

ERIC Update (Electronic Registration Information Center)

May 1, 2013

Implementation and improvement of the Electronic Registration Information Center continues. This is the first update since December, when counties were sent a summary of the 2012 voter registration education postcard mailings. This ERIC update includes:

1. What's coming from ERIC
2. State and county responsibilities for acting on ERIC reports
3. What's happened with ERIC since last August

What's coming from ERIC?

ERIC will produce reports that identify:

- Deceased voters within a state
- Duplicate registrations within a state
- Voters who have moved from one state to another
- Voters who have moved within the state – in the same county or to a new county
- Apparently unregistered, but potentially eligible residents

All reports pertain to ERIC member-states only, currently Colorado, Delaware, Maryland, Nevada, Utah, Virginia and Washington.

A firm date for when reports will be ready has not been announced. ERIC officers, including our very own Shane Hamlin, are working closely with ERIC, Pew, and IBM staff to establish a firm schedule for uploading fresh voter registration and driver's license data, followed by the release of all five reports.

State and county responsibilities for acting on the ERIC reports

The following describes what actions will be taken on each type of ERIC report and who will take the action.

- **Deceased voters** – These voters will be cancelled. Joint state-county responsibility. Reports must be acted on within 90 days. Active and inactive voters matching deceased records may be cancelled.¹
- **Duplicate voter registrations** – Joint state-county responsibility. These reports must be acted on within 90 days. OSOS Elections Voter Registration Support staff will work directly with counties who appear to have duplicate registrations.²
- **Voters who have moved from one state to another** – The state has primary responsibility. These reports must be acted on within 90 days.

¹ [RCW 29A.08.510](#) and [WAC 434-324-090](#)

² [RCW 29A.08.610](#) and [WAC 434-324-055](#)

	Voter is more recently registered to vote in another state	Voter is more recently licensed to drive in another state
Voter is inactive in Washington	OSOS will work with the other state to send the voter a voluntary cancellation notice to the out-of-state address. The voter will be placed on inactive status. ³	OSOS will work with the other state to send the voter a voluntary cancellation notice to the out-of-state address. The voter will be placed on inactive status.
Voter is active in Washington	OSOS will coordinate with the other state to send the voter a voluntary cancellation notice for Washington.	OSOS will coordinate with the other state to send the voter a voluntary cancellation notice for Washington.

Signed cancellation notices will be forwarded to the appropriate county for cancellation.

- **Voters who move within the state.** Counties have primary responsibility. These reports must be acted on within 90 days.

	DOL Address change – in county	DOL Address change – cross county
Voter is inactive	Update voter record with new address. Send an Acknowledgment Notice. ⁴	Send a confirmation notice to the new address.
Voter is active	Update voter record with new address. Send an Acknowledgment Notice.	Put voter on inactive status and send a confirmation notice to all known addresses in Washington.

- **Apparently unregistered but potentially eligible residents.** The state has primary responsibility for these reports. If the reports are received timely, these individuals will be contacted by September 15, 2014.

What’s happened with ERIC since last August?

August and September

- Member-states uploaded voter registration and driver’s license information data to ERIC. ERIC produced the potentially eligible but unregistered reports. Washington State Elections mailed 1.2 million voter registration postcards to households in Washington.
- An evaluation of the mailing produced the following conclusions –
 - Washington’s report included an unknown number of registered voters due to an error in the matching process.
 - Errors in dates of birth, e.g. transposed numbers, were discovered in existing voter registration records.
 - Correcting errors in dates of birth was an unanticipated benefit of the mailing.
 - 118,044 postcard recipients updated their registration or registered to vote.

³ [WAC 434-324-111](#) Applies to all four actions in the table.

⁴ [RCW 29A.08.620](#) Applies to all four actions in the table.

- Lessons learned–
 - We will review the data before mailings are sent.
 - We will work with counties well in advance to ensure everyone is prepared.
 - We will schedule and train our hotline staff.

November

Shane Hamlin and Harold Stoehr, from the OSOS, conducted a site visit at the ERIC hosting facility in Wisconsin. Harold performed a physical inspection and a detailed interview with the hosting company leadership team. Harold determined that the ERIC application and state data are well secured.

December and January

There were two ERIC Board meetings:

- The Board agreed to hire a technician to assist members with data uploads and other technical needs.
- The board expressed a strong desire to move forward with uploading fresh data and produce list maintenance reports.
- The ERIC staff urged additional quality control testing using the August and September data.
- The board strategized recruitment of additional member-states. Fourteen states are in play, with several viewed as strong candidates to become new members this year or in early 2014. This is an ongoing effort that will be easier once ERIC is running all reports on a regular schedule.

February

Using the data uploaded in August, OSOS Elections conducted quality control testing on an ERIC-generated deceased voter report. ERIC identified deceased voters Washington did not identify through its normal deceased voter management processes. ERIC deceased matching includes the Social Security Master Death Index, a data source Washington uses as well.

March

Ericka Haas was hired to work for ERIC. She previously managed the technical side of Oregon's statewide voter registration database. She has a keen understanding of voter registration data and is very familiar with ERIC and the technology it uses.

April

For testing purposes, all ERIC member-states were provided with list maintenance reports using last year's data. States provided feedback to improve the matching process.

Shane continues working with ERIC support staff and the IBM technical team to establish a firm schedule for uploading fresh data and receiving new reports. Shane was very clear with ERIC, Pew and IBM staff that member-states *and their counties* expect list maintenance reports soon; further delays in receiving ERIC reports will hold up action on the reports due to election calendar constraints.

ERIC secured a website address (domain name) for the ERIC organization. The website address is www.ericstates.org. The site does not have any content yet. Until ERIC has a fully developed site, Pew is hosting [this page](#) that explains ERIC and [this "Frequently Asked Questions" page](#). Both serve as good refreshers on ERIC.