American Voting Experience: Voter Registration Modernization

Presidential Commission on Election Administration
Ben Ginsburg & Bob Bauer Co-Chairs
States with Online Voter Registration

Including states with legislation passed in 2015 but have not implemented yet
CHALLENGE #1:
IT ISN’T SECURE AND WILL BE RIFE WITH FRAUD/
THERE ISN’T VOTER PRIVACY
Online VR & The Identity Theft Concern

• Traditional voter registration has voters handing over personal information (name, DOB, SSN, Signature, etc.) to *COMPLETE STRANGERS ON THE STREET*.

• Online VR is a secure interface with & between official state agencies:
  – The application being submitted isn’t floating around some stranger’s car/house/campaign office.
  – It ensures that the voter is registered in a timely manner and the voter doesn’t have to worry about copies being made.
  – Voter received immediate confirmation of registration status.
Security

• In the twelve (12) years Arizona has used the online voter registration system there have been **ZERO (0)** cases of registration fraud or successful cyber attacks on the system.

• **NO state has had a security breech of their online voter registration system.**
For the first few years the data was not tracked to distinguish between transactions in the DMV office and those coming online.
CHALLENGE #2:
IT COSTS TOO MUCH, IT’S NOT WORTH IT
Costs

• In 2002 less than $100,000 was invested in implementation:
  – Purchases: Servers & Licenses
  – Staffing & Labor

• It costs approximately $125,000 a year to maintain:
  – Developers for maintenance & enhancements
  – Mainframe fees
  – Licenses
Savings

- The savings realized by using online voter registration fall into 3 categories:
  - Cost to process a registration form
  - Printing and materials costs
  - Tangential savings with shifts in staff & resources
Impact of Online Voter Registration

- Online registration saves tax dollars as the voter is keying their own information, eliminating hours of overtime in large election cycles.

- **Standard VR = $0.83 vs. Online VR = $0.03**

- In the 4 year period of 2008-2012 YTD, MCED had 1,721,246 forms sent via the online system at a processing cost savings of almost **$1.4 million**.
Impact of Online Voter Registration

From implementation through 2011, printing costs for voter registration forms were reduced by 83%--we went from ordering forms twice yearly pre-implementation at an average cost of $81,000 per year to ordering twice in the entire 8 year period post-implementation and the yearly average of only $14,226. (One as a result of citizenship documentation requirement passage so savings would have been even greater.)
CHALLENGE #3:
NO ONE WILL USE IT, IT WON’T BE WORTH IT.
The County Numbers
(Does anyone use it?)
Impact of Online Voter Registration

• **Some key points:**

• In the first year the number of registrations coming from MVD almost doubled from **47,234** in **2002** to **97,576** in **2003**.

• For the first Presidential Election after its implementation the number more than **doubled** again to **224,299** online registrations in 2004.

• In 2008 we received **462,904** online registration forms which is almost **28 times** the number of forms received from MVD in the year preceding the launch of online registration (16,831 in 2001).

• The 2012 election we didn’t see the same volume: **425,871**.
2008-2014 Registration Sources: OVR

Voter Registration in Maricopa County
2008-2014 Registration Sources: Online

In a Presidential Election Year, not having to process this volume of paper forms is critical
Access

• It is important to remember that no one has advocated for online to replace the paper option entirely, but rather to augment it.
• Online access continues to grow.
• In December of 2013 home broadband access reached 70%:

74% of whites and 62% of African Americans and roughly half of Hispanics (56%) have high-speed internet access at home, according to the data collected this past September.
Access

• 87% of Americans use the internet.
• 68% connect through their phones.
• With the onset of smart-technology more voters are now connected to the internet than ever before with connectivity through their phones & tablets.
• More people are connected to the internet than ever before and view it as an integral part of their daily lives:
  • 53% Internet hard to give up
  • 49% Cell phone hard to give up
  • 35% TV hard to give up
  • 28% Landline hard to give up
Not only do voters use it, but the quality improves:

- Voters are keying their own information so it is accurate.
- Systems are created to make sure that all required fields are completed prior to submission.
- Voters are able to also go in and correct records submitted previously on paper that may be inaccurate.
- Because voters get on the rolls more quickly it maintains integrity of the system:
  - Ballots are not mailed out to the wrong address
  - Registers and rosters are more likely to right at the polls on Election Day
  - Provisional ballots are reduced
Although online registrations make up the greater % of applications, they comprise a smaller portion suspended records:
CHALLENGE #5:

THE WRONG VOTERS WILL USE IT:

✓ THE OTHER SIDE WILL HAVE A NEW ADVANTAGE
✓ THERE WILL BE A FLOOD OF NEW VOTERS ON THE OTHER SIDE
✓ ONLY YOUNG VOTERS WILL USE IT AND THEY ARE ALL THE OTHER PARTY
Who Uses the Online System?
Political Party Analysis of Voters Who Used the System in 2008 & 2010
Online Users = Existing Voter Profile

• None of the states with OVR have seen a shift in their voter composition based on implementation of OVR (in more than a dozen years & in more than 2 dozen states)

• All states have seen the demographic profile of voters using OVR as a reflection of who is already registered:
  – Party affiliations
  – Gender
  – Age
Methodology Narrative

• In 2010 all voters who utilized the online registration system to initiate their registration were reviewed with regard to the decade of their date of birth and their political party affiliation.

• This captured those voters still active, those on an inactive status, as well as those who have since cancelled their registration.

• OTH refers to any affiliation which is not one of the 3 recognized parties (Dem, Rep, Lbt)
**NEW** Online Registrations by Voter Age Group in Maricopa County, AZ

OVR is used mainly to keep registration information current, but some do use it to register for the first time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Registrations</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>120372</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>181979</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>136397</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>100699</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>71594</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>40482</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84</td>
<td>15557</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-94</td>
<td>4864</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94+</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 18-24: 18%
- 25-34: 27%
- 35-44: 20%
- 45-54: 15%
- 55-64: 11%
- 65-74: 6%
- 75-84: 2%
- 85-94: 1%
- 94+: 0%
DEM New vs. Mod

Except for young voters
REP New vs. Mod

Except for young voters
Except for young voters
Colorado Voter Registration Statistics

Colorado Registrations by Party as of 4.1.14

- Republicans: 1,095,465 (30%)
- Democrats: 1,110,975 (30%)
- Unaffiliated: 1,300,912 (36%)
- Other: 32,211 (2%)

Online Registration Statistics by Party 2010-14

- Republican: 377,157 (29%)
- Democratic: 506,824 (40%)
- Unaffiliated: 365,547 (29%)
- Other: 133,000 (4%)
Colorado Voter Registration Statistics

Overall Registration by Sex

- Female: 1,722,625 (49%)
- Male: 1,828,224 (51%)

Online Voter Registration by Sex

- Female: 633,292 (49%)
- Male: 646,569 (51%)

Female
Male
The Nevada website requires a security certificate approval prior to reaching the website.
Online Voter Registration

Welcome to the Nevada Secretary of State's online voter registration application. This system can be used to register to vote or update existing Nevada voter registration information with a current and valid Driver's License or Identification Card issued by the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles.

**DON'T HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED BY THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES?**
You must register in person with your county election office, or you must mail in a paper application to register or update existing voter registration information. A fillable application can be completed and printed here: NV Voter Registration Application

**ARE YOU A UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBER, THEIR FAMILY, OR OVERSEAS CITIZEN?**
If you are an eligible uniformed service member, a spouse or dependent of a uniformed-service voter, or a citizen residing outside of the United States, you will need to contact your county election office after completing your online registration to indicate your eligibility as a military/overseas voter and to request a ballot. Contact information can be found here: NV Local Election Offices

To get started, check the boxes that apply to you below.

- [ ] I will be residing in the county I am registering in at the time of the next election.
- [ ] I have a valid driver's license or identification card issued by the Nevada DMV.
- [ ] I am a citizen of the United States.
- [ ] I will be at least 18 years old on or before the next election.

Get Started
Security and privacy concerns can be addressed in discrete ways.
Use of the captcha at the beginning of the application & determination if the applicant has a SC DL
Georgia also requires the DL to use the online system.
Indiana provides the statutory language on every page.
Penalties right up front

Statewide Voter Registration System

Indiana

Online Voter Registration

Step 1 of 4: Verify Voting Eligibility and Enter DLN or State ID Information

Please verify that you are eligible to vote in the State of Indiana by answering the questions below.

WARNING: If you knowingly provide false information on a voter registration form or knowingly make a false declaration about your qualifications for voter registration, you will have committed a Class D Felony and can be fined up to $10,000, jailed for up to three years or both.

Are you a citizen of the United States?
- Yes  No

Will you be at least 18 years of age on or before the next general, municipal, or special election?
- Yes  No

Will you have lived in your precinct for at least 30 days before the next general, municipal, or special election?
- Yes  No

Are you currently in prison after being convicted of a crime?
- Yes  No

In order to register to vote online, you must possess a current and valid Indiana driver’s license or Indiana identification card for non-drivers.
Another type of captcha, further into the process.

Registration Deadline
- In order to be eligible to vote per Indiana Code 3-7-26.7 in the next election, a voter registration application must be submitted with an application submission date of no later than 29 days before the next election. The next deadline for registration is 11:59 p.m. (local time), Monday, October 6, 2014.
- If you submit your voter registration application after the deadline, you will be unable to vote in the next election unless you were previously registered in Indiana.
  - If you were previously registered in Indiana, and have changed your name or address, you may be able to vote in the next election. Please contact your county voter registration office for more detailed information about the law concerning name or address changes that would apply in your case. If you missed the deadline, your registration application (and any name or address change update) will be processed when registration reopens for the next election.
- Some military voters and their family members can register until noon on election day. Contact your county voter registration office for information if you may qualify to do so.
- For those voters who have a nontraditional residence (those who are currently homeless, mobile or live at a place where the post office does not deliver mail), list the closest intersection to where you live in the box to the left marked “Residence Address”, then list the address of a friend or shelter, within your county of residence, who is willing to receive mail for you in the box marked “Mailing Address”.

Will you have lived in your precinct for at least 30 days before the next general, municipal, or special election?

- Yes
- No

Are you currently in prison after being convicted of a crime?

- Yes
- No

In order to register to vote online, you must possess a current and valid Indiana driver's license or Indiana identification card for non-drivers.

If there appears to be an issue with the Indiana Driver's License Number or Indiana State ID Number provided, please contact the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles Call Center at 1-888-692-8841.

If you do not have either of these documents or have trouble with this website, you may still register to vote by:
- Completing a VRG-7 and mailing it to the appropriate county voter registration office or Indiana Election Division. Click here for a voter registration form that you can print out, complete, and return to an appropriate county voter registration office or Indiana Election Division.
- Registering to vote in-person at the appropriate county voter registration office
- Registering to vote in-person at the Indiana Election Division.

Please make sure to type the characters you see in the picture below. This security feature protects the State of Indiana's voter roll by ensuring a person, not an automated program, is registering to vote.

Please note the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) regularly performs system maintenance on Sundays from 4:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET). If you are unable to validate your driver's license at this time, please try again after the regular service hours.

Enter your Driver's License or State ID Number

Type the characters you see in the image below.
UOCAVA included up front
If any of the options relating to UOCAVA were selected up front the applicant sees this page, it can also be the driver that adds the FPCA Oath at the end of the submission to be fully compliant.
In Washington they just ask for the voter’s information and then determine if they are already registered or not—rather than asking the voter (since many will not know their status).
Each affirmation of eligibility triggers next question, more screens but added security from autobots.
“It is imperative that any online voter registration system be tied to an official state database such as the DMV to properly establish an applicant’s identity prior to acceptance. States that have successfully implemented online registration have designed the system so that an individual applying online must provide information such as a Driver’s License number, date of birth, social security number information, other unique personal identifying information that is matched and verified electronically against state’s DMV records. The registration and DMV databases communicate with each other and ultimately inform the registration official that the applicant provided information on the application that matches information in the DMV database. Online applications should only be an option for those that can provide such matching information. It is possible other official state databases could provide such a credential, but DMV is most ideal due to its large and relatively accurate database that requires customers prove identity and provide evidence so DMV can determine lawful presence in the U.S. Voters without a DMV or other official state credential can utilize the traditional paper and mail process.”