

# CITY OF CONCORD

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*In the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty*

**RESOLUTION** AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO CERTIFY THE CITY OF CONCORD'S QUALIFIED EXPENSES FOR CARRYING OUT THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 STATE PRIMARY AND UPCOMING NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION TO APPLY FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF THOSE EXPENSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CARES ACT FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR ELECTIONS

*The City of Concord resolves as follows:*

**WHEREAS,** On May 28, 2020, the City Council authorized the City Manager to apply for and accept services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds by way of gift, grant, or loan due to the City's COVID-19 emergency management/response. Funding sources included, but were not limited to: the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR), the Homeland Security & Emergency Management Department of Justice, and, any other COVID-19 emergency response sources of funding; and

**WHEREAS,** The CARES Act provided \$400 million to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to allocate to states, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories "to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, for the 2020 Federal election cycle." The CARES Act provided the funds to EAC under Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) which authorizes EAC to provide funds to states to "improve the administration of federal elections." The EAC followed the requirements of Section 101 of the HAVA and allocated a portion the funds to the State of New Hampshire to address issues arising from the pandemic during the primary election in September 2020 and the general election in November 2020; and

**WHEREAS,** The State of New Hampshire has received approval from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) for the use of a Statewide Standard Cost Rate. Under the Statewide Standard Cost Rate, cities, towns and unincorporated places will be reimbursed a fixed rate for each absentee ballot mailed and/or processed for both the primary election in September and the general election in November in excess of the total number of ballots processed during the primary and general elections in 2016. This rate will be based upon time studies determined by the Secretary of State. Each city, town and unincorporated place will be allowed to claim funds up to a maximum based upon its proportionate share of the funds as defined by its relative share of the ballots cast in 2016; and

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Page 2 of 2

**WHEREAS,** On August 10, 2020, the New Hampshire Secretary of State announced the Notice of Grant Opportunity for funding through the federal CARES Act for the state primary and general elections. This grant program provides 3 million dollars of CARES Act funding for the upcoming elections to New Hampshire's cities, towns and unincorporated places. The grant allocates to each city, town and unincorporated place a maximum amount that is proportional to that town or city's share of the total votes cast in the 2016 primary and general election. Federal law and regulation requires extensive agreements and documentation to receive a sub-grant of federal funds; and

**WHEREAS,** On September 1, 2020, the City of Concord submitted its CARES Act application to BerryDunn.com, the entity accepting applications on behalf of the New Hampshire Secretary of State, for reimbursement for qualified expenses from the September 8, 2020 state primary election and the upcoming November 3, 2020 general election.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Concord that:***

1. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to certify the City of Concord's qualified expenses for carrying out the September 8, 2020 state primary election and the upcoming November 3, 2020 general election to apply for reimbursement of those expenses in accordance with the Cares Act funding available for elections; and
2. This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage.