

## The Need to Update Iowa's Voter Registration Database

*First-in-the-Nation in voting DEMANDS First-in-the-Nation security*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The Request:** A multi-year commitment to replace Iowa's outdated voter registration database and election management system, IVoters, paid for through the Technology Reinvestment Fund. The total needed investment is \$7,350,000 million.

**The Necessity:** The system was built in 2005 and was not designed for today's technological challenges, including cybersecurity. **First in the Nation in voting DEMANDS First-in-the-Nation security**. The Secretary of State's Office partners with OCIO, DHS, and multiple agencies across the state and country to ensure election cybersecurity. SOS I.T. staff is constantly vigilant in monitoring and protecting the system, but technological advancements are needed to ensure the integrity of our elections systems.

**Other challenges:** Updating the current system for changes in Iowa law is extremely costly. Adding the Libertarian Party as an official political party in 2017 cost \$150,000. Adding 17-year-olds to the voter registration database this year costs another \$150,000. Online voter registration, increased absentee voting and Election Day registration are just a few of the significant changes in Iowa's elections since IVoters was put in place 14 years ago. The system simply was not built for our evolving election methods. It has become more expensive to maintain the current system than it would be to replace it. The most cost-efficient solution is to replace the system over a multi-year period.

**The Cost: \$7,350,000 million.** An initial down payment of \$1 million was made in FY 2019 and Governor Reynolds is recommending \$2.1 million each year for FY 2020-2022. This will allow us to maintain the IVoters system and make the necessary upgrades to get us through the 2020 elections, and then move forward with replacing the system in the coming years. In the long run, it will be much more cost-efficient to replace the system than to keep adding band aids to it.

**Overwhelming Support from County Auditors:** The Iowa Secretary of State's Office conducted a survey of county auditors across the state, and 92% responded in favor of replacing the current I-Voters system.

