

The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)
1995-2006

Kentucky's Experience

The Commonwealth of Kentucky was the only state to fully comply with NVRA mandates by the January 1, 1995 implementation date. Numerous alterations to forms and laws were necessary to comply with NVRA. The most notable, was the complete overhaul of our statewide voter registration database, enacted in 1973, to accommodate the on-line connection with driver's license offices and social service agencies and the addition of source codes to adequately track registration source. A tremendous amount of teamwork was required among state and local entities to accomplish this task and it continues to be important.

Successes in Implementing NVRA

- Full implementation of NVRA on January 1, 1995 deadline
- Modifications to statewide voter registration database to accommodate on-line connection with driver's license and social service agencies
- 1,454,545 people registered to vote from 1995-2005; 73% through and NVRA source
- The statewide voter registration database is much more accurate due to the address updates received from driver's license and social service agency sites

Struggles in Implementing NVRA

- Conveying to Driver's License and Social Services agencies to request the applicant complete all information on the voter registration form
- Conveying to Driver's License and Social Services agencies the importance of forwarding the voter registration applications in a timely manner to the local election official
- Paying for the costly list maintenance requirements in NVRA, which require two mailings before marking a person as inactive.

Suggested Changes to the National Voter Registration Form

- The form is as easy to understand as can be, considering all states have some variations on the required information to register to vote.
- Some discussion has centered around changes to the ID section on the form. We strongly urge that the current language found in box 6 on the card and in the instructions are fine and should not be altered.
 - We and many other states use full social security number as our unique identifier. We do not have any need for a driver's license number or last four digits of social security number. We will vigorously oppose any changes to the form that would in any way lead the applicant to believe only Driver's license number or last four digits of social security number are required to register to vote in our state or the other full social security states.

Suggested Changes to NVRA

- The requirement of two mailings to the same person at the same address before marking as an inactive voter is expensive and not necessary.
 - The law should be modified to require only one mailing before marking as an inactive voter. One mailing is much more reasonable, considering NVRA requires that once on the inactive list a person has two federal general elections to vote or update their address before they are purged.