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Chairman Faber, Ranking Member Patterson and distinguished members of the finance subcommittee on state government and agency review:

I am Gary Lee, a Union County commissioner since 2003. I served as president of CCAO in 2013 and I am a 15-year veteran of the Union County board of elections prior to my election as commissioner. During my year as president I worked with the Ohio Association of Election Officials [OAE] to establish a joint committee on the administration of elections. We were pleased to have Sec. of State Jon Husted join us to begin conversations on election issues.

After several productive meetings, we agreed that the replacement of our aging election equipment was our number one priority!

Our first mission was to find a way to fund the electronic poll books. Through the efforts of the State Legislature, Sec. Husted, and our committee, we forged a partnership (85% state and 15% county) to purchase the electronic poll books at a cost of \$12 million. It also allowed flexibility to those counties that had already stepped up and previously purchased the poll books. We are most grateful to Chairman Faber for his leadership in that funding effort!

After that was accomplished, all of us turned our attention to the replacement of aging election equipment and the 2020 Presidential election. After many meetings and hours of work and discussion with the legislature, administration, and particularly OBM and DAS, we developed a plan. First, DAS is working on getting vendors to develop state term pricing on needed election equipment, so we all have a good idea of what the cost will be. While we are still waiting for those figures to be released at this time now, we know that after they are released the Secretary plans to issue a directive instructing the Boards of Elections to work with their Commissioners to develop a statement of intent as to what the county would like to purchase. Those figures will be returned to the SOS three weeks after the directive is issued. This effort will give all of us a handle on the statewide cost.

We fully realize that this is a multi-year effort to get ALL counties up-graded. Our preference is to start to seed the program in this year's operating budget. We understand the Administration is interested in capital dollars, perhaps in next year's capital budget bill. We appreciate a partnership—maybe a blend of dollars—as capital dollars can help with purchasing going forward and operating dollars could help with reimbursement, just like the electronic poll book program, as well as for counties looking to lease equipment.

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We hope that the Finance Committee appreciates the fact that we all understand that state dollars are extremely tight, but that we must begin this joint effort with this current budget that you are now considering.

Once again thank you Chairman Faber for your leadership and concern about aging election equipment.

I would be glad to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you all for the time you have given me to address this important issue.