

## **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 22 states— Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, and Washington— have fully or largely **automated the voter registration process** 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.
- 10 states—California, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Wyoming—plus the District of Columbia offer, or have enacted laws which provide for, **Election Day registration**, allowing eligible citizens to register or update their records on Election Day. Two other states, North Carolina and Ohio, as well as the District of Columbia, offer Same Day Registration.
- At least 34 states allow citizens to look up their **voter registration information online**.
- At least 15 states—Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, New York, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, and Washington— 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.

### **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 automate 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 automating 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.

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

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