

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

DMV USE ONLY
 DL address
 updated by FO

24002

Please Print Characters In Capital Letters Using Black or Dark Blue Ink only.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Enter the information as shown on the document, i.e. California driver license, ID card, or vehicle registration card, for which a change is being requested.
- Names not matching DMV records and/or unreadable information cannot be updated.
- Type or write your new address on a small piece of paper with your signature and date. Keep it with your driver license or ID card.

Personal Information



LAST NAME

DRIVER LICENSE/ID CARD NO.

FIRST

INITIAL

BIRTH DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)

Voter Change of Address

We will change your voting address if you have moved and still live in the same county. If you have moved to a new county or are not registered to vote, you must complete a new voter registration card. DMV provides the form or call 1-800-345-VOTE.

Use only with
 DL Change of Address



Mark this box if you do not want to change your voting address.

New or Correct Residence Address



STREET NUMBER ONLY

STREET NAME

APT. NO.

STATE

ZIP CODE

New or Correct Mailing Address

STREET NUMBER ONLY

STREET NAME

APT. NO.

STATE

ZIP CODE

If Different From
 Residence Address

Vehicle, Vessels, or Placards Owned By You

Use Additional
 Forms for Vessels

CALIFORNIA REGISTRATION NO.

POSITION, MAKE, MODEL ID OR VESSEL HULL ID NUMBER

CHECK IF
 LEASED

Leased Vehicles

LEASING COMPANY'S NAME

Location of Trailer Coach or Vessel

STREET NUMBER

STREET NAME

If Different From
 Residence Address

CITY - DO NOT ABBREVIATE - USE FIRST 16 CHARACTERS IN CITY NAME

COUNTY - DO NOT ABBREVIATE

Old Address

STREET NUMBER/NAME

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

Your mailing address may be given to requesters providing a valid reason for requesting the information. If you receive mail at your residence, then giving DMV a separate mailing address is optional. Your residence address is restricted to authorized requesters per Vehicle Code Section 1808.21. I am the person whose name appears on the record(s) above and the mailing address shown is valid, existing and accurate. I consent to receive service of process at this mailing address pursuant to 415.20(b), 415.30, and 416.90 of the Civil Procedure Code. I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

November 2016

SIGNATURE



I. INTRODUCTION

In 1993, with the passage of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA),¹ Congress took huge steps forward to expand voter registration opportunities to more Americans than ever before. The NVRA was a watershed piece of legislation that has significantly opened up opportunities to registration and the ballot box for many citizens who may not otherwise have a meaningful opportunity to register to vote.

Specifically, Section 5 of the NVRA requires states' department of motor vehicles (DMV) offices to provide voter registration to all applicants applying for, renewing, or updating a driver's license or state identification card. These services are meant to be streamlined and simple to ensure it is convenient for DMV applicants.

However, the requirements of the NVRA that essentially require an automatic update to an individual's voter registration record once they report a change of address to their state DMV are not currently being followed by many states.

This report outlines the automatic address update requirement of the NVRA, discusses the ways in which states are failing to implement this obligation, and the negative effect such deficiencies have on the ability of voters to cast a ballot which counts. In addition, this report suggests best practices for implementing automatic address updates.²

Discussion of these ongoing NVRA violations is particularly relevant in light of many new reforms to voter registration that are gaining momentum and popularity in America. These reforms seek to fulfill many of the same goals of the NVRA, and do so in a variety of ways.

For example, automatic voter registration (AVR) is "a statutory system whereby state election officials use information about individuals' voter eligibility existing within government databases to register qualified individuals to vote without the individuals themselves needing to take action."³ Another example is the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). This is a tool which was formed in 2012, with the assistance of The Pew Charitable Trusts.⁴ It is a multistate partnership that uses a data-matching tool to improve the accuracy and efficiency of voter registration systems by allowing states to compare official data on eligible voters. This data includes voter and motor vehicle registrations, U.S. Postal Service addresses, and Social Security death records.⁵

But as exciting as these newer reforms are, some of what they seek to accomplish would be achieved if the NVRA's requirements were properly implemented. While these new reforms have numerous benefits, better NVRA compliance should not be overlooked as a tool to achieve improved rates of voter registration.

2. REQUIREMENTS OF THE NVRA

Congress passed the NVRA with four key goals in mind to improve the voter registration process in America: 1) to increase the number of eligible citizens who register to vote in elections for federal office; 2) to enhance the participation of eligible citizens as voters in federal elections; 3) to protect the integrity of the electoral process; and 4) to ensure the accuracy of voter rolls.⁶

One of the ways the NVRA fulfills its intent of increasing voter registration is through Section 5, which sets forth the voter registration services that must be provided by DMVs with every application, renewal, and change of address for every driver's license or state identification card processed.

Specifically, Section 5 of the NVRA requires that these transactions must serve simultaneously as an application for voter registration⁷ and may not require any duplicative information for voter registration, with the exception of an additional signature in new and renewal applications.⁸

And, as this report focuses on, the NVRA requires that all changes of address are required to serve, simultaneously, as a notification of change of address for voter registration,⁷ unless the applicant states affirmatively on the form that the change of address is not for voter registration purposes.⁹

The voter registration requirements for changes of address vary from the other Section 5 requirements. Subsection d under Section 5 of the NVRA says:

"Any change-of-address form submitted in accordance with State law for purposes of a State motor vehicle driver's license shall serve as notification of change of address for voter registration with respect to elections for Federal office for the registrant involved unless the registrant states on the form that the change of address is not for voter registration purposes."¹⁰

Unlike the Section 5 requirements for new, initial, and renewal applications, no additional information may be required for change-of-address procedures, not even an additional signature. When an individual reports a change of address to the DMV, the DMV must send that address update to election officials unless the individual affirmatively indicates that they do not want their address update used for voter registration. Once they receive the information, election officials then use the new address information and update the voter registration records of any individual who is already registered to vote. Essentially, this means that updating voter registration records is the default when any already registered individual reports a change of address to the DMV: applicants must affirmatively opt-out of changing their address for voter registration purposes. Individuals should not be required to take any additional steps to have their existing voter registration record updated automatically.

To the extent that a state's motor vehicle offices offer online services through a web portal, the office must include the required voter registration opportunity through the online transaction as well. The United States Department of Justice (DOJ), the federal agency tasked with enforcing the NVRA, has reinforced that Section 5 of the NVRA covers all remote transactions (such as mail-in or online transactions), in addition to in-person transactions. Specifically, the DOJ guidance says "to the extent that the State provides for remote applications for driver's licenses, driver's license renewals, or driver's license changes of address, via mail, telephone, or internet or other means, then provision must be made to include the required voter registration opportunity as well."¹¹

Finally, any change-of-address notifications submitted by an individual to DMV officials must be transferred to state election officials within 10 days of acceptance (or within no more than 5 days if the change-of-address notification is submitted within 5 days of the registration deadline), who are required to update the individual's voter registration record.¹²

3. STATE NON-COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE NVRA

Almost all states have developed procedures providing residents the opportunity to change the address on their motor vehicle driver's license through a paper form and/or an online portal available through the state motor vehicle agency. To maintain compliance with Section 5 of the NVRA, these driver's license change-of-address forms or online portals must also serve as the applicant's notification of change of address for voter registration, unless the applicant states on the form that the change of address is not also for voter registration purposes.¹³

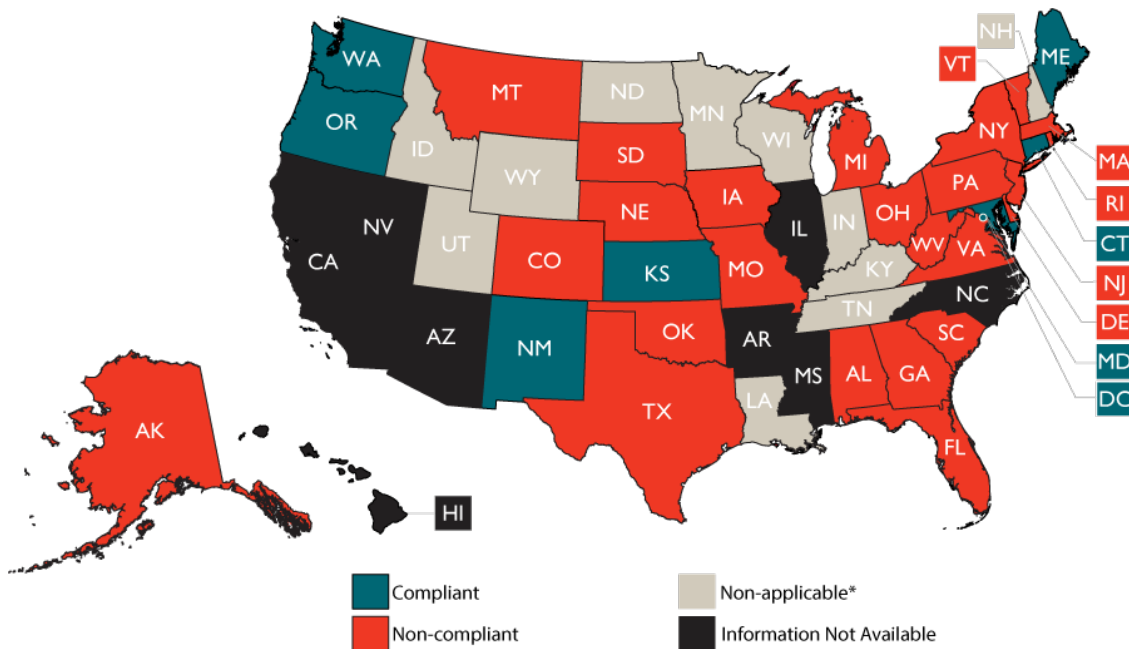
In practice, this means that the forms and online portals must provide an opt-out (for example, a check box) for an applicant to specify that the change is not also for voter registration. If the applicant does not affirmatively opt-out, the driver's license change of address must also serve as a change to the applicant's voter registration address. DMV officials in receipt of this change of address must transfer the updated address to election officials, so they can update the individual's voter file, who are required to update the individual's voter file. An example of an acceptable opt-out box, used in Washington State, is seen below:

The information on this form will also update the address on your voter registration, unless you decline:

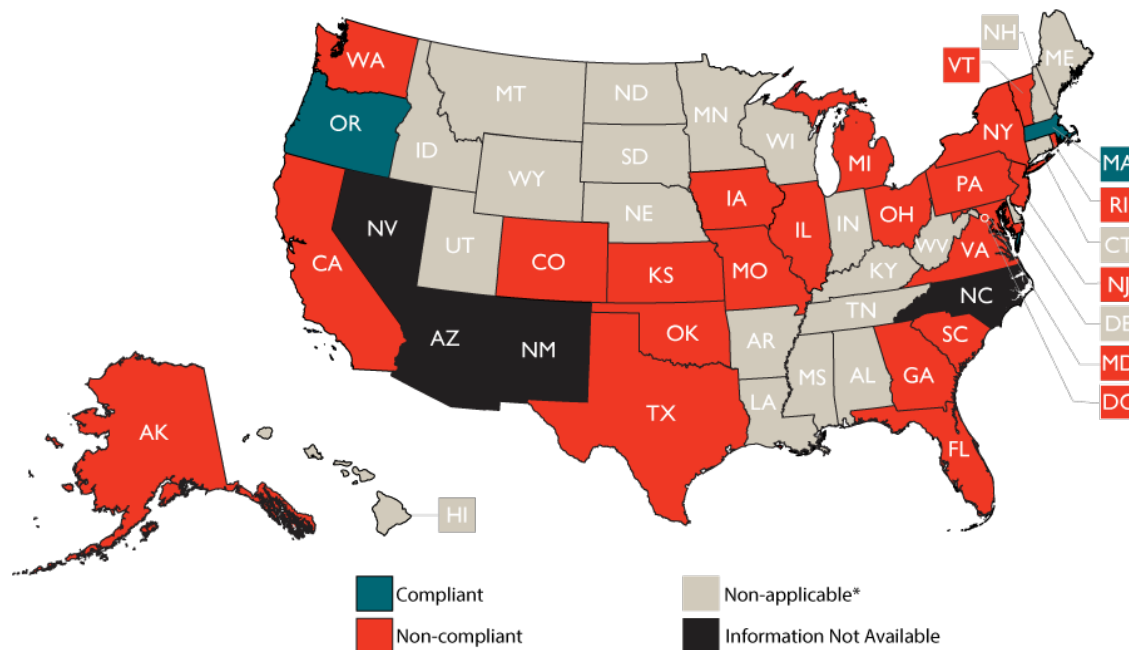
☐ **I do not want this information used to update my voter registration**

Project Vote conducted a comprehensive review of state forms and online portals,¹⁴ and found that the overwhelming majority of states are failing to comply with the change-of-address requirements of Section 5 of the NVRA.

NVRA Compliance of Paper Change-of-Address Forms



NVRA Compliance of Online Change-of-Address Forms



* States are identified as non-applicable for several reasons, including the six states that are exempted from the NVRA—Idaho, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming—and thus are not required to comply with the NVRA. Additionally, there is no requirement in the NVRA that states allow individuals to change their address with the DMV separate from requiring a completely new DMV or State ID transaction, and there is no requirement that states allow individuals to change their address through an online application. There are a number of states that do not maintain a separate change of address transaction at all, either by paper, or online, or both, and thus, there are no NVRA requirements for transactions they do not have.

A. Types of Non-Compliance

Most strikingly, 12 states' driver's license change-of-address forms fail to mention voter registration at all.¹⁵ Without any indication otherwise, we must assume that these states are not actually transferring change-of-address information from the state motor vehicle agency to the state elections board as required by Section 5. Assuming, *arguendo*, that any state undertakes an automatic address update process without disclosure on its change-of-address form, that state still fails to comply with the NVRA. As Section 5 requires that residents be given the opportunity to opt-out of changing their address for voter registration purposes, updating an applicant's voting address unilaterally violates the NVRA.*

Change-of-address forms have varying types and levels of compliance failures. For example, Alaska, Florida, New York, and Virginia motor vehicle agencies specifically state in their online form that changes to the resident's driver's license address will not update information for any other government agency. Residents using online portals to update their driver's license addresses in Florida, New York, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah are provided a link at the end of their transaction referring them to their respective board of elections or secretary of state's website in order to undertake a separate voter file change-of-address transaction. Paper forms in Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, and South Dakota instruct residents that they are required to re-register on the same form by completing the entire voter registration section of the form in order to update their voting address. Additionally, Virginia's online portal supplies residents with a new voter application form which must be filled out, printed, and mailed in order to update the residents' voter file address.

Requiring residents to undertake any of these additional burdensome steps to update their voter file address violates the NVRA. Such policies are in direct violation of Section 5's requirement that a driver's license change of address must also serve as the applicant's notification of change of address for voter registration. These processes further breach the NVRA's mandate against requiring any additional information for change-of-address procedures, even an additional signature.

Further non-compliance is manifested in a number of ways. Eleven states' forms require the applicant to affirmatively indicate that they want the change of address to apply to their voter registration (i.e. opt-in), in violation of Section 5's requirement that the change of address is the default unless the applicant indicates the change is not also for voter registration purposes (i.e. opt-out).¹⁶ An additional nine states require that applicants provide additional information on the form.¹⁷ Such a demand is in violation of Section 5's change-of-address provisions, which do not allow for states to require any additional information from applicants during the change-of-address procedure.¹⁸

* This report is based on a review of only the applications themselves. A thorough review of all the processes involved with DMV transactions was not conducted. As explained, we assume that states that do not have any mention of voter registration on their change of address forms are failing to comply with the NVRA. Similarly, we assume that any state's change of address forms clearly requiring individuals to take extra steps to update their voter registration address are not complying with the NVRA. But, upon further review of the processes in place, we could find that these assumptions may not be correct for every state.

When the majority of states fail to comply with Section 5's change-of-address automatic update and opt-out requirements, a large number of eligible applicants whose voter information files should have been updated are left with a voter file that does not reflect their current address. Such a discrepancy infringes on their right to cast a ballot that counts.

B. Details of Non-Compliance

While states' paper change-of-address forms are more likely to comply, the vast majority of both paper and online forms remain non-compliant with Section 5. As shown in the map and charts in this section, of the 32 states where paper change-of-address forms are available for inspection, only 8 forms comply with Section 5.¹⁹ Online portals have an even more dismal showing: 28 states were examined, with only two state portals fulfilling the requirements of Section 5.²⁰

Only three states comply with Section 5's necessities in all formats of change-of-address forms available for examination,²¹ and Oregon is the lone state among them with verified compliance in both paper and online change-of-address forms. In total, 26 states offer uniformly non-compliant forms in every format of change of address that they provide: 17 states supply non-compliant paper and online forms,²² while an additional nine states furnish a non-compliant form in the single format provided, whether paper or online.²³

An additional five states present a compliant form in one format, but not the other.²⁴ Of the 36 states for which information is available, change-of-address forms in 33 states (92%) are failing to comply with Section 5.

Status of Paper and Online Compliance with COA Requirements, by State

STATE	PAPER FORM		ONLINE FORM	
	Compliant?	Compliance Information	Compliant?	Compliance Information
Alabama*	N	Opt Out + Additional Info	N/A	N/A
Alaska	N	No Mention of VR	N	No Mention of VR
Arizona	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available
Arkansas	Information not available	Information not available	N/A	N/A
California	In the process of changing	In the process of changing	N	Opt In
Colorado	N	Opt In + Additional Information	N	Opt Out + Additional Info
Connecticut	Y	Opt Out	N/A	N/A
Delaware	N	No Mention of VR	N/A	N/A
Florida	N	No Mention of VR	N	Referred to Board of Elections website
Georgia	N	Opt In	N	Opt In
Hawaii	Information not available	Honolulu/Hawaii/ Kuai - No form; Maui- No Mention of VR	N/A	N/A
Idaho	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA
Illinois	Information not available	Information not available	N	Directed to Reregister
Indiana	N/A	N/A	N	No Mention of VR
Iowa	N	No Mention of VR	N	Opt In
Kansas	Y	Opt Out	N	Opt In
Kentucky	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maine	Y	Opt Out	N/A	N/A
Maryland	Y	Opt Out	N	Opt In + Additional Info
Massachusetts	N	Opt In + Additional Information	Y	Opt Out
Michigan	N	Re-Register on Same Form	N	No Opt Out; Changes both ID & VR addresses
Minnesota	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA
Mississippi	Information not available	Information not available	N/A	N/A
Missouri	N	No Mention of VR	N	No Mention of VR
Montana	N	Re-Register on Same Form	N/A	N/A

*DOJ recently entered into settlement agreement with Alabama to address Section 5 NVRA compliance. See <https://www.justice.gov/crt/file/814016/download>.

Status of Paper and Online Compliance with COA Requirements, by State (con't)

STATE	PAPER FORM		ONLINE FORM	
	Compliant?	Compliance Information	Compliant?	Compliance Information
Nebraska	N	Re-Register on Same Form	N/A	N/A
Nevada	In Negotiation with Project Vote and partners	In Negotiation with Project Vote and partners	In Negotiation with Project Vote and partners	In Negotiation with Project Vote and partners
New Hampshire	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA
New Jersey	N	Opt In	N	No Mention of VR
New Mexico	Y	Opt Out	In the Process of Changing	In the Process of Changing
New York	N	Opt Out + Additional Info	N	Referred to Board of Elections
North Carolina	In litigation	In litigation	In litigation	In litigation
North Dakota	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA
Ohio	N	Opt Out + Additional Info	N	Opt In (+ Acknowledgement check)
Oklahoma	N	No Mention of VR	N	No Mention of VR
Oregon	Y	Opt Out	Y	Opt Out
Pennsylvania	N	Opt In	N	Opt In
Rhode Island	N	No Mention of VR	N	No Mention of VR
South Carolina	N	Opt In	N	Referred to SOS website
South Dakota	N	Re-Register on Same Form	N/A	N/A
Tennessee	N/A	N/A	N	Opt-In (mobile, kiosk); No mention of VR (website)
Texas	N	Opt In	N	Referred to SOS website
Utah	N/A	N/A	N	Referred to Board of Elections website
Vermont	N	Opt In	N	Opt In + Additional Info
Virginia	N	Opt In + Additional Information	N	Must Print and Mail In New Voter Registration
Washington	Y	Opt Out	N	Opt In + Additional Info
Washington, DC	Y	Opt Out	N	No Mention of VR
West Virginia	N	No Mention of VR	N/A	N/A
Wisconsin	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA
Wyoming	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA	Exempt from NVRA

4. NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF NON-COMPLIANCE

The right to vote is fundamental, and a system in which every eligible voter has an equal opportunity to participate in the political process is essential to the maintenance of a strong democracy. In the United States, voter registration is a prerequisite to exercising that right to vote in 49 of 50 states,²⁵ and voter registration eligibility is based on an individual's legal residence. At the same time, according to the U.S. Census, more than 35 million Americans moved in 2014.²⁶ The ability of voters to have their ballots counted could therefore be threatened by a highly mobile populace.²⁷

Transient voters suffer negative effects and are unduly burdened by states' failures to comply with Section 5 of the NVRA.²⁸ When a voter's registration record has not been properly updated with their new address in accordance with the requirements of the NVRA, the voter is then subject to a patchwork of state election laws governing such discrepancies. These statutes vary greatly in the level of harm that occurs when a voter's address does not match their voter registration record. Furthermore, flawed implementation of state laws and confusion on the part of election officials and poll workers may leave voters baffled and disenfranchised.²⁹

State laws often burden voters with both additional requirements and additional limitations in order to cast a ballot. Voters whose registration records have not been updated can be made to vote at special locations, barred from casting a regular ballot, and limited to voting only in certain races. In particular, under Section 8, states are only required to allow individuals whose voter registration addresses have not been updated to vote in one location. This means that oftentimes individuals show-up at one location, but because they have moved and their address has not been updated, they are required to travel to another location to vote.³⁰ Section 5, however, allows individuals to avoid such burdens by ensuring that a voter's registration travels with them when they update their driver's license, and that the voter is not barred from casting a ballot simply because they have moved.

Examples of Burdens to Voters When Their Addresses Are Not Updated

In Pennsylvania and Texas, among other states, a voter whose address in their registration record has not been properly updated in accordance with Section 5 of the NVRA must return to their former polling location to vote.³¹ Such a requirement imposes a heavy burden on individuals, particularly if their former polling location is located far away. Moreover, this could prove to be a further encumbrance for individuals who are unable to take such a significant time away from their jobs, homes, or child-care responsibilities to vote.

Additionally, it is very common for voters to have to wait in long lines. In a January 2014 report, the Presidential Commission on Election Administration reported that over five million voters waited more than one hour to vote on Election Day 2012, with an additional five million voters waiting at least half an hour.³² Having been told that they must travel

back to their old polling place because their address in their voter record has not been updated may require that the voter wait in a second long line.

In South Carolina, a voter must not only return to their former polling place to vote, but is also limited to voting a provisional ballot if their voter file address was not properly updated.³³ The ballot includes only federal, statewide, and countywide offices, leaving a voter unable to vote in local races. Provisional ballots are kept separate, not counted on election night, and only counted if the board of voter registration determines the voter is qualified. An Alaskan voter whose address was not updated in accordance with Section 5 will similarly be eligible to vote only on certain issues (such as statewide ballot measures, and candidates for federal and statewide offices) by absentee ballot in their old district.³⁴

A Rhode Island voter who has moved more than 30 days but less than six months before the election, whose address was not updated in accordance with the NVRA requirements, will be eligible to vote only a limited ballot at the board of canvassers of their previous town of registration.³⁵ A voter who moved more than six months before the election, whose address was not updated, will be eligible to vote only for President and Vice President at their local board of canvassers office. This voter is completely barred from voting on local and statewide issues or candidates.

Inter-County Address Updates

Another issue is the scope of the address updates that a state performs. The analysis done in this report is about whether states' DMV procedures are complying with the NVRA for any address updates. There is no dispute that the NVRA requires that address updates for individuals moving within the same county ("intra-county"), should be provided to election officials (unless the individuals opts-out). And, as shown—regardless of where individuals move within the state—most states are not fully complying with the requirements of the NVRA when it comes to address updates. This means that even when an individual moves intra-county, and notifies their DMV, the DMV is not notifying election officials.

There is no dispute that the NVRA requires that address updates for individuals moving within the same county should be provided to election officials (unless the individual opts out). But in many states if individuals move to a new county within the state, the DMV does not provide their address update to election officials. In these states, the DMV sends address updates to election officials (unless the individual opts out) for the purpose of updating voter registration records only if an individual has moved intra-county; an individual who moves to a new county within the state ("inter-county") must submit a completely new voter registration application.³⁶ For example, Texas is an example of one such state that does not provide inter-county address updates to election officials to update the voter registration information.³⁷ Address updates should be made automatically (unless the individual opts out) whether a person has moved within the same county or to a new county within the same state.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BEST PRACTICES

At a time when new reforms to voter registration are gaining popularity, it is imperative that attention is drawn to already existing—but inadequately executed—requirements that have been established to protect voters from disenfranchisement. The NVRA requires that a voter's address must be updated in compliance with Section 5's change-of-address procedures when the voter moves.

Two examples of state forms which successfully comply with Section 5's change-of-address procedures are seen below.

Connecticut Paper Change-of-Address Form

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND ORGAN/TISSUE DONOR STATUS B-58 REV. 8-2015		STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES On The Web At ct.gov/dmv	
INSTRUCTIONS - PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION			
1. Joint owners may use this form if both operators' license/non-driver ID numbers are listed.			
2. Form must be signed and dated by all applicants.			
3. Copy information from your current registration. If more than four (4) marker plate numbers, use additional change of address forms.			
4. Keep your license/non-driver ID(s) and registration(s). On the registration(s), cross out the old address and write the new address in the space provided. Affix the new address label to the back of your license/non-driver ID(s). Labels can be obtained from any Police Department or by calling DMV's Phone Center .			
5. In addition to DMV, PLEASE contact your local post office to change your official mailing address.			
CHECK CHANGES			
<input type="checkbox"/> OPERATOR'S LICENSE/NON-DRIVER ID		<input type="checkbox"/> MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> I CONSENT TO ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AND WISH TO BE IN THE DONOR REGISTRY		<input type="checkbox"/> I NO LONGER WISH TO BE IN THE DONOR REGISTRY	
<input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF ADDRESS IS NOT FOR VOTER REGISTRATION PURPOSES		<input type="checkbox"/> REMOVE E-MAIL ADDRESS	
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) - APPLICANT 1		NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) - APPLICANT 2	
(NEW) MAILING ADDRESS (No. and Street, City or Town, State, Zip Code)			
RESIDENT ADDRESS, IF DIFFERENT FROM MAILING ADDRESS			
Tax Town - Connecticut town where vehicle in the normal course of operation most frequently leaves from, returns to or remains. ➡			
SIGNATURE X		SIGNATURE X	
DATE		DATE	
The information provided to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles herein is subscribed by me, the undersigned, under penalty of false statement, in accordance with the provisions of Section 14-110 and 53a-157b of the Connecticut General Statutes. I understand that if I make a statement which I do not believe to be true with the intent to mislead the commissioner, I will be subject to prosecution under the above-cited laws.			
OPERATOR'S LICENSE/NON-DRIVER ID NUMBER(S) (9 digits)			
1.		2.	
VESEL INFORMATION			
STATE	NUMBER	EXPIRATION DATE	
REGISTRATION INFORMATION			
TYPE OF PLATE (Camper, Passenger, Comb., etc)	MARKER PLATE NUMBER	EXPIRATION DATE	
		Month	Year
		Month	Year
		Month	Year
		Month	Year
FORMER ADDRESS			
Mail this form to: DMV Data Entry, 60 State Street, Wethersfield CT 06161			

The Connecticut paper change-of-address form is an excellent example of a simple opt-out for Section 5 purposes. The check box properly allows applicants to indicate they do not want the form to serve as a change of address for voter registration purposes. Further, the form requires no additional information for voter registration purposes.

Massachusetts Online Change-of-Address Portal

Change of Address - Address Information

Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

Please enter your Email address to ensure delivery of your Email confirmation.

* Email Address:

* Confirm Email Address:

The RMV's records indicate your current residential and mailing addresses are:

Residential Address: **Mailing Address:**

If this is correct, no changes need to be made. If changes are needed, complete the required fields below.

Please enter your new Residential address information:

* Street Number and Name:

APT./BLDG./Unit #:

Country: United States

State: Massachusetts

* Zip Code:

* City:

Are the Residential and Mailing Address the same?:

Yes ☒ No ☐

Mailing address information:

Is the Mailing Address a PO Box, Street # and Name, Rural Route or Rural Free Delivery? (Select one)

☐ PO Box ☒ Street # and Name ☐ Rural Route ☐ Rural Free Delivery

* Street # and Name:

APT./BLDG./Unit #:

* Country:

* State / Province:

* Zip Code:

* City:

If you require assistance, please contact [customer service](#).

Opt-Out: Address Change for Voter Registration:

If you are a Massachusetts registered voter, this change-of-address can be used to update your voter registration. If you are just changing your mailing address, it **will not** change your voter record.

☒ **Do not update my address for voter registration.**

Check this box if you **do not** want this information to be used to update your voter registration, or you are not registered to vote in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts DMV online change-of-address portal is also a great example of a compliant Section 5 change-of-address form. The portal informs applicants that the change-of-address form can also be used for voter registration purposes. It also provides a disclaimer to applicants that the change of address will not apply to those who are only changing their mailing address. Finally, this online portal, like the Maine paper form, also very clearly provides an opportunity for applicants to opt-out of having their voter registration address updated as well.

Inter-County Address Updates

Per the requirements of Section 5, states should be updating the voter registration records of registered voters who report a change of address to the DMV whether the move is within the same county or to a new county.³⁸ Moreover, as the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires that states develop a single centralized voter registration list, states are in the position to maintain and update registration files for those voters who move intrastate, even for voters who are moving between counties.³⁹ Any other approach leaves mobile voters disenfranchised and conflicts with the intent of the NVRA.

The goals and purposes of the NVRA are best served by ensuring that Section 5 change-of-address applies to voters who move anywhere in the state. In enacting the NVRA, Congress found that “unfair registration laws and procedures can have a direct and damaging effect on voter participation in elections for Federal office and disproportionately harm voter participation by various groups, including racial minorities.”⁴⁰ In limiting the realm of Section 5’s applicability, potential voters continue to be subject to unfair registration laws and procedures at the state level. This defies the purposes of the NVRA to increase the number of eligible citizens who register to vote.⁴¹

6. CONCLUSION

As detailed throughout this report, states across the country are, in large part, failing to comply with the change-of-address requirements under Section 5 of the NVRA. Congress specifically tailored the NVRA such that it would reduce the burden on applicants, and put the onus on states to ensure that those interacting with the DMVs have a meaningful opportunity to register to vote.

Project Vote has worked over the last decade to enforce the NVRA and ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to register to vote at DMVs and public assistance agencies throughout the country. That states are uniformly non-compliant in their Section 5 change-of-address requirements is unacceptable.

States should continue to strive to meet their NVRA obligations, as these opportunities may be among the only that some Americans have to register to vote.

NOTES

1. 52 U.S.C. § 20501 (1993), et seq.
2. The NVRA is law in 44 states. When enacted, the NVRA offered a time-limited exemption for certain states. See 52 U.S.C. § 20503. The only states that have this exemption are Idaho, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. It is no longer possible for additional states to obtain a similar exemption for any reason. This report therefore does not address those six states that are exempt from the NVRA.
3. Niyati Shah, *Automatic Voter Registration: Best Practices*, Project Vote 1, 2 (August 2015), <http://www.projectvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Automatic-Registration-Best-Practices-August-2015.pdf>.
4. The Pew Charitable Trusts, *Electronic Registration Information Center*, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/election-initiatives/about/upgrading-voter-registration/eric> (last visited July 13, 2016).
5. *Id.*
6. 52 U.S.C. § 20501(b) (1993).
7. See *id.* § 20504(a)(1).
8. See *id.* § 20504(c)(2)(A).
9. See *id.* § 20504(d).
10. *Id.*
11. Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, "The Voter Registration Requirements of Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), Questions and Answers." (June 2010), available at <http://www.justice.gov/crt/national-voter-registration-act-1993-nvra>.
12. See 52 U.S.C. § 20504(e).
13. 52 U.S.C. § 20504(d).
14. Where possible, Project Vote gathered driver's license changes of address procedures for the 44 states plus the District of Columbia that are subject to Section 5 of the NVRA through a review of publically available information disseminated by state motor vehicle agencies and through public records requests. Not all states are addressed in this report. First, the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet do not provide change-of-address forms in either a paper application or an online portal. Instead, residents must execute a change-of-address transaction with customer service agents at a motor vehicle office or other authorized location. Additionally, a number of states capture change-of-address requests through an application for a new/amended driver's license. Where applicable, Project Vote examined these applications when they are held out by the states as the official change-of-address mechanism. Further, some states' information was unavailable or not applicable. Information could not be collected for Arizona. Mississippi does not appear to have an online portal for address changes, and further, the paper form was also not available for Project Vote to review. Three additional states (Indiana, Tennessee, and Utah) do not offer paper change-of-address forms. Finally, Project Vote is currently in litigation with North Carolina (*Action NC et. al. v. Strach*, No. 15-cv-01063-LCB-JLW) and is in ongoing discussions with state officials in Nevada regarding a notice letter (<http://www.projectvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Notice-Letter-on-Nevadas-NVRA-Sec-5-Violations-3.7.16.pdf>)
- North Carolina and Nevada are therefore excluded from this report.
15. Alaska (paper and online), Delaware (paper), District of Columbia (online), Florida (paper), Indiana (online), Iowa (paper), Missouri (paper and online), New Jersey (online), Oklahoma (paper and online), Rhode Island (paper and online), Tennessee (online through the website), and West Virginia (paper).
16. California (online), Colorado (paper), Georgia (paper and online), Iowa (online), Kansas (online), New Jersey (paper), Pennsylvania (paper and online), South Carolina (paper), Tennessee (online through the mobile application and the electronic kiosk at motor vehicle offices), Texas (paper), and Vermont (paper).
17. Alabama (paper), Colorado (paper and online), Maryland (online), Massachusetts (paper), New York (paper), Ohio (paper and online), Vermont (online), Virginia (paper), and Washington (online).
18. See 52 U.S.C. § 20504(c)(2)(A).
19. Paper forms are compliant in Connecticut, District of Columbia, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington. Paper forms fail to comply in Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.
20. Only Oregon and Massachusetts maintain compliant online forms. Online portals fail to comply in Alaska, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.
21. Connecticut and Maine present compliant paper forms, and do not currently offer an online portal. Oregon provides compliant paper and online forms.
22. Seventeen states are uniformly non-compliant in both paper and online forms: Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia.
23. Seven states are non-compliant in their paper form, where an online form does not exist: Alabama, Delaware, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, Utah, and West Virginia. Indiana and Tennessee offer only a non-compliant online form.
24. Massachusetts has a non-compliant paper form and compliant online portal. The District of Columbia, Kansas, Maryland, and Washington all maintain paper compliant forms, and non-compliant online portals.
25. North Dakota does not require voter registration.
26. U.S. Census, *Geographical Mobility: 2014 to 2015*, Table 1. General Mobility, by Race and Hispanic Origin, Region, Sex, Age, Relationship to Householder, Educational Attainment, Marital Status, Nativity, Tenure, and Poverty Status: 2014 to 2015, available at <http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/geographic-mobility/2015/cps-2015/tab01-01.xls>.
27. See Michelle Kanter Cohen, *Permanent Portable Voter Registration*, Project Vote (July 2013), <http://www.pro->

- jectvote.org/wp-content/uploads/Policy-Paper-Permanent-Portable-Registration.pdf
28. Some states have other mechanisms in place to eliminate such burdens on their citizens. Same Day Registration allows residents who have recently moved to re-register with their new address at their polling place in the District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Additionally, Delaware, Hawaii, and Oregon allow voters who have moved anywhere in the state to cast a regular ballot.
 29. See Myrna Pérez, *When Voters Move*, Brennan Center for Justice (2009), <https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/MoversGuideNEW.pdf>. (Finding that election officials and poll workers do not always properly implement legal protections for voters and that the complex regime governing the rights and responsibilities of voters who move ultimately creates confusion for voters and election workers alike.)
 30. See 52 U.S.C. § 20507(e)(2)(B).
 31. See 25 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 1902(a)(2), Tex. Elec. Code Section 11.004.
 32. *The American Voting Experience: Report and Recommendations*, Presidential Commission on Election Administration 1, 13 (January 2014), <https://www.supportthevoter.gov/files/2014/01/Amer-Voting-Exper-final-draft-01-09-14-508.pdf>.
 33. S.C. Code Ann. § 7-13-830.
 34. Alaska Stat. Ann. § 15.20.015.
 35. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-9.1-16 et seq.
 36. States that bar individuals registered within the state from casting any ballot if they have moved to a new county within the state and the address in their voter registration record has not been updated include Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and West Virginia.
 37. Letter from Peter A. Kraus, Waters & Kraus and Mimi Marziani, Battleground Texas, to Carlos H. Cascos, Tex. Sec'y of State, Re: Failure to Comply with Voter Registration Obligations at Texas Department of Public Safety, 12 (May 27, 2015), available at http://b3cdn.net/battletx/3819d68599ec44bfe1_59m6b0x1j.pdf
 38. While the statute and legislative history does not specifically address whether Section 5 of the NVRA requires states to update addresses of voters who report inter-county moves to their DMV, there is no question that it is intent of the NVRA that such address updates within a state should be reported to election officials for the purpose of an update (unless the voter affirmatively opts-out.) Furthermore, several recent settlements secured by the Department of Justice have required inter-county address updates. For example, the settlement entered into between the Department of Justice and Connecticut, requires "I]f changes of address to a new town are processed in the CVRS as new voter applications that appear in the same application category as all other new voter applications from DMVC or AAA." Memorandum of Understanding, State of Connecticut National Voter Registration Act Compliance Plan, 4 (August 5, 2016), available at <https://www.justice.gov/opa/file/793121/download>.
 39. See Help America Vote Act of 2002 § 303, 42 U.S.C. § 15483.
 40. 52 U.S.C. § 20501(a)(3).
 41. 52 U.S.C. § 20501(b)(1).



PROJECT

VOTE

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

DMV USE ONLY
DL address
updated by FD

24002

Please Print in Capital Letters Using Black or Dark Blue Ink only.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

INSTRUCTIONS: Enter the information as shown on the document, i.e. California driver license, ID card, or vehicle registration card, for which a change is being requested. If the information is not the same as shown on the document, the information cannot be updated. If the information is not the same as shown on the document, the information cannot be updated. If the information is not the same as shown on the document, the information cannot be updated.

Personal
Information

1420 K Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
202.546.4173
www.projectvote.org

DRIVER LICENSE/ID CARD NO.



FIRST

INITIAL

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Voter Change
of Address

We will change your voting address if you have moved and are not registered to vote, you must complete a new voter registration card.

Use only with
DL Change of Address

Mark this box if you do not want to change your voting address.

New or Correct
Residence
Address

STREET NUMBER ONLY

STREET NAME

APT. NO.

CITY - DO NOT ABBREVIATE - USE FIRST 22 CHARACTERS IN CITY NAME

STATE

ZIP CODE

Do Not Use P. O. Box
in this space

New or Correct
Mailing Address

STREET NUMBER ONLY

P. O. BOX OR STREET NAME OR STREET ADDRESS

APT. NO.

CITY - DO NOT ABBREVIATE - USE FIRST 22 CHARACTERS IN CITY NAME

STATE

ZIP CODE

If Different From
Residence Address

About Project Vote

Project Vote is a national nonpartisan, non-profit organization that promotes voting in historically under-represented communities. Project Vote takes a leadership role in nationwide voting rights and election administration issues, working through research, litigation, and advocacy to

Vehicles,
Vessels, or
Placards
Owned By You

CALIFORNIA PLATE/CF/PLACARD NO.

LAST 17 POSITION

Use Additional
Forms If Necessary

Leased Vehicles

LEASING COMPANY'S NAME

©2016 by Project Vote

Trailer Coach
or Vehicle

STREET NUMBER

STREET NAME

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Old

CITY - DO NOT ABBREVIATE - USE FIRST 22 CHARACTERS IN CITY NAME

STATE

ZIP CODE

You are given to requesters providing a valid reason for requesting the information. If you receive mail at your residence, then giving DMV a copy of this form is optional. Your residence address is restricted to authorized requesters per Vehicle Code Section 1808 21. I am the person whose name appears on the record(s) above and the mailing address shown is valid, existing and accurate. I consent to receive service of process at this mailing address per Vehicle Code. I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

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