



# Reinstate federal funds to support early voting

More flexible language is needed to allow American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to support early voting in general, rather than using them solely during an election conducted during the pandemic as the baseline.

## Amendments

- **HB 29:** [Item 486 #1h](#) (Carr)
- **SB 30:** [Item 77 #1s](#) (Deeds)

## Background

The 2021 Appropriations Act directed that federal funds from ARPA would be used to “support local efforts to expand early voting to include the adoption of Sunday voting.” This language has been interpreted to award funds based on expansions to early voting beyond what was offered in November 2020.

## What these amendments would accomplish

- The House amendment (Item 486#1h) would reverse the proposed action in the introduced budget to revert these dollars.
- The Senate amendment (Item 77#1s) would direct the Department of Elections to expend the funds by December 31, 2024.

## Key points

- These amendments would ensure that \$2.9 million in federal funding from ARPA appropriated in 2021 to support early voting will be spent for that purpose.
- The recent expansion of early voting opportunities has been largely funded by local dollars. This federal funding will provide important assistance in supporting early voting.

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