# Electronic Voter Registration in California:

New Opportunities, Emerging Issues

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# Key Recommendations for Implementation of Electronic Voter Registration in California

System Design and Accessibility:

- Registrants should have the ability to directly enter information into the registration system, and review and confirm its accuracy.

- Process should at minimum comply with federal requirements regarding language assistance in the electoral process; registrants should be able to indicate their preferences regarding language assistance and election materials.

- Agency computer interfaces should at the minimum adapt features built into California's online voter registration portal for accessibility to persons with disabilities.

- DMV and SOS should consult with advocates and community stakeholders when implementing EVR, including the statewide VAAC and LAAC.

# Key Recommendations for Implementation of Electronic Voter Registration in California

Agency Implementation:

- Agency employees should receive thorough training on registration procedures, new technological capabilities and interfaces, and adaptations for customers who need language assistance and customers

- DMV and SOS should conduct outreach regarding EVR and the increased ease of registering through the DMV, and, eventually, other state agencies that adopt electronic registration.

- EVR should be fully integrated into operations of all appropriate state and local NVRA agencies.

**"MOTOR/VOTER"** ✓

**National Voter Registration Act of 1993**

# Emerging Issues in Electronic Voter Registration Implementation at DMV

- Reliance on paper forms for voter registration

- Clarity of language on DL 44 regarding attestation and voter registration

- Need for registrant to visit second location in DMV office for touchscreen information entry; impact on collection of voter language preferences and political party

- Clarity and format of touchscreen interface

- Accessibility of foregoing to persons with disabilities

- Training that will be provided to DMV personnel

- Plans for SOS and DMV outreach and education on new system

# Thank you.

Rosalind Gold
Senior Director, Policy, Research and Advocacy
rgold@naleo.org
Twitter: @NALEO

www.naleo.org

# Differences Between "New Motor Voter" and Oregon "Automatic" Registration



- CA requires a person to attest that they are eligible to vote at the DMV before they can be registered.

- CA will offer the attestation and any other voter registration questions in 10 languages.

- CA will give a person the chance to decline voter registration at the DMV.

- CA's law offers some protection against any state law penalties should someone inadvertently register to vote or mistakenly vote as a result of their DMV transaction. (Note: These state law protections may mitigate the potential federal immigration consequences for persons who inadvertently register to vote, but may not offer full protection.)

Source: *California's New Motor Voter Law: Frequently-Asked Questions*
*http://futureofcaelections.org/wp-content/uploads/Nov2015_AB1461-FAQ.pdf*