

# Online Voter Registration



Massachusetts

COMMON CAUSE

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## What is it?

Currently, Massachusetts residents must fill out an application, sign it in paper form, and mail or deliver it to an elections official before being added to the voter rolls.

Online registration would allow citizens to fill out paperless applications over the internet, which reduces processing time, cuts costs, decreases errors, and encourages more people to register.

It is secure. The online system would search the Registry of Motor Vehicles database for the applicants driver's license and other identifying information and match it to the electronic form. Newly registered voters would be required to show proof of residence the first time they vote.

## It's a problem.

Unregistered citizens

At least

51 Million

Or **nearly 1 in 4** eligible citizens are not registered to vote



That's more than  
24% of the eligible

## It works.

After Arizona implemented online voter registration, registration rates rose by 9.5%. Increases among young voters are particularly notable. In California, residents under age 25 accounted for 30 percent of all online registrants — helping to drive an 8 percent increase in voter registration in that age bracket.

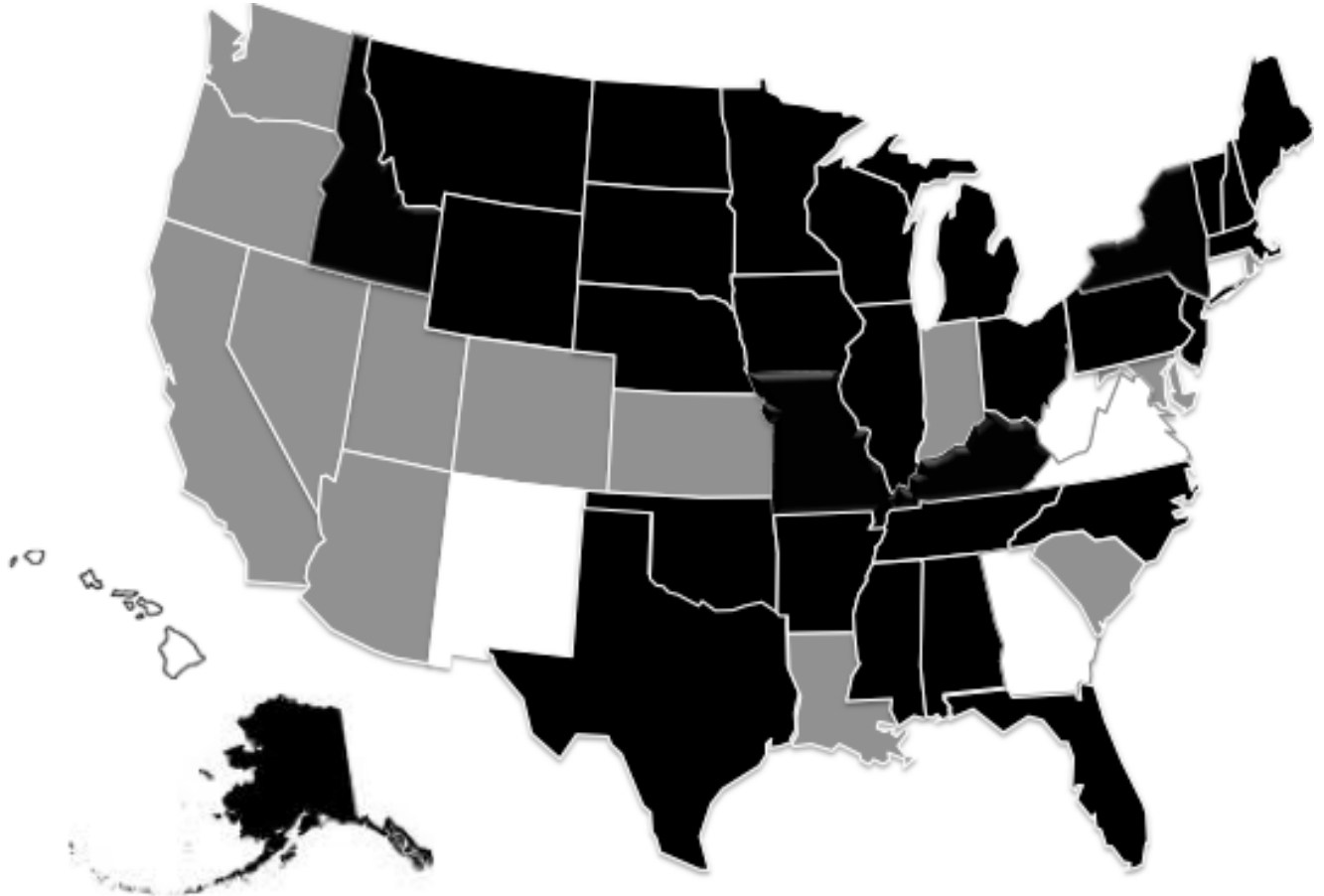
Online registration also helps election officials maintain accurate rolls by improving the process at numerous points. In Arizona, an online registration is five times less likely to contain errors compared to a paper registration.

## It's cheap.

Studies have shown that the cost savings of moving to an online registration system are significant and compelling. Maricopa County, Arizona, for example, has saved \$1.4 million in processing registration applications since 2008 by promoting online registration: processing a paper registration form costs 83¢, compared to as little as 3¢ for some online applications

# Other states do it.

**Nineteen states have passed online voter registration**—Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia.



## KEY

- No online voter registration
- States with online registration
- Online voter registration has passed, not yet implemented

# People like it.

Thousands registered online in 2012. In California, 220,000 used the system in the first two weeks. Over 15,000 new registrations were filed online in Nevada before October 2nd. South Carolina's system was only available for 5 days, but it resulted in 17,000 new registrants. According to a Pew research study, 95% of those polled in Arizona and Washington recommend that other states adopt online voter registration.