

VOTER REGISTRATION DATA AND INFORMATION

Data is obtained using the State Election Information Management System (SEIMS), which is a suite of applications that automates voter registration and simplifies the administration of voter records. The suite contains a set of functions used for local processing in the counties. These functions include registering voters, verifying addresses, recording voter's history, mailing absentee ballots, administering polling-places and others. The second is support for statewide functions, which are based on a central statewide database containing the voter registration and voter history data from all the counties in the state.

SEIMS is a client/server application that replicates data to the statewide voter registration database. It links all 100 counties electronically to facilitate the exchange of information not only on election night, but also for voter registration reports, maintenance and elections management. The central database is used to perform cross county duplicate checking and to validate and distribute reports of deaths to the counties.

SEIMS supports interfaces to other state systems and processes using the state database including:

- **Interfaces to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) system to provide a statewide check of death records against the voter role. Checking for duplicate voter registrations statewide.**
- **Interfaces to the Department of Corrections (DOC) system to provide a statewide check of felony conviction records against the voter roles.**
- **Interfaces to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) system to automate the processing of voter registrations from the DMV offices and perform real time validity checking of drivers license numbers.**

The State Board of Elections (SBE) was directed by N.C.G.S. 163-82.11 to develop and implement a computerized statewide elections management system to support efforts of the SBE and county boards of elections to conduct legal and orderly elections.

All one hundred counties in the state participate in the use of SEIMS.

SEIMS is currently being updated to include the functions required by the Help America Vote Act. It currently supports the ID requirements for by mail registrations, including the real time validation of driver's license numbers with the NC Department of Motor Vehicles.

The "purge" procedures that counties used in the past to clean the lists of registered voters have been repealed by new legislation. Specifically, Section 8(b) of the NVRA states that

Any State program or activity to protect the integrity of the electoral process by ensuring the maintenance of an accurate and current voter registration roll...shall not result in the removal of the name of any person from the official list of voters...by reason of the person's failure to vote.

States can no longer use non-voting as a reason to remove voters from the list. The new systematic program to remove voters who no longer reside in the county requires county boards to examine records from the voter registration file, the DMV transaction and declination lists, and agency declinations on file to identify those registrants with whom no voter registration contact has been made. No-contact notices and confirmation notices mailed to these registrants will more accurately identify those persons who have moved outside the county, and who may no longer be eligible to vote using the existing voter registration record.

North Carolina's removal program will be conducted every fourth year, immediately following the Presidential election year, beginning in 1997. County boards follow the steps outlined next to conduct a systematic program for removal of voters who no longer reside in the county.

Four-year list maintenance program:

Identify

County Board staff should begin with the assumption that a no-contact notice will be mailed to every registered voter currently on the active list. The following procedures should be used to determine the registrants who have in some way verified their voter registration record during the four-year period. These registrants should then be removed from the no-contact list. The no-contact list should include all active registered voters except:

- Registrants who, during the last four-year period, were contacted by mail, including
 - Mail and receipt of a verification notice or new voter card, and
 - Mail and receipt of any board of elections administrative mailing.
- Registrants who, during the last four-year period, conducted a business transaction at a DMV office, but declined a voter registration transaction during that visit, indicating that the voter information is up to date. Use the DMV voter registration declination list to determine if the address contained in the DMV record is consistent with the voter record.
- Registrants who, during the last four-year period, conducted a business transaction at a voter registration agency, but declined a voter registration transaction during that visit, indicating that the voter information is up to date. Use the agency declinations, retained in the board of elections office, as the agency declination list (the State Board office will not obtain a printout for public assistance agencies).
- Registrants who, during the last four-year period, verified the existing voter registration record by any other acceptable method. "Acceptable method" shall include, but are not limited to:
 - election day change of address, precinct transfer information, provisional affirmation, etc.;
 - election day address verification procedures as set in N.C.G.S. 163-150(a);
 - notice of candidacy; and
 - request form for voter registration applications.

Mail

- Mail to the no-contact list a non-forwardable no-contact notice. This notice should be sent to the address appearing on the current voter record. The verification notices and voter cards, approved by the State Board office and used by the counties, would serve the purpose of a no-contact mailing.
- If a no-contact notice is returned as undeliverable by the Postal Service, the county board of elections should mail to the voter a forwardable confirmation notice. The confirmation notice should be sent to the address on the current voter record. If a no-contact notice is not returned to the board of elections office, no further action is taken on that voter record--the registrant is retained on the list active registered voters.
- Once the confirmation notice is mailed, the registrant is considered confirmation pending. The confirmation notice includes a postage prepaid return card, and requires a response from the voter.

Action

- If the confirmation notice is returned by the Postal Service as undeliverable, or is not returned at all, within thirty (30) days of the date the notice was sent, the registrant is inactive.
- If the voter verifying the address or providing a new address within the county returns a confirmation notice, the county board of elections should mail a verification notice to the address indicated on the notice.
- If a confirmation notice is returned by the voter indicating a new address outside the county and signed by the registrant, the county board of elections should remove the registrant from the list (the confirmation notice gives the registrant information regarding how to register to vote in his/her new county). To be effective for a primary or general election, the inactive status must be assigned at least ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election. Voters who are entered into the confirmation process less than ninety (90) days before a primary or general election cannot be considered inactive for that primary or general election.

INACTIVE VOTERS ARE STILL CONSIDERED QUALIFIED VOTERS IN THE COUNTY AND WILL BE MAINTAINED ON THE VOTER REGISTRATION ROLLS FOR 2 FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTIONS AFTER GOING TO INACTIVE.