

Minnesota Back-End Automatic Voter Registration Fact Sheet

About Back-End Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) in Minnesota

In 2022, Minnesota has an opportunity to become a leader in voter registration by upgrading its system to the most secure, accessible model of automatic voter registration. Back-end AVR is proven to be the most effective policy to add eligible voters to the rolls and securely update voter lists with accurate address information, all while ensuring that people who are not eligible are protected from inadvertent interaction with the system. In doing so, back-end AVR ensures our voter rolls are up-to-date and secure, presenting a can't-miss opportunity for Minnesota.

Back-end AVR automatically registers people to vote when they present documents confirming their citizenship at the DVS or another state agency. People who are already registered to vote will have their information updated to reflect any address or name change provided to the agency. New or updated registrants will then be mailed a postcard offering the opportunity to decline their new registration or registration change.

Key Benefits of AVR

AVR is Accurate: Data is kept up-to-date every time a voter interacts with a government agency. When people move or change their name, their registration updates without the need for additional action. Voter registration data is kept accurate because election officials receive verified and timely information, and are not forced to spend time and money completing data entry, which can be subject to human error. Before Colorado upgraded their AVR system, approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of registered voters with out-of-date addresses failed to update their registrations at the Colorado DVS. By upgrading their AVR system, the Colorado DVS processed over 200,000 additional voter registration address updates per year.

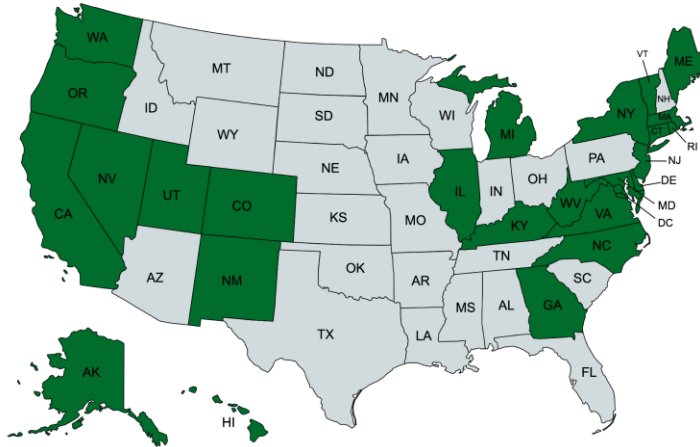
AVR is Secure: By having up-to-date voter information, election offices can ensure all eligible citizens can cast their ballot without obstruction in each election. AVR eliminates duplicate records, which makes voting systems simpler to manage and more secure for voters. AVR also allows states to make critical upgrades to existing voting infrastructure, which helps to prevent hacking or tampering—improving the integrity of America's elections.

AVR is Fair: Outdated registration systems hurt voters who work multiple jobs, live in rural areas, or have recently moved. Because most voters interact with government agencies, whether through renewing a vehicle registration or securing a fishing permit, AVR helps to ensure up-to-date information for all eligible voters is maintained.

AVR is Cost-Effective: Nationwide, tens of millions of paper registrations are processed every year, each costing on average \$3.64. By contrast, it costs only three cents to securely process an automated voter registration. Replacing an outdated paper-based system with a modern, electronic one will eliminate wasteful red tape, save millions of taxpayer dollars, and increase security measures to better defend and carry out our elections.

AVR Around the Country

As of early 2022, 25 states plus Washington D.C. have implemented automatic voter registration, or are in the process of implementing it. Those states, highlighted in green below, have saved millions of taxpayer dollars, and eliminated paper registrations that cost almost 30 times more than their current electronic systems.



Red and blue states ranging from West Virginia to Rhode Island, Michigan to Kentucky have modernized and secured their elections. This year Minnesota has the opportunity to join them.

1. 2022 AVR Legislation

In 2022, Minnesota has the opportunity to improve its existing AVR system legislatively. This legislation would establish a back-end AVR system that greatly enhances our current voter registration system.

This bill presents *at least* four noteworthy advances for the state and for voters:

- The ability to register a significantly higher percentage of eligible voters than are presently registered. This higher rate of registration will form a more representative cross-section of citizens on the state's voter rolls.
- More accurate and up-to-date voter rolls.
- Added protection for non-citizens to prevent erroneous registration and ensure that only eligible voters are registered.
- Allows effective AVR implementation at agencies beyond the DVS, such as the Human Services Department. Under this AVR system, any eligible citizen who receives Medicaid could be registered to vote.