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**ASSEMBLY
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE**



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August 20, 2004

Assemblymember Wilma Chan
Chair, Joint Legislative Audit Committee
State Capitol, Room 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Chan:

On August 5, 2003 the California Secretary of State's Office submitted a Section 28.00 request to the Department of Finance for \$84,469,000 to implement the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) for fiscal year 2003-04. Recent news articles detail disturbing and questionable use of these funds, including the hiring of a partisan political consultant whose apparent job was to boost voter turnout in at least one Democratic Assembly district.

Given these questionable uses of HAVA funding, it is essential that the Legislature thoroughly review specific program requests by the Secretary of State's Office to maintain the integrity of the election process, especially since there are only ten weeks until the next statewide election. I am requesting that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee convene as soon as possible to examine the Secretary of State's 2003-04 budget request and verify that all components of HAVA grants were implemented within the spirit and the letter of the law.

In addition, I have requested a special hearing of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee during the week of September 6th to examine forthcoming HAVA requests and determine what additional actions may be necessary.

Sincerely,

DAVE COX
Assemblymember, 5th District

Cc: Assemblymembers Dymally, Jackson, Keene, Kehoe, La Malfa, & Mountjoy;
Senators Alarcon, Florez, McClintock, Morrow, Murray, Poochigian & Speier

ATTACHMENT: August 20, 2004 Letter to Joint Legislative Budget Committee