NASS
National Association of Secretaries of State

NASS Resolution on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Financial Assistance after a Disaster

Adopted February 2006
Reaffirmed February 14, 2011

WHEREAS, In September 2005 the gulf south region of America suffered devastating losses as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and;

WHEREAS, other geographic areas have in the past and will suffer in the future from devastating disasters whether by act of God or man, that will debilitate the election process, and;

WHEREAS, the Secretaries of State and other local election officials in the affected areas will bear substantial additional costs to restore polling places, voting equipment, and other necessary items which will enable them to resume conducting elections, and;

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) and the chief state election officials in 39 states, agree that accurate, accessible, and accountable elections are the centerpieces of our democracy, and;

WHEREAS, the state and local governments in the affected areas have and will suffer tremendous losses of revenue and have to shoulder additional expenses in the clean up and rehabilitation of their respected areas, and;

WHEREAS, FEMA reports that they have no statutory authority to pay for any of these extraordinary expenses, and;

WHEREAS, FEMA has provided assistance and financial aid for extraordinary expenses to state and local election officials for conducting elections during past disasters.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NASS hereby urges and requests the President and Congress of the United States of America to direct FEMA to deem extraordinary expenditures related to the election process as eligible for payment under the Stafford Act and to work with other federal agencies to expediently take appropriate steps to assist those Secretaries of State and local election officials in the areas affected by disaster..

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