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**JOHN H. MERRILL**  
SECRETARY OF STATE

June 30, 2020

The Honorable Gentry Lee  
Chairman, Russell County Commission  
Post Office Box 969  
Phenix City, Alabama 36868

Dear Chairman Lee:

The Alabama Secretary of State's Office received your county's application for Election Expenses Funding Related to COVID-19. We are grateful for the President and Congress in setting aside this important funding for Alabama to prepare for and respond to election activities, involving a federal election, during the 2020 election cycle. In total, Alabama has \$7,798,408 in available funding to pay for expenses for both the July 14 Primary Runoff and the November 3 General Election.

Of the total amount of available funding, and for all counties, we subtracted the Absentee Election Manager compensation for the period of March 4 – May 19, as well as the Supplemental \$25.00 Poll Worker Pay for both the Primary Runoff Election and General Election, which left a little over \$6,000,000 in funding for COVID-19 election expenses for both elections.

In our review of all the counties' applications, we applied reasonableness in approving or disapproving respective county funding requests. Furthermore, we looked at each county's 2019 U.S. Census population data and the most current inactive and active combined voter statistics for each county all in an effort to provide a methodology to assist with making the decisions. However, it is important to point out that reasonableness was the most important component we used to make the final conclusions.

Therefore, upon review of your application for COVID-19 election expenses funding, as well as your county's certification that all applicable purchasing requirements were followed, your county is awarded \$40,040.36 in COVID-19 election expenses funding. Along with the check, we have attached your application which clearly indicates what was approved and what was not. You are instructed to only expend this award on the items listed in your application which denote "Approved." Conversely, you are disallowed from expending any of the award on items listed in the application which are denoted "Denied" or not listed at all.

As a reminder, the funds being awarded are federal funds which must be spent according to the approved application submitted to our office and are subject to state and federal audit. The Secretary of State's Office will be reporting to the United States Election Assistance Commission how the funding was allocated and expended in Alabama. Furthermore, on July 8, we will provide a webpage, on the Secretary of State's website, indicating each county's respective application and the total amount awarded to be completely transparent to the public regarding this federal funding assistance.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact my Chief of Staff, David Brewer, at [david.brewer@sos.alabama.gov](mailto:david.brewer@sos.alabama.gov) or (334) 242-7207.

Thank you for all you do for your county and the State of Alabama. You are appreciated!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John H. Merrill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John H. Merrill  
Secretary of State

Enclosures