



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1650

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Provide Digital Democracy Project—Civic Engagement Platform allowing voters to cast ballots on county initiatives right on their phones (mobile voting app) & track initiatives online. Working in Marion, Monroe & Orange Counties (pilot communities): 1) Develop an off-the-shelf digital technology platform suitable for all counties, like we currently provide for all Florida registered voters on State Legislation. 2) Conduct outreach to enroll 10,000 registered voters in the 3 pilot communities.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	250,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	250,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Various grant requests have been filed with nonprofit foundations to fill any shortcoming in state funding.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	PROJECT DIRECTOR—Nonprofit's executive director serves as PROJECT CTO (Chief Technology Officer) for platform development & PROJECT MANAGER for enrollment outreach.	50,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other	For all but online outreach—i.e., OUTREACH in neighborhoods, at conferences/county meetings, to organizations & by mail: SUPPLIES—Educational materials: postcards, t-shirts, enrollment tablets & wireless service for each. TRAVEL—Outreach Coordinator travels to Marion & Monroe Counties to train (locally-hired) Outreach Team Members, plus local, Orange County expenses.	38,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	CONSULTANTS—PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT TEAM: APP developer, APP interface developer (software engineer), UX/UI & website designer, initiatives coordinators (summarizing/processing initiatives into the app). CONSULTANTS—ENROLLMENT OUTREACH TEAM: outreach coordinator & outreach team members. // CONTRACTED SERVICES—CRM, Mobile app license, online SM outreach & direct mail delivery.	162,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		250,000



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14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

In 18 months, we stood up the Digital Democracy Project civic engagement platform—allowing registered Florida voters to cast ballots on State legislation on their phones & anyone to track voters wishes/legislators’ votes online. Voters & officials have clamored for this service on the local level. Working in 3 pilot counties, we will adapt DDP to make it suitable for all counties in 2024.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Collaborating with the 3 pilot counties' officials, organizations & voters: 1) DEVELOPMENT TEAM will adapt, test & modify (per voter/county feedback) the Digital Democracy Project civic engagement platform to suit county initiatives; 2) OUTREACH TEAM will conduct enrollment outreach in neighborhoods, at conferences/county meetings, w/ organizations, online & by mail to maximize voter involvement.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

All registered Florida voters will be able to cast ballots on county initiatives with the Digital Democracy Project civic engagement platform, just like they can do now on Florida State legislation: Voters cast ballots on phones (mobile voting app) and anyone can track voters' ballots & legislators' floor votes online (digitaldemocracyproject.org).

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

All registered Florida voters, with specific 2024 focus on Marion, Monroe & Orange County voters. In these three, pilot counties, we will serve 10,000 (or more) voters.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

Increased civic engagement & better constituent representation. As voters enroll in the Digital Democracy Project app, becoming more INFORMED on state & local issues and ENGAGING on these issues, the overall effect of this increased voter civic engagement is that voters better understand their government and believe it represents them. Additionally, legislators & local officeholders will better understand the wishes of & better represent their constituents. 2024 Outcomes measured by: 1) Product development—all-counties-ready, off-the-shelf civic engagement platform. 2) Enrollment—10,000 voters enrolled in the pilot project—Marion, Monroe & Orange Counties. 3) Better constituent representation—Increases in officeholders' poll creations, requests for information, public endorsements, letters of support, and accountability scores.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

Failure to produce off-the-shelf technology platform for Florida counties' initiatives by year's end disqualifies organization for project funding in 2025.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type



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- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number