

UNITED STATES ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION



VOTER REGISTRATION SURVEY

The following form should be completed on-line or in electronic format. Completed forms should be returned to the United States Election Assistance Commission via email to [Survey\\_Response@eac.gov](mailto:Survey_Response@eac.gov) on or before March 31, 2005.

Please complete all of the fields below. Specific instructions relative to certain fields are found at the end of this form. If your question or concern is not answered in the instructions section of this form, please contact Brian Hancock at 202-566-3100.

<b>RESPONDENT INFORMATION:</b>		
Name of the responding State: Iowa	Date response is submitted: March 24, 2005	
Name of responding official: Sara Throener	Title of responding official: Director of Voter Registration	
Address of responding official: Secretary of State 321 E 12th Sreet Des Moines, IA 50319	Email Address: sthroener@sos.state.ia.us	
	Phone Number: 515-281-5865	Fax Number: 515-281-7142

**TOTAL VOTER REGISTRATION:**  
Please respond to the following questions in the space provided below.

1. Total number of registered voters (active) at the time of the close of registration for the 2002 Federal general election  
1,809,824
2. Total number of registered voters (inactive) at the time of the close of registration for the 2002 Federal general election  
156,635

3. Total number of registered voters (active) at the time of the close of polls for the 2004 Federal general election (November 2, 2004)  
1,938,657
  
4. Total number of registered voters (inactive) at the time of the close of polls for the 2004 Federal general election (November 2, 2004)  
168,001
  
5. Total number of registered voters who were determined to be eligible to vote in the November 2, 2004 election through the provisional voting process.  
8,048
  
6. Were there any voter registration applications received prior to the deadline for registering to vote in the November 2, 2004 election that were not processed in time for the election?  
  
 Yes       No

**VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICIALS:**  
Please respond to the following questions in the space provided below.

7. Identify the local election official primarily responsible for registering voters.  
County Auditor
  
8. Identify each and every other state or local government office or agency that conducts voter registration including (a) motor vehicle offices, (b) all offices that provide public assistance that are mandated as registration sites by NVRA, (c) all offices that provide state-funded programs primarily serving persons with disabilities, (d) all Armed Forces recruitment offices, and (e) all other agencies designated by the State.  
  
 Department of Transportation, Department of Human Services, Department of Public Health(WIC), Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department for the Blind, Community Colleges, Armed Forces Recruitment Offices, Department of Human Rights-Division of Persons with Disabilities.

9. Identify whether voter registration forms are received by local registration officials or state registration officials.
- Local       State       Both
10. Identify whether voter registration forms are processed by local registration officials or state registration officials.
- Local       State       Both
11. Total number of election jurisdictions conducting voter registration  
99
12. Total number of jurisdictions identified in question 11 that provided information for this survey  
99

**VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS:**  
Please respond to the following questions in the space provided below.

13. Total number of voter registration applications received from all sources during the period from the close of registration for the November 2002 federal election until the close of registration for the November 2004 Federal election  
4,975,449
14. Total number of **mail** voter registration applications (including state, federal, and military or overseas forms that are accepted) received during the period from the close of registration for the November 2002 Federal election until the close of registration for the November 2004 Federal election  
94,964
15. Total number of voter registration applications received **in person in the clerk or voter registrars' office** during the period from the close of registration for the November 2002 Federal election until the close of registration for the November 2004 Federal election  
213,128

16. Total number voter registration applications received from each voter registration agency, including (1) motor vehicle offices, (2) all public assistance agencies that are mandated as registration sites by NVRA, (3) all offices that provide state-funded programs primarily serving persons with disabilities, (4) all Armed Forces recruitment offices, and (5) all other agencies designated by the State (those identified in response to question 8), during the period from the close of registration for the November 2002 Federal election until the close of registration for the November 2004 Federal general election

Motor Vehicle Offices 124,858

Offices that provide Public Assistance 4,796

Offices the provide State-funded programs primarily serving persons with disabilities 428

Armed Forces recruitment offices 515

Other agencies designated by the State 1,159

17. Total number of voter registration applications identified in response to questions 14 – 17 that were **changes of address, name or party**

3,296,901

18. Total number of voter registration applications identified in response to questions 14-17 that were **duplicates** of other valid voter registrations

12,617

19. Total number of voter registration applications identified in response to question 13 that were invalid or rejected (other than duplicates)

Our system does not currently track this.

20. How are voter registration applications transferred from other voter registration agencies (see question 16) to the official responsible for voter registration? (i.e. email, VPN, tape, disk, mail, fax)

Mail

21. What, if any, training is provided to employees of voter registration agencies on the voter registration process?

The Secretary of State's office made a 15 minute instructional video that employees of voter registration agencies watch during their training when they start.

22. Identify any restrictions on the acceptance of voter registration applications such as paper weight, fax, electronic, mail (for non-NVRA states), batch, third-party delivery, etc.

Applications shall be identical in size, shape, weight and similar in color of paper, type size and color of ink to those available from the registrar. State law does not allow for faxed or electronic registrations except for NVRA agencies.

23. Total number of new valid registrations added to the voter registration lists between the 2002 and 2004 Federal general elections

112,220

**PROCESSING VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS:**  
Please respond to the following questions in the space provided below.

24. How are voter registration applications maintained (e.g., paper or computerized)?

Paper       Computerized       Other

If Other is selected, please specify the method of maintaining records.

25. How does the registration official check for duplicate registrations?

The county auditor's can look in their own county system for duplicates. The counties send updates to the state every two weeks. The state runs a statewide duplicate check each month and sends a list of possible duplicates to the counties.

26. Does your State check for duplicate voter registrations across state lines?

Yes       No

27. What type of number is used as a voter registration number (e.g., social security number, unique identifier)? If a unique identifier is used, please identify what method is used for assigning the identified (e.g., random, combination of county number and other number)

- Social Security Number (4 digits)       Driver's License Number  
 Social Security Number (9 digits)       Unique Identifier  
 Other

The voter is required to give their Iowa driver's license number if they have one. If not they can provide the last 4 digits of their SSN. In Iowa the DL# can be the full SSN. The system also generates a random unique ID number in addition to the DL# or SSN. For voters who have neither a DL# or a SSN the system generated random number will be their ID number.

28. Are applicants who are rejected notified of the rejection and reason for rejection?

- Yes       No

**LIST MAINTENANCE:**

Please respond to the following questions in the space provided below.

29. How many removal notices (Section 8(d)(2) confirmation notices) were sent between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 2, 2004?

43,883

30. How many responses were received to the confirmation notices identified in response to question 29?

2,053

31. How many voters were moved to the inactive list?

63,512

32. How many voters were ultimately removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 2, 2004?

220,482

33. How many voters were removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 2, 2004 because of the **death of the voter**?  
41,066
34. How many voters were removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 2, 2004 due to **failure to vote in two consecutive federal general elections**?  
13,056
35. How many voters were removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 2, 2004 because the **voter requested to be removed**?  
8,851
36. How many voters were moved from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 2, 2004 because of **disqualifying felony convictions**?  
4,202
37. How many voters were removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 2, 2004 for reasons other than those set forth in questions 33 – 36? Please specify the reason for the removal.  
74,016 - registered in another jurisdiction  
65 - challenge to registration was upheld  
29 - voter found to be mentally incompetent  
78,277 - administrative error
38. What sources of data are considered in performing list maintenance (e.g., returned election notices, returned jury summons, Postal Service NCOA information, house-to-house canvasses, etc.)?  
NCOA information, any returned mail
39. What process is used to perform list maintenance? (e.g., is the process electronic or manual)  
Manual

40. Who is responsible for list maintenance (e.g., state or locality)?  
County auditors
41. How does your State treat voters who (a) have been convicted of a felony, (b) are serving a sentence of incarceration for conviction of a felony, and (c) are serving a term of probation following being convicted of a felony?
- (a) Convicted of a felony  
Remove from voter registration database until their rights are restored and they re-register to vote.
- (b) Serving a sentence of incarceration for conviction of a felony  
Remove from voter registration database until their rights are restored and they re-register to vote.
- (c) Serving a term of probation following being convicted of a felony  
Remove from voter registration database until their rights are restored and they re-register to vote.

**NVRA AND HAVA PROVISIONS:**

Please respond to the following questions in the space provided below.

42. Is your State subject to the National Voter Registration Act?  
 Yes       No
43. Has your State revised its state voter or mail voter registration form to include the citizenship and age questions required by HAVA?  
 Yes       No
44. How does your State treat applications where one or more of the HAVA mandated questions (citizenship and age) are not answered?  
If the citizenship question is not answered we register the voter and send them a notice along with a registration form stating that they need to answer the question and send the form back. If they do not check the age box we look at the date of birth they give on the form and as long as that is 17 1/2 years or older we register the voter. The age box confuses many youth in Iowa because state law allows them to register at 17 1/2.



45. Total number of voter registration applications that were accepted and processed without the applicant completing the question “Are you a citizen of the United States of America?”

208

46. Total number of voter registration applications that were accepted and processed without the applicant completing the question “Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day?”

Our system does not track this.

47. Has your State implemented the verification requirements of HAVA for new mail registrations?

Yes       No

48. Has your State implemented the verification requirements of HAVA for all new registrations?

Yes       No

49. How does your State verify voter registration applications (e.g., tracking the return of disposition notices, checks against drivers license and social security administration records, etc.)?

We currently check new mail-in registrations with the Department of Transportation if they give a DL# or the Social Security Administration if they give the last 4 digits of their social security number.

50. Has your State implemented a statewide voter registration database?

Yes       No

If the answer is no, when will your State implement a statewide voter registration database and what progress has been made toward achieving that implementation?

We are currently in the process of implementing a statewide voter registration database. We plan to start a pilot project in June then move all counties onto the new system in three phases. All counties are scheduled to be on the new system by December of 2005.

Does the database or any solicitation for such a database include linking disability and social service agencies to the database in a similar manner as the state department of motor vehicles?

- Yes       No

**VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES:**

Please respond to the following questions in the blanks provided below.

51. Does your State allow outside groups to conduct voter registration drives and submit the voter registration applications to the local registration official for processing?

- Yes       No

52. How does your State manage the number of applications given to the outside group and the number and timing of the return of those forms by the outside registration group?

Our office does not manage how many forms outside groups get. Outside groups can print as many voter registration forms as they want from our website. We encourage groups to work with county auditors on the timing of returning completed forms.

53. Does your State use serial numbers on voter registration applications given to outside groups and organizations in order to be able to identify which group or organization handled completed applications that are received by State and local officials?

- Yes       No

54. Does your State permit agents of outside groups to be paid compensation for registering voters?

- Yes       No

If so, may the agent be paid on the basis of the number of voter registrations submitted?

- Yes       No

If payment of a voter registration is prohibited, what is the penalty for violating the prohibition?

N/A

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:**

Please respond to the following questions in the blanks provided below.

55. Are voter registration records public information?

Yes       No

56. Are voter registrations available for sale to the public?

Yes       No

**Instructions:**

Please answer every question. Do not leave any questions blank. The appropriate answer may be “0”, “none”, or “N/A”. This survey seeks information only from the State level.