Automatic Voter Registration
Trends, Data, and Definitions
Automatic Voter Registration: Trending Upward

- About 20 states now have AVR laws.
- There are different “flavors’ of AVR and some are more complicated than others.
- AVR has its own language: Opt-out, Opt-in, Front End, Back End
- Data transfers between public agencies are not new or complicated.
- Data transfers between public agencies can be secure.
- Electronic data transfers can save money and time.
Why bother with AVR?

- Registering citizens to vote at DMV or other public agency is most secure form of Voter Registration.
- Increase efficiency: Replace paper/manual process with electronic process
- Improve the accuracy of voter registration data by reducing human error
- Save time for customers at the DMV and other agencies
- Save money and time for elections officials and DMVs.
- Increase secure registrations/updates originating at the DMVs and NVRA agencies.
Front-end AVR

- Individual conducts transaction at agency (DMV, Social Service, etc)
- Voter registration information is obtained at point of service, usually through electronic means at kiosk, signature pad, or by examiner
- Voter is given opportunity to opt-out of registration during transaction
- No follow up is needed to obtain information
- Potentially significant up-front technology cost.
- No time savings for registration agencies
- Examples: Virginia, Delaware, Colorado, California
Back-end AVR

q Individual conducts transaction at agency (DMV, Social Service, etc)
q Information relevant to voter registration transferred to elections agency
q Proof of legal residence/citizenship info required
q Individual sent notice that they will be registered unless they opt out.
q Individuals who don’t opt out are automatically registered or updated.
q Minimal up-front technology costs
q Potential time savings for registration agencies
q Examples: Oregon, Alaska, and Massachusetts.
What data are we talking about?

- Name (first name, middle name or initial, last name)
- Address (residential)
- Date of birth
- Citizenship via documentation/attestation
- SSN# - Last four digits
- Signature
- In some states, political party affiliation
The voter registration data path

Motor vehicles office or Medicaid/Section 7 agency

A person completes a transaction at the agency.

Information for voter registration collected during a transaction is transferred to the state elections office.

State elections office / voter registration database

Transactions checked or filtered and added to database as pending application or update.

Pending worklist is sent to the registrars.

Local elections office / voter registrars

Applications are reviewed and approved or rejected.

The voter is notified of new voter registration status.
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