National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Committee on Science, Technology and Law

Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of Voting:
Maintaining and Updating Voter Registration Databases
October 19, 2017

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Today:

1. Introduction to ERIC

2. Reports: How ERIC helps

3. Savings and efficiencies

4. Security and Privacy

ERIC's mission:

Help state and local election officials improve the accuracy of their voter rolls, register more eligible citizens, reduce costs, and improve efficiencies in the voting process.

ERIC Overview

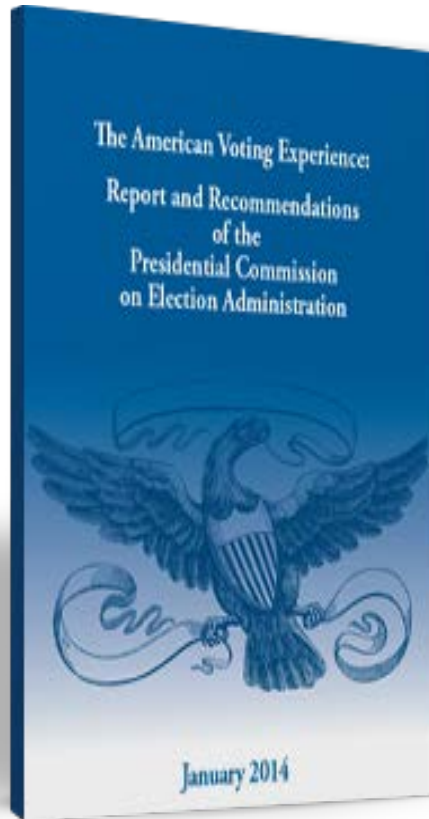- State-run, 20 states & DC
- Incorporated May, 2012
- Membership agreement
- 2 full-time employees
- Routine uploads and reports

ERIC 21 members

Presidential Commission Report

"The Commission endorses state programs to share data and to collaborate in the synchronization of voter lists so that the states, on their own initiative, come as close as possible to creating an accurate database of the eligible electorate."

The American Voting Experience:

Report and Recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration

January 2014

the Presidential Commission on Election Administration

GAO Report to Congress: "Elections Issues Related to Registering Voters and Administering Elections June 2016"

"According to election officials we spoke with, as well as officials' views cited in literature we reviewed, a state's participation in ERIC leads to more accurate voter registration lists and cost savings for state and local election offices."

ERIC reports

- Eligible but Unregistered

Outreach

- In-state Movers
- Cross-state Movers
- Deceased
- In-state Duplicates

List Maintenance

September, 2017 cumulative statistics: Voter Registration Outreach

Report Type	Records Sent
Eligible but unregistered 2012 through Sept. 2017 *In DMV but not registered to vote*	30.3 million

September, 2017 cumulative statistics: List Maintenance

Report Type	2017 Summary	Total Records
In-state movers/updates More recent activity in DMV record	1,652,201	5,527,933
Cross-state movers More recent registration/license in other state	722,443	1,747,491
Deceased Appears on national death index	28,548	199,594
In-state duplicates Duplicate voter records	50,438	141,203
TOTAL	**2,453,630**	**7,616,221**

Cost Savings and Efficiencies with ERIC

Shared costs:

- NCOA
- Social Security Death List

King County (Seattle), Washington:

- 33% reduction in undeliverable ballots

Minnesota:

- $7,500 savings for shared services
- Fewer Election Day registrations

Privacy & Security

- Reports are to be used only for VR purposes
- Reports must be kept confidential
- State must immediately disclose unauthorized release of data
- SSN, DLs & DOBs are anonymized via one-way hash (2x)
- Information Security Management Plan and a comprehensive set of security policies – all guided by a comprehensive risk matrix.

Questions and follow-up

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