



Resolution No. 2020 – 314

Date Adopted

Committee

October 7, 2020

Administrative

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE CENTER FOR TECH AND CIVIC LIFE FOR FUNDING THE COVID-19 ELECTION RESPONSE GRANTS

WHEREAS, the Governor of New Jersey issued Executive Order No. 103 on March 9, 2020 declaring a Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency in response to the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, further actions by the Governor of New Jersey and the COVID-19 Task Force have resulted in the reduction of funding to certain programs throughout the State in order to re-allocate those resources towards the Public Health Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk of Salem County has received notice from the NJ Division of Elections that the Center for Tech and Civic Life will provide grants to local election jurisdictions to assist with Election costs and ensure that every eligible Salem County voter can safely participate on November 3, 2020 and have their vote counted;

WHEREAS, the Board supports this grant application.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Salem that:

1. The project funding application as outlined and on file with the Salem County Board of Election is supported and approved.
2. The Salem County Election Board office, the project contact person from the Administrative Department, as well as any other necessary parties, are hereby authorized and directed to execute all grant requirements and documentation filings as directed by the Center for Tech and Civic Life.
3. Two fully executed copies of this resolution shall be provided to the Salem County Board of Elections office forthwith.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. H. Laury", written over a horizontal line.

Benjamin H. Laury - Freeholder Director
Chair, Administrative Committee

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Salem on October 7, 2020.


STACY L. PENNINGTON
Clerk of the Board

RECORD OF VOTE

FREEHOLDER	RESOLUTION MOVED	RESOLUTION SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
G. Ostrum, Jr.		✓	✓			
C. Hassler			✓			
L. Ware			✓			
R.S. Griscom	✓		✓			
B. Laury			✓			

✓ Indicates Vote

Department Initials _____



Salem County Board of Elections

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Shannon Berger
Registrar of Elections
Extension 8329

Jeanmaire Waddington
Registrar of Elections
Extension 8330

William Higgins
Chair
Scott Hourigan
Secretary of
Commissioners

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Salem County (NJ) Board of Election's office regarding the Center for Tech and Civic Life COVID-19 Response Grants. Our office is responsible for receiving, counting, and tabulating all votes in a safe and timely manner, all of which has been adversely affected by the still-lingering coronavirus. Because of COVID-19, our Governor issued Executive Order #177, which has doubled our originally anticipated Election costs and stretched our resources.

The Election Board office employs four (4) staff members full-time for Elections and due to the sheer volume of the Primary Election Vote by Mail ballots alone, we incurred overtime and the hiring of additional temporary staff in order to meet the required State deadlines. The General Election promises to push the VBM ballot distribution to extraordinary levels, thus stressing our resources once again.

Enclosed you will find the necessary paperwork required under the Grant guidelines. Should you require any additional information, please reach out to our County Board Registrar, Shannon Berger, who's contact information is listed above. Ben Laury, our current Freeholder Director and liaison to the County Clerk's office, has been made aware of this submission and supports our efforts during these unprecedented times.

In addition to the included supporting documentation, a resolution will need to be adopted to capture that we applied for Grant funding and hopefully, an additional resolution upon the acceptance of said funds.

We applaud your efforts in support of the ultimate democratic process, and we appreciate both the opportunity and your consideration in this matter.

Regards,


Shannon Berger
Salem County Election Registrar


Benjamin H. Laury
Salem County Freeholder Director