

## **Electronic Voter Registration Fact Sheet**

Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 267 Iowans have applied to register to vote electronically.

Iowans now have 6 ways to register to vote. This provides every eligible Iowan with several options available to register to vote.

Electronic registration is accessible 24/7 through all devices with an internet connection.

The electronic voter registration process is built on the Iowa DOT's on-line services portal, which has been in place more than two years. Over a quarter million DOT customers have securely completed other online transactions through this portal.

This online system assures the integrity of the voter registration process:

- Applicants must hold a valid Iowa driver's license or DOT-issued ID.
- Applicants consent to using their signatures that are on file with the DOT
- DOT system verifies citizenship and age of the applicant
- Eligible applicants enter first and last name, date of birth, the last five digits of social security number, driver's license or ID card number, and the document identifier from the DL card
- Citizens without a valid Iowa driver's license or ID and are eligible to vote can use one of five other methods to register, including Election Day registration.

Where to find the electronic system:

[www.sos.iowa.gov](http://www.sos.iowa.gov), then click on "Register To Vote"

[www.iowadot.gov](http://www.iowadot.gov), then click on "Online Services"

[mymvd.iowadot.gov](http://mymvd.iowadot.gov).

County auditors web pages

After registering online, registrants will receive a voter registration card in the mail within 7 working days from their county auditor.

**BENEFITS:** In addition to the ease and convenience to the voter, electronic voter registration will reduce errors caused by illegible handwriting and will shorten lines at the polls on election day as fewer people will register at the polls on election day.

There are 20 other states currently using electronic voter registration:

Arizona	California	Colorado	Connecticut	Delaware
Georgia	Illinois	Indiana	Kansas	Louisiana
Maryland	Minnesota	Missouri	Nevada	New York
Oregon	So. Carolina	Utah	Virginia	Washington

## **Electronic Voter Registration Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Why did the Secretary of State's office partner with the Iowa DOT to build and operate the electronic voter registration system?**

A: The Iowa DOT already takes voter registration applications through the driver's license and ID card application and renewal process, as required by the 1993 National Voter Registration Act, (Motor Voter). The Department transmits voter registrations to the Secretary of State's office daily. Electronic voter registration was already integrated into its online renewal and kiosk transactions. This partnership gives the vast majority of Iowans more convenience and better access to voter registration services without sacrificing security or integrity.

### **2. How does electronic voter registration impact the integrity of Iowa elections?**

A: The Iowa DOT vets the identity and citizenship status of its online applicants. The DOT also obtains and retains a digitized signature of every person holding an Iowa driver's license or ID card. That digitized signature is associated with the applicant's voter registration. The digitized signature is foundational to the integrity of Iowa's voter registration system.

### **3. What did it cost the state to build the online voter registration system?**

A: The electronic voter registration system leverages the Iowa DOT's existing online driver's license renewal system and voter registration processes to identify voter registration applicants and gather and transmit voter registration information. All development was completed internally and at no cost to the Secretary of State's office or the Iowa DOT. We are very grateful to the DOT for this partnership.

### **4. Are people who don't have an Iowa driver's license or ID card excluded from registering to vote?**

A. No. If you don't have an Iowa driver's license or ID card, you can still register to vote using one of five previously existing procedures:

- Election Day Registration at the polls

- Mailing a paper application to the county auditor (forms available online)

- During the driver license application or renewal processes

- In-person through any voter registration drive or at the county auditor's office

- At state agencies offering services to the public

### **4. Is the electronic voter registration system accessible to persons with disabilities?**

A. Yes. The Iowa DOT is contracting with an ADA compliance consultant to review its online services portal, including the electronic voter registration system, and will make appropriate adjustments if recommended.

**5. Some persons with disabilities, as well as other eligible lowans, are unable to drive and don't have a driver's license. Are they excluded from registering to vote?**

A. No. Many lowans who are unable to drive have an Iowa non-operator's identification (ID) card. Any U.S. citizen who holds an Iowa ID card may use the electronic voter registration system to register to vote.

**6. Does it cost anything to register to vote electronically?**

A. No. There is never a cost to register to vote.

**7. If I have an Iowa driver's license or non-operator's card, do I have to register to vote online?**

A. No. Electronic voter registration is ONE of SIX options that is offered for convenience. You should use whichever of the six options works best for you.

**8. If I'm already registered to vote, do I have to register again online?**

A. No. If you're already registered to vote and your voter registration information remains up to date, you don't have to do anything. If, however, you need to update your address or wish to change your party affiliation, you may use electronic voter registration to do so.

**9. If I register to vote using the electronic voter registration system, will my registration be included in the February 1 precinct caucuses?**

A. Your voter registration will be valid within a few days of your transaction. However, both political parties have already pulled voter registration lists for the precinct caucuses, so no new registrations nor newly updated registrations will be included at the precinct caucuses regardless of which method you use to register to vote. You may wish to take your voter registration card with you to the caucuses so that you can demonstrate that you are registered with the political party of the caucus you wish to attend.

**10. How many people register at the DOT now and how many do you expect will use the electronic system?**

A: About half of voter registrations presently come through DOT systems. Given the convenience of the electronic system, we anticipate that as many as 75-80% of registered voters will come through either the online or DOT systems.