



Bipartisan Policy Center **Action**

March 20, 2026

Senate and House Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee Leadership:

Chair Bill Hagerty (R-TN)

Ranking Member Jack Reed (D-RI)

Chair David Joyce (R-OH)

Ranking Member Steny Hoyer (D-MD)

Dear Chairmen Hagerty and Joyce and Ranking Members Reed and Hoyer:

The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) and its advocacy affiliate, BPC Action, work together with leaders from both parties on solutions to lower the everyday cost of living and create more opportunities for Americans. On behalf of BPC and BPC Action, I am pleased to share our priority for the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations subcommittees for fiscal year 2027:

- **\$400M for Election Security Grants** to stabilize staffing, support training, and relieve operational stressors ahead of the 2026 midterms and 2028 presidential election.

Election Security Grants are vital for protecting democratic processes and ensuring the security of our elections. Please find attached additional support for this recommendation, as well as BPC's considerations for fiscal responsibility.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rachel Timmons, Manager for BPC Action, at rtimmons@bpcaction.org.

Sincerely,

Michele Stockwell

President, Bipartisan Policy Center Action

**FY2027 Appropriations Priorities:
Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Subcommittees**

Rapidly rising debt and interest payments are slowing growth and making it more expensive for Americans to buy cars and homes, attend college, or pay off credit cards. To achieve fiscal sustainability, BPC recommends that Congress enact legislation to reduce the growth of mandatory program spending and increase federal revenue. For FY2027, at minimum, Congress should ensure that discretionary spending grows no faster than inflation. At the same time, BPC believes it is achievable to prudently invest in agencies and programs that expand opportunities for American families and businesses.

With these principles in mind, BPC Action respectfully recommends including \$400 million for Election Security Grants in FY2027. Despite being designated as critical infrastructure, federal investment in elections is irregular, unpredictable, and insufficient.

Since 2018, Congress has provided just over \$1 billion in Election Security Grants, constituting one-fifth of all federal election administration funding to date. As our [December 2024 report with the U.S. Election Assistance Commission found](#), states have spent more than \$638 million of these funds, with over 98% of the remaining funds already budgeted for planned improvements. These funds have largely supported voting equipment and cybersecurity improvements, including replacing aging tabulators, upgrading voter registration systems, implementing multifactor authentication, and expanding post-election audits. These expenditures are critical to keep elections secure, accessible, and trustworthy.

Despite these gains, federal funding covers only a small fraction of the overall cost of running elections nationwide, and election officials consistently report that unpredictable funding cycles make long-term planning difficult. Voting systems purchased with early Help America Vote Act funds are now at or approaching the end of their service life, making federal investment crucial to protecting election security in future elections. Moreover, with [election offices facing record levels of turnover](#), federal investment is essential to stabilize staffing, support training, and relieve operational stressors ahead of the 2026 midterms and 2028 presidential election.

