

National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)

Helping People Participate in Our Democracy

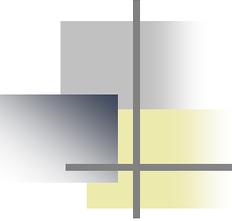
November 2013



privacy *All people* *Liberty* *Speak*
without discrimination *common good*

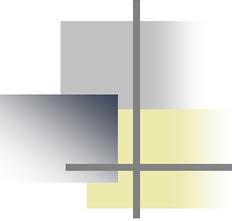
California Secretary of State Debra Bowen

acquiring *protecting* *preserving*



Why Did Congress Pass the NVRA?

- Make it Easy for Americans to Register and Vote
 - “Motor Voter” ~ Register at any DMV in the U.S.
 - Reach people who may not visit the DMV:
 - Register at any public assistance agency
 - Register at any agency primarily serving people with disabilities
- Eliminate the Vestiges of Discrimination
 - Register by Mail
 - Permanent Registration
 - Safeguards Against “Purging” Voter Roles



Who Must Offer Voter Registration?

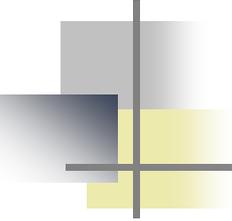
- DMV Offices

- Public Assistance Agencies
 - County Health/Human Services Offices/In-Home Support Services
 - WIC Offices
 - California Health Benefit Exchange

- Disability Service Agencies
 - Dept. of Rehabilitation Vocational Services
 - Independent Living Centers
 - Dept. of Developmental Services Regional Centers
 - Dept. of Social Services Office of Deaf Access Contractors
 - State and County Mental Health Providers

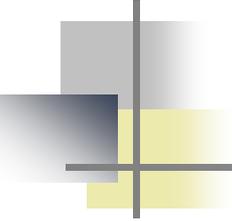
- Armed Forces Recruitment Offices

- “Other”
 - Board of Equalization District Offices
 - Franchise Tax Board District Offices



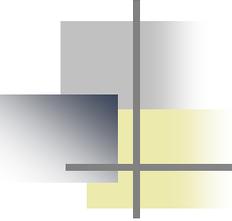
When Do Agencies Offer Voter Registration?

- NVRA requires agencies to offer voter registration when a person applies for:
 - New services or benefits
 - Renewal or recertification
 - A change of name or address



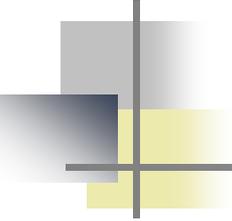
How Do Agencies Offer Voter Registration?

- Hand out a voter registration card (VRC)
- Hand out an NVRA “voter preference form”
- Help the applicant register, if asked
- Forward voter registration forms daily
- Keep preference forms for 2 years



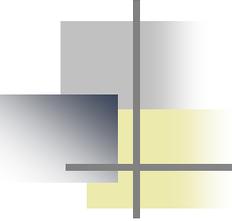
Who Should Register to Vote?

- Has never registered
- Moved to a new address
- Changed name
- Changed political party preference
- Not sure if registered to vote
- Has not voted in the last several elections



What Issues Might Come Up?

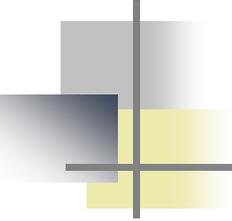
- **Neutrality:** Don't influence decision to register or party preference.
- **In-home Assistance:** Agency must still offer voter registration.
- **Conservatorship:** Court order must state incompetent to register to vote.
- **Parent/Guardian:** Offer registration to adults applying on behalf of children.
- **Literacy:** Not a requirement to register to vote.
- **No SSN or DL:** Not a requirement to register to vote.
- **Signature:** Applicant may mark an "X" or use a signature stamp.
- **No street address:** Space on form to describe location where applicant lives.



What Happens after a Person Registers?

Voter Gets:

- Postcard Confirming Status
- Voting Materials
- Polling Place Location
- Ballot (for Vote-By-Mail Voters)



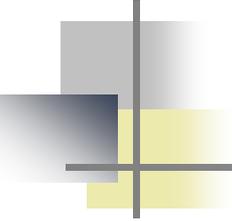
Questions about Voting?

- Call:

- County Elections Office
- Secretary of State's Voter Hotline:
(800) 345-VOTE (8683)

- Visit:

- WWW.SOS.CA.GOV

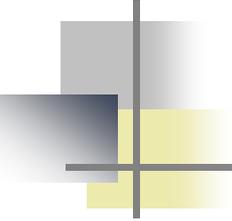


What's New for California?

- New California Laws:
 - Designate an NVRA Coordinator
 - Register Agency with County Elections Office
 - Get Voter Registration Forms from County Elections Office
 - Offer Voter Registration in Other Languages
 - Train Staff Annually

- New State Agency Instructions:
 - DSS; DOR-Voc Serv; DOR-ILCs; DDS; Office of Deaf Access

- California Online Voter Registration Links:
 - C-IV, Cal-Winn, LEADER Online Benefits Enrollment
 - Department of Rehabilitation Vocational Services
 - California Health Benefit Exchange



California Secretary of State

- SOS NVRA Liaison: Jennie Bretschneider
- SOS NVRA Coordinator: Rhonda Pascual
- Secretary of State
Elections Division - NVRA Coordinator
1500 11th Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 657-2166
nvra@sos.ca.gov
www.sos.ca.gov/elections/nvra