



Guidance: California New Motor Voter

Issuance Date: May 7, 2018

Revision Date:

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Purpose/Background

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the California New Motor Voter Program (New Motor Voter) processes. On October 10, 2015, Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 1461, requiring the Secretary of State (SOS) and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to implement automatic voter registration for eligible voters who apply for or renew a driver license (DL) or identification (ID) card, or change their address with the DMV.

A person has the opportunity to register to vote through the DMV in the following ways:

- **Field Office:** Applying for a DL/ID, renewing a DL/ID or changing their address.
- **By Mail:** Submitting, by mail, their request to renew a DL/ID or change their address.
- **Online:** Renewing their DL/ID or submitting a change of address on the DMV website.

Currently, DMV customers who wish to register to vote must opt in to having their voter registration sent to the SOS. Under New Motor Voter, all DMV customers who indicate eligibility will be automatically sent to the SOS unless the DMV customer opts out of registration.

Guidance

VoteCal and the Election Management Systems (EMSs) made the required New Motor Voter changes in the VoteCal March release. New or updated registrations will be forwarded to the county through Voter Registration Pending Precinct messages. Change of address (COA) requests will be forwarded to the county through the existing DMV COA messages, potential DMV COA match to voter, or potential DMV COA match to voter for confidential voter.

Application Program Interface

All Motor Voter registrations will be consolidated by the DMV and made available to the SOS using an application program interface (API). The API replaced the batch process interface which allows the SOS to pull DMV records in near real time. Each voter registration record will go through identification verification, signature retrieval, and list maintenance processes before being sent to the county rather than the county pulling the records from the old California Online Voter Registration (COVR) database.

Decommission of COVR Database used for DMV Registrations

With the launch of New Motor Voter, the SOS will decommission the COVR database that is currently used for DMV field office registrations. The DMV registrations that are sent through the COVR database to the EMS will now be entered directly into VoteCal.

The SOS and EMSs have made efforts to minimize impacts to existing county voter registration processes. Counties will receive all New Motor Voter records through existing VoteCal processes and messages. However, since DMV is offering this registration opportunity to an increased audience, we expect to see the volume of DMV registrations increase. New Motor Voter records will be sent to the county with a DMV source and DMV method that should be used when registering or updating a record from DMV. The source and method will be identified in the message payload. Below is the list of possible DMV methods:



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Source	Method	Description
DMV	DL44	DMV DL/ID Renewal (internet, paper or electronic DL44)
DMV	RBM	DMV DL/ID Renewal by Mail

Default Values If No Previous Record Is Found

If a new registration is submitted to the DMV with a blank value in the political party, vote by mail preference and/or ballot material language field(s), VoteCal will populate the field with the following default values if no previous record is found.

Field	Default Value
Political Party	Unknown
Political Party Other	Blank/NULL
Vote by Mail Preference	No
Ballot Material Language	English
Ballot Material Language Other	Blank/NULL

Inherited Data if Previous Record is Found

New Motor Voter will, in accordance with Elections Code section 2265(c), inherit data from a previous record if a registration record was submitted to the DMV with a blank response for political party, vote by mail preference and/or ballot material language. This will only occur when a user at DMV submits a paper form and does not answer all of the voter registration questions. All DMV electronic forms require the users to answer all voter registration questions.

Previously, if a DMV Field Office user submitted a voter registration and left political party, vote by mail preference and/or ballot material language field(s) blank, VoteCal would use a default value for the registration. If that new registration was an update or merge voter, their previous value for that field was overwritten with a default value. This caused issues with voters whose registration was changed from a previously specified political party to a default value for political party. With New Motor Voter, if a DMV user submits a paper DMV form, by mail or in a field office, and leaves political party, vote by mail status and/or ballot material language field(s) blank and if VoteCal or a county confirms a match to an existing voter, the values in the previous voter registration will be carried over to the new voter registration.

For example, John Doe registered with the Green party in 2010. Mr. Doe completes a renewal by mail form with the DMV and does not opt out of registration but fails to answer the political party question by leaving it blank. Once the positive match determination has been made, VoteCal will pull the data from the previous registration so Mr. Doe's political party will remain with the Green party rather than overwriting his political party with Unknown.



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Unmerge

If it is determined that a previous match is invalid, the current unmerge process shall be used and VoteCal will undo the inherited data automatically as long as the target data fields were not modified since the merge. If one of the fields was modified after the merge, VoteCal will not automatically undo the merge. In this case, VoteCal will send the EMS an UnmergeVoter payload which will include the original DMV registration data. When the county receives this payload, each EMS has provided the capability for the user to review the DMV registration and update the voter record appropriately.

New Mailings by the SOS

New Motor Voter will include three new mailings by the SOS to users who have submitted a registration through the DMV. The title of each mailing as well as the summary and trigger are detailed below. Screenshots of each postcard are attached at the end of this document as an addendum.

1. Voter Preference Postcard
Informs users that they were registered to vote but their application did not include additional important voter information, such as their political party preference or language preference for receiving ballot material.
2. Registration Opportunity Postcard
Notifies users that their registration attempt was not successful and provides the user additional information on where to submit a voter registration application.
3. Opt-Out Postcard
Provides additional opportunities to register to vote for those that indicated they are eligible to register to vote but checked the box to opt-out of registering to vote.

Processing Registrations Sent to Incorrect County

If you receive a DMV registration that should have been sent to a different county, please follow the following procedures:

1. Print the voter information from your EMS for the incoming record.
 - a. DFM users press the "Print Registration Form" button.
 - b. ESSVR DIMS.net users can access, view and print those records using Voter Reports and selecting the "900.01 VoteCal Online Registration Card" report. Users access Voter Reports from the Voters menu (or Ctrl-F2).
2. Identify the correct county and notify them that they have received a record that belongs to their county.
3. Determine if you want to submit a fax to the county or post the voter information to the VoteCal Communications Portal.
 - a. If voter information is placed on the portal, county staff will need to notify the VoteCal Help Desk when the file is posted.
 - b. Help Desk staff will then assign the file to the correct county for retrieval.



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4. Let correct county know whether form was faxed or if the information was uploaded to the portal for retrieval.
5. VoteCal Help Desk staff will log a trouble ticket noting the date of the registration, address, incorrect and correct county and route it to SOS Information Technology Division (ITD). ITD will notify Accumail of the correct county.
6. When the correct county receives the fax or downloads the information from the portal, they will use the same process as receiving a new paper affidavit. This will create a high confidence match in VoteCal and pull the voter to their county.

VoteCal Contact Information

For questions or to report issues contact the SOS VoteCal Help Desk at 888-868-3225 or email VoteCalHelp@sos.ca.gov.



Addendum – SOS Postcard Images

Voter Preference Postcard

Secretary of State
Elections Division
1500 11th Street
P.O. Box 944260
Sacramento, CA 94244-2600

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 1597
SACRAMENTO CA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Priscilla Esmeralda Castro
1067 Leighton Ave B
Los Angeles CA 90037-1611



IMPORTANT VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

MV1

Congratulations, you are registered to vote!

Thank you for registering to vote at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). We noticed that your application **did not include** additional important voter information, such as your **political party preference** or **language preference** for receiving election materials.

How to Update Your Voter Information:

- Quickly and conveniently re-register online at RegisterToVote.ca.gov with a computer or most smart phones, or
- Complete and return a paper voter registration form. Voter registration forms are available at your county elections office, public libraries, post offices, DMV offices, and other state offices. You can also have a form mailed to you by contacting the number listed on this card.

Questions?

Call our office at (800) 345-VOTE (8683) or contact your county elections official. You can find your county elections official at www.sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices.

MV1





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Registration Opportunity Postcard

Secretary of State
Elections Division
1500 11th Street
P.O. Box 944260
Sacramento, CA 94244-2600

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 1597
SACRAMENTO CA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Priscilla Esmeralda Castro
1067 Leighton Ave B
Los Angeles CA 90037-1611



IMPORTANT VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

MV2

During your recent Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) transaction, the voter registration information you provided was either incomplete or unclear. We could not process your voter registration application.

If you meet the eligibility requirements below and want to register to vote or update your current voter registration, please visit our website at RegisterToVote.ca.gov.

To register to vote in California, you must be all of the following:

- A United States citizen, and a resident of California,
- At least 18 years old,
- Not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony, and
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

To pre-register to vote in California, you must:

- Be 16 or 17 years old, and
- Meet all of the other requirements to vote.

Once pre-registered, you will automatically be registered to vote on your 18th birthday.

If you have any questions or would like a paper voter registration card, please contact our office at (800) 345-VOTE (8683) or contact your county elections official. You can find your county elections official at www.sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices.

MV2





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Opt-Out Postcard

Secretary of State
Elections Division
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Sacramento, CA 94244-2600

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
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SACRAMENTO CA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Priscilla Esmeralda Castro
1067 Leighton Ave B
Los Angeles CA 90037-1611



IMPORTANT VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

MV3

During your recent Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) transaction, you indicated that you are eligible to register to vote, but chose not to register to vote.

If you meet the eligibility requirements below and want to register to vote or update your current voter registration, please visit our website at RegisterToVote.ca.gov.

To register to vote in California, you must be all of the following:

- A United States citizen, and a resident of California,
- At least 18 years old,
- Not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony, and
- Not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

To pre-register to vote in California, you must:

- Be 16 or 17 years old, and
- Meet all of the other requirements to vote.

Once pre-registered, you will automatically be registered to vote on your 18th birthday.

If you have any questions or would like a paper voter registration card, please contact our office at (800) 345-VOTE (8683) or contact your county elections official. You can find your county elections official at www.sos.ca.gov/county-elections-offices.

