

CALIFORNIA'S AUTO-REGISTRATION LAW FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1: I have heard that California has a New Motor Voter Law. What does it do?

When you get a driver's license or state ID card, there should soon be an easy, automated way to also register to vote. Anyone who is 18 years or older, a citizen, and not otherwise barred from registering to vote, should be able to sign a statement confirming that they are eligible to vote, under penalty of perjury. Eligible voters will be registered to vote, unless they indicate that they do not wish to register.

The big difference is an effort to integrate voter registration so you don't have to fill out a separate paper form. And on the other side of the counter, a government worker does not have to enter your information in twice. If you have given your name, address, birthdate, and other relevant information to the Department of Motor Vehicles already, the same information can be used for your voter registration. You will also have an opportunity to choose your party preference, volunteer to be a pollworker, and choose language assistance if you need it.

Q2: Besides going into the DMV, how else can I get registered to vote?

You can use the SOS's online registration system at: registertovote.ca.gov. If you have recently moved, changed your name, changed your political party preference, or want to register to vote for the first time, you may do so at this site. There are also efforts to integrate voter registration into other government agencies and schools.

Q3: Does the New Motor Voter Law change who is eligible to vote?

No. The New Motor Voter Law does not change who can register to vote, only how you can register. That means, to register, you have to be a citizen, 18 years or older, and not otherwise barred from registering. Noncitizens who apply for driver's licenses will not be registered to vote. We applaud Secretary Alex Padilla and Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez for passing a bill that is a gold standard for registering new voters while carefully avoiding inadvertently sweeping in people who are not eligible.

Q4: When will we see these New Motor Voter changes?

The Secretary of State is working toward implementing an automated voter registration system at DMV by spring 2016. In fact, \$2.35 million in the state budget has been allocated to fund the purchase and installation of new keypads at every DMV office to electronically capture the information needed for driver's license and voter registration. Behind the scenes, the SoS and DMV will also be developing the technology to better transmit voter data for **outreach and education**. Much of this work was made possible by negotiations led by ACLU, Demos, Project Vote, Morrison Foerster (on behalf of Common Cause, League of Women Voters, ACCE, and National Council of La Raza).

Q5: What is next for implementation of the New Motor Voter Law?

NALEO has released a report: "[Electronic Voter Registration: Modernizing our Democratic Process](#)," with [recommendations](#) for how to implement the new automated procedures. The Secretary of State will be working through details of implementation with the DMV. Stay tuned for public hearings on this and other important innovations in California's voter registration laws.