

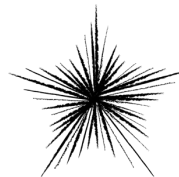
Modernizing voter registration

# Secure Transfer of Voter Registration Data

Webinar hosted by the Center for Technology and Civic Life and the Center for Secure and Modern Elections

January 17, 2019

12:00pm – 12:45 Central Time



THE **CENTER** FOR  
TECHNOLOGY AND CIVIC LIFE

# Hello, there!



Whitney May  
whitney@techandciviclife.org



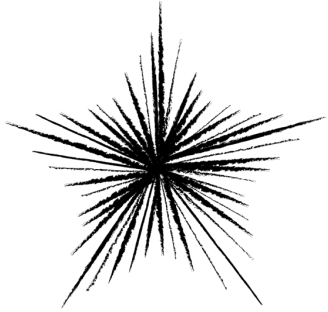
John Lindback  
john.lindback@gmail.com



David Franks  
franks97@frontier.com



Edgardo Cortes  
edgardo.cortes.p@gmail.com



# The Center for Technology & Civic Life

Using technology to improve how local  
government and communities interact

@HelloCTCL

[www.techandcivicliflife.org](http://www.techandcivicliflife.org)



## CSME/Implementation Working Group

Supporting election and agency administrators and advocates to ensure automated voter registration systems are implemented to maximize the accuracy and completeness of voter rolls while improving efficiency.

Providing design, legal, communications, and data transfer support through our networks, as well as insight into campaigns and implementation efforts around the country.

Comprised of a number of individuals and institutions.  
Staffed by Scott Seeborg of Center for Secure and Modern  
Elections: [scott@modernelections.org](mailto:scott@modernelections.org)

# Housekeeping

- Mute your audio if you aren't speaking
- Use chat to communicate
- Update your screen name

# Voter registration at the DMV and other agencies

## **Motor Voter/NVRA/Federal Law**

Customers at motor vehicle agencies and state Health and Social Services agencies are offered the opportunity to register to vote under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).

## **Automatic Voter Registration/State Law (so far)**

Qualified people who apply for or renew a driver's license (or other government service) are automatically registered to vote, unless they decide to opt-out of voter registration.

# Electronic data transfer is the key to Automatic Voter Registration

The ability to transfer voter registration data quickly and accurately through electronic data transfer is a key feature of a modernized voter registration process.

States using electronic data transfer have transitioned away from sharing voter registration data between agencies via paper forms and, instead, send data electronically on a regular schedule or in real time.

# Today's topics

- Why bother with AVR?
- Two main types of AVR: Front-end & Back-end
- Data? WHAT data?
- Data collected by DMVs, Medicaid, NVRA agencies
- Data needed to register someone to vote
- How does data transfer work in the background?
- How will we measure success?



# Why bother with AVR?

- ❑ Increase # of new voter registrants/updated registrations
- ❑ Increase efficiency: Replace 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

# 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
- 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

- Individual conducts transaction at agency (DMV, Social Service, etc)
- Information relevant to voter registration transferred to elections agency
- Individual sent notice that they will be registered unless they opt out.
- Individuals who don't opt out are automatically registered or updated.
- Minimal up-front technology costs
- Potential time savings for registration agencies
- Easier to expand to new agencies
- 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 residence documentation/attestation
- SSN# - Last four digits
- Signature
- In some states, political party affiliation

## Data needed by DMV/Medicaid

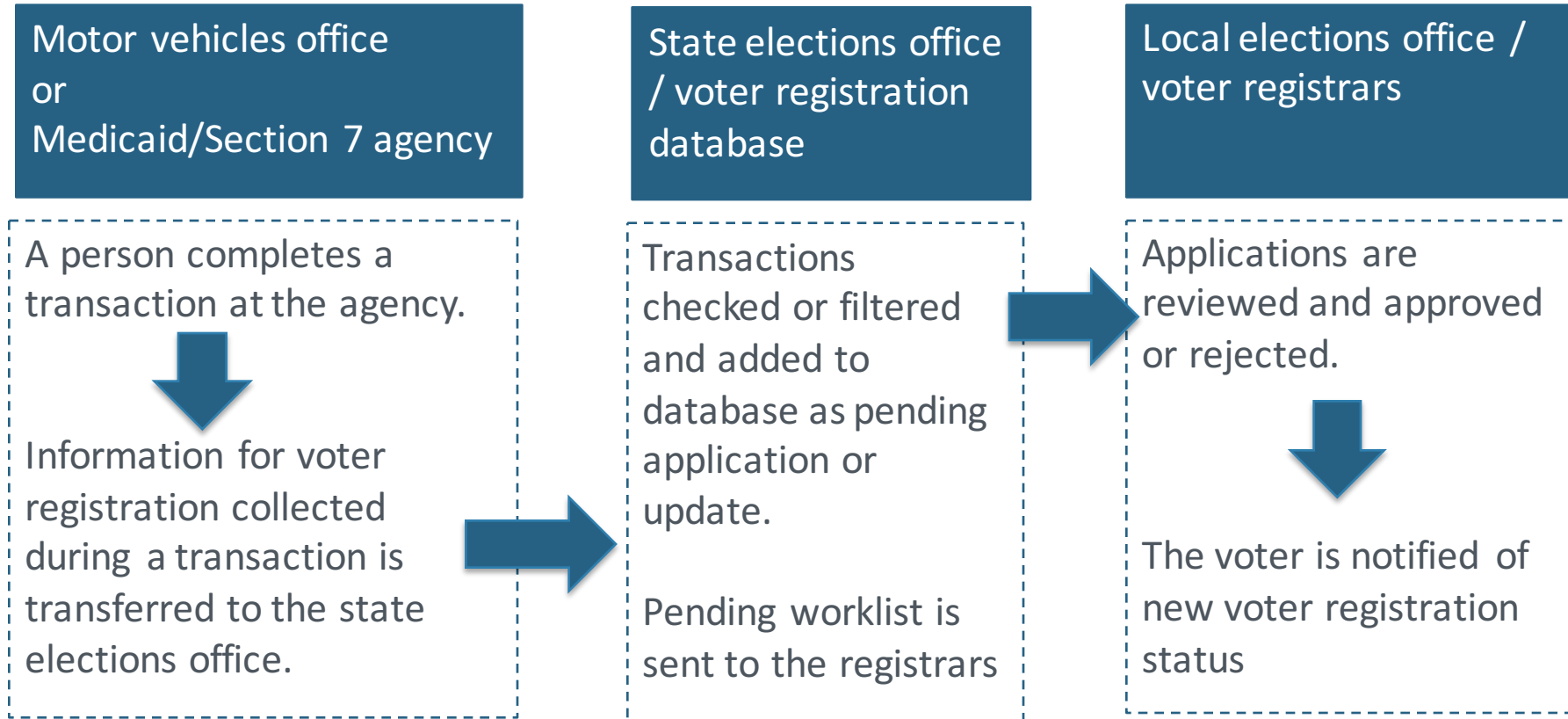
- Name
- DOB
- Citizenship/Proof of Legal Residence
- Address
- License # (DMV)
- SSN# - Last 4 digits
- Signature



## Data needed for Voter Reg

- Name
- DOB
- Citizenship/Proof of Legal Residence
- Address
- License # (DMV)
- SSN# - Last 4 digits
- Signature

# The voter registration data path



# Common issues/challenges with data transfer

- Data formats like addresses and DOBs
- Timing issues
- Quality of signatures
- Compatibility of legacy systems with more modern systems
- Establishing new relationships and agreements between agencies
- Establishing responsibilities for “filtering”
- Adequate testing prior to going live

# How does secure data transfer work?

- ❑ Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
  - ❑ Information about an individual maintained by an agency, including information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity
  
- ❑ Real time or batch file data transfer
  
- ❑ Virtual Private Networks (VPN)
  - ❑ A virtual private network extends across a public or shared network. A VPN acts like a tunnel so you can exchange data securely and anonymously across the internet as if you were connected directly to a private network.



# Encryption: Key component to secure data transfer

- Data should be encrypted in storage and in transit
  - Data encryption translates data into another form, or code, so that only people with access to a secret key can read it
- Several vendors provide data encryption tools



Check with your IT department on the availability of VPN and encryption software and services

# Data to measure success of AVR and secure data transfers

- New registrations occurring under the new system.
- Updated registrations occurring under the new system.
- Rejected voter registrations in the new system versus the old system.
- Provisional ballots cast in the jurisdiction's elections.
- Do the newly registered vote?
- If the jurisdiction has election day registration, the number of registrations occurring on election day.
- Savings in operating costs that resulted from implementation of the new system, including time/workload savings for the DMV, time/workload savings for elections officials, reductions in permanent or temporary personnel devoted to voter registration, and reduction in paper.

# Impact of Automatic Transfer on Local Elections Officials:



“Since Oregon’s system was implemented in January, 2016, Multnomah County has added 80,000 voters at the same time as we’ve reduced temporary staff and overtime that used to input data from paper registration forms. Last-minute surges in registration are now smaller and manageable because voter registration activity is steady throughout the year. And third-party registration drives in Oregon now primarily focus on getting out the vote rather than registering voters on paper.”

*Tim Scott, Director of Elections  
Multnomah County, Oregon*

# Impact of Automatic Transfer on Local Elections Officials:



“Since Virginia has partnered with DMV and allowing DMV customers to register to vote electronically, registrations have increased dramatically and denials have decreased dramatically. The information is more accurate with the electronic process as well. Voters are getting the best of both experiences in one setting. Electronic records are much easier to track and manage. Our system allows us to research any DMV OVR record in question should any issue arise. With the DMV Electronic Registration, it also reduces the amount of Provisionals on Election Day!

“Using the electronic system also reduces the inefficient paper process. If we receive calls in our offices about how to register to vote, we always suggest the Virginia Online system or the DMV process. We are all busy and on the go, most people want the electronic process so they can do it on their time.”

*Lisa P. Jeffers, CPGR, VREO  
Director of Elections  
Waynesboro, Virginia*

## Parting thoughts:

- Automatic Voter Registration and secure data transfers are trending upward across the nation.
- There are different “flavors’ of AVR and some are more complicated than others.
- Data transfers between public agencies are not new.
- Data transfers between public agencies can be secure.
- Data transfers are not complicated.
- Electronic data transfers can save money and time.

# Group discussion questions

What resonated with you today?

What did we cover that you have questions about?

Is there some thing we didn't discuss today that you're curious about?

# Resources

**Recording of this webinar will be posted on CTCL website**

<https://www.techandcivicliflife.org/news/voter-reg-data-transfer-webinar>

# Next webinar

You're invited! Stay tuned for more details.





## How to get help with your implementation

The IWG coordinates support for state and local election and agencies as well as advocates working to ensure smooth implementation of automated voter registration systems.

We can assist with design issues, testing, legal review, public education and engagement plans, data transfer plans, and other issues.

For assistance or to learn more, contact  
Scott Seeborg, Center for Secure and Modern Elections  
[scott@modernelections.org](mailto:scott@modernelections.org)