

## **VOTER REGISTRATION MODERNIZATION IS POSSIBLE NOW: STATE EXPERIENCES**

State experiences show that voter registration modernization is feasible, cost-effective, and will save taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

### **EACH COMPONENT OF VRM IS CURRENTLY BEING USED SUCCESSFULLY IN MULTIPLE STATES ACROSS THE COUNTRY:**

- At least 23 states — Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, and Washington — currently or will soon have fully or substantially implemented **electronic voter registration** at DMVs.
- 38 state DMVs **automatically register** all eligible young men for the Selective Service, as do a variety of other federal and state agencies.
- 8 states — Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Ohio, Oregon, and Utah — have **systems of portable registration** that allow registered voters who move to cast valid ballots even if they do not update their registrations before Election Day.
- At least 11 states — California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Wyoming — plus the District of Columbia currently offer, or have enacted laws which provide for, **Election Day registration**, allowing eligible citizens to register or update their records on Election Day. Three other states — Maryland, North Carolina\* and Ohio — as well as the District of Columbia, offer or will soon offer Same Day Registration.
- At least 34 states allow citizens to look up their **voter registration information online**.
- At least 20 states — Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia — currently or will soon offer **online voter registration**.
- Thanks to a 2002 federal law, every state now has (or soon will have) a computerized statewide voter registration database capable of sharing information in some form with other government databases.

\* Given a recent new law in North Carolina, Same Day Registration will no longer be available effective January 2014.

### **EVERY STATE THAT HAS IMPLEMENTED ELEMENTS OF VRM HAS SAVED MONEY:**

- VRM is a modest investment, and it will pay for itself, saving states millions of dollars a year.

- Washington spent about \$280K to implement electronic voter registration at DMVs and introduce online registration. The Secretary of State's office saved over \$125K in the first year, and the counties saved even more.
- Online registration cost Arizona less than \$100K, and implementing electronic DMV registrations cost only an additional \$30K.
- In Maricopa County, Arizona (which includes Phoenix), processing a paper voter registration form costs 83¢, compared to an average of 3¢ for applications received electronically from the DMV or through the online system.
- In 2008, Maricopa County saved data entry costs equivalent to the cost of eight full-time employees.
- Delaware recently improved its electronic voter registration system at DMVs, saving over \$200,000 a year from its election budget.
- State election officials estimate that VRM could reduce election costs by one third.
- Canada **fully recouped** the cost of its VRM system in one national election.

#### **ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF VOTER REGISTRATIONS INCREASES REGISTRATION RATES:**

- In Washington and Kansas, the number of voter registration transactions at DMVs **doubled** after the system was made electronic.
- In South Dakota, the number of registrations at DMVs increased almost **eight-fold** after the system was made electronic.
- In Delaware, which implemented partially electronic voter registration at DMVs over a decade ago, 81% of all registrations come from DMVs, compared to 38% nationally.