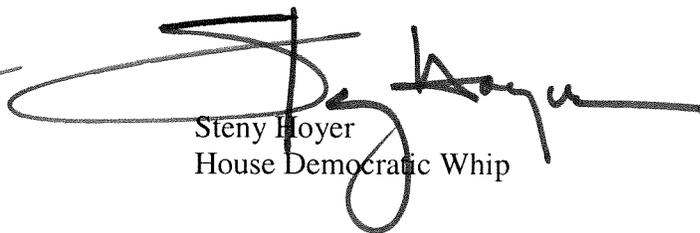
We appreciate your consideration of this important matter and look forward to discussing it further with you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Joshua B. Bolten
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Bob Ney
Chairman,
Committee on
House Administration



Steny Hoyer
House Democratic Whip