



Paperless Voter Registration Benefits

Paperless voter registration systems provide exciting new opportunities for improving access to voter registration among groups traditionally underrepresented in the electorate. Specifically, paperless voter registration processes can be developed economically and can seamlessly integrate and transfer existing electronic data collected at voter registration agencies and the DMV to election officials. Such systems will allow states to:

- Reach traditionally underrepresented groups in the electorate;
- Reduce costs associated with paper applications; and
- Efficiently and consistently maintain voter rolls.

Paperless Voter Registration Fast Facts

- **Paperless registration allows states to reach traditionally under-registered populations.** Low-income citizens who do not drive or do not have regular access to the Internet can register easily at voter registration agencies.
- **Paperless registration saves money and reduces errors.** According to U.S. PIRG Education Fund, in 2008, \$33 million was spent on registration implementation and error correction issues, such as administering provisional balloting, part-time and overtime pay for data-entry, correcting errors on registration forms, and mailing costs of acknowledgment cards. A streamlined system that allows for the electronic transmission of voter registration applications to election officials and to the statewide registration database reduces both data entry costs and the costs associated with clerical errors. Paperless registration in Arizona has reduced voter registration costs to three cents per application from 83 cents for paper applications. Cost savings in Arizona equal the cost of eight full-time employees!
- **Paperless registration is inexpensive to implement.** Paperless registration cost Arizona less than \$100,000, but as a result, counties saved over \$450,000 in 2008 alone, a net gain of \$350,000. Washington spent \$279,000 but will likely have recouped the costs as paperless registration yielded over \$176,000 in savings between January 2008 and July 2009 alone. Other states, such as Kansas, created paperless registration systems using in-house IT staff.
- **Paperless registration saves government agencies time and resources.** Paperless registration reduces manual data entry, which in turn reduces human error that creates additional work for government agencies and increases costs. Automated, paperless registration also reduces the number of communications between government agencies and citizens, allowing for better use of time and resources. Delaware reduced motor vehicle transaction times from 90 seconds to 30 seconds by adopting a paperless registration system.