STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Steven S. Sandvoss

November 29, 2018

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

Public Act 100-0464 (SB1933), established Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), and mandates that the Illinois State Board of Elections submit an annual public report to the General Assembly and the Governor detailing the progress made towards implementing AVR and providing certain statistics, including those who submitted application through the State Board of Elections' Online Voter Application (OVA) website (see 10ILCS 5/1A-16.7(o)). Enclosed herewith, please find the requested statistics for the period of July 2, 2018 through November 26, 2018 and also written communication submitted to the Illinois State Board of Elections as part of monthly Board meetings between the enactment of P.A. 100-0464 on August 28, 2017 and October 16, 2018 detailing and commenting on the progress towards implementing AVR.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at dschultz@elections.il.gov or 217.782.1568.

Sincerely,

Dustin Schultz

Dustin Schultz
Election Specialist II/AVR Coordinator

Name	Total SOS App's Received	Total SOS App's Registered	Total Newly Registered SOS Applications	Total Updated Registered SOS Applications	Total SOS App's Rejected
STATEWIDE COUNTS	224386	186804	60976	125828	10371
Adams County	1207	1009	275	734	178
Alexander County	68	51	25	26	16
Bond County	257	194	41	153	10
Boone County	961	805	184	621	41
Brown County	72	68	8	60	0
Bureau County	607	542	107	435	3
Calhoun County	212	169	14	155	12
Carroll County	234	223	64	159	7
Cass County	214	209	41	168	2
Champaign County	4613	3995	1526	2469	35
Christian County	477	402	86	316	5
Clark County	207	192	60	132	15
Clay County	229	183	37	146	3
Clinton County	530	356	98	258	65
Coles County	750	677	144	533	62
Cook County	41237	33773	11320	22453	996
Crawford County	365	334	74	260	20
Cumberland County	139	124	22	102	1
DeKalb County	2121	1488	378	1110	288
DeWitt County	296	256	65	191	37
Douglas County	321	298	60	238	16
DuPage County	18165	15380	4449	10931	274
Edgar County	278	120	43	77	47
Edwards County	90	63	14	49	2
Effingham County	474	423	117	306	1
Fayette County	358	221	70	151	9
Ford County	274	224	56	168	4
Franklin County	587	438	132	306	80

Name	Total SOS App's Received	Total SOS App's Registered	Total Newly Registered SOS Applications	Total Updated Registered SOS Applications	Total SOS App's Rejected
Fulton County	730	706	133	573	11
Gallatin County	62	51	15	36	2
Greene County	322	275	41	234	3
Grundy County	1086	922	195	727	24
Hamilton County	94	80	9	71	2
Hancock County	249	230	93	137	3
Hardin County	83	56	17	39	0
Henderson County	119	112	31	81	4
Henry County	728	524	184	340	94
Iroquois County	438	423	105	318	1
Jackson County	1003	969	286	683	8
Jasper County	129	107	19	88	3
Jefferson County	583	469	122	347	8
Jersey County	379	324	94	230	30
JoDaviess County	439	371	136	235	47
Johnson County	162	148	28	120	13
Kane County	9204	8623	2558	6065	443
Kankakee County	1930	1683	418	1265	62
Kendall County	2829	2272	555	1717	200
Knox County	337	48	14	34	0
Lake County	12087	9537	3611	5926	766
LaSalle County	2038	1655	328	1327	26
Lawrence County	237	230	82	148	1
Lee County	578	440	106	334	111
Livingston County	515	412	159	253	26
Logan County	469	381	84	297	50
Macon County	2102	1595	502	1093	4
Macoupin County	763	616	149	467	14
Madison County	4946	4137	1231	2906	44
Marion County	693	449	120	329	81
Marshall County	197	186	29	157	0

Name	Total SOS App's Received	Total SOS App's Registered	Total Newly Registered SOS Applications	Total Updated Registered SOS Applications	Total SOS App's Rejected
Mason County	193	191	46	145	1
Massac County	194	168	50	118	9
McDonough County	470	429	114	315	15
McHenry County	6446	5788	1585	4203	437
McLean County	1563	1350	453	897	4
Menard County	223	174	43	131	13
Mercer County	256	170	53	117	0
Monroe County	757	578	179	399	70
Montgomery County	351	305	65	240	10
Morgan County	636	566	94	472	5
Moultrie County	196	172	45	127	24
Ogle County	978	936	258	678	25
Peoria County	3162	3001	595	2406	83
Perry County	298	214	31	183	3
Piatt County	298	239	80	159	5
Pike County	294	267	75	192	2
Pope County	50	35	10	25	7
Pulaski County	59	37	18	19	13
Putnam County	110	9	4	5	2
Randolph County	532	391	101	290	71
Richland County	328	295	70	225	1
Rock Island County	2359	2012	757	1255	51
Saline County	388	367	113	254	10
Sangamon County	4394	3536	792	2744	100
Schuyler County	108	90	23	67	5
Scott County	74	58	9	49	2
Shelby County	379	365	90	275	4
Stark County	91	66	19	47	24
St. Clair County	4593	3686	1331	2355	259
Stephenson County	932	862	222	640	22

Name	Total SOS App's Received	Total SOS App's Registered	Total Newly Registered SOS Applications	Total Updated Registered SOS Applications	Total SOS App's Rejected
Tazewell County	1974	1674	398	1276	8
Union County	356	250	93	157	2
Vermilion County	608	525	136	389	15
Wabash County	116	90	32	58	4
Warren County	256	202	50	152	14
Washington County	229	226	41	185	2
Wayne County	294	197	52	145	24
White County	229	195	34	161	30
Whiteside County	833	811	266	545	9
Will County	12622	10252	3552	6700	110
Williamson County	1248	1036	315	721	43
Winnebago County	2644	2151	680	1471	60
Woodford County	546	477	120	357	4
City of Bloomington	1749	1455	558	897	3
City of Chicago	45416	37689	15242	22447	4264
City of Danville	388	319	98	221	63
City of East St Louis	283	232	108	124	30
City of Galesburg	442	352	130	222	40
City of Rockford	2567	2066	782	1284	59

Name	Total OVA's Received	Total OVA's Registered	Total OVA's Rejected
STATEWIDE COUNTS	181704	153768	11238
Adams County	452	304	104
Alexander County	24	18	4
Bond County	106	75	29
Boone County	495	424	16
Brown County	31	27	1
Bureau County	188	168	13
Calhoun County	24	20	1
Carroll County	86	83	1
Cass County	84	68	1
Champaign County	5544	5046	16
Christian County	232	182	5
Clark County	70	57	13
Clay County	63	55	1
Clinton County	319	203	47
Coles County	506	408	59
Cook County	34977	29394	226
Crawford County	101	77	24
Cumberland County	47	41	0
DeKalb County	1534	1135	379
DeWitt County	103	81	22
Douglas County	121	95	21
DuPage County	16063	14333	181
Edgar County	122	32	1
Edwards County	31	2	1
Effingham County	211	192	11
Fayette County	105	46	11
Ford County	137	118	3
Franklin County	258	190	33
Fulton County	238	212	3
Gallatin County	21	19	2
Greene County	73	63	8
Grundy County	527	472	0
Hamilton County	24	18	6
Hancock County	90	82	3
Hardin County	20	13	1
Henderson County	32	31	1
Henry County	363	285	39
Iroquois County	206	186	1
Jackson County	856	771	13
Jasper County	41	39	0
Jefferson County	280	240	18
Jersey County	133	109	17

Name	Total OVA's Received	Total OVA's Registered	Total OVA's Rejected
JoDaviess County	149	103	10
Johnson County	43	23	20
Kane County	6809	6117	681
Kankakee County	1060	920	23
Kendall County	1688	1508	15
Knox County	159	71	2
Lake County	9480	8522	44
LaSalle County	892	789	13
Lawrence County	77	70	2
Lee County	302	227	62
Livingston County	319	272	13
Logan County	177	136	21
Macon County	831	721	101
Macoupin County	367	320	36
Madison County	3297	2958	293
Marion County	297	186	35
Marshall County	71	63	7
Mason County	91	80	11
Massac County	84	82	0
McDonough County	401	295	20
McHenry County	4065	3513	173
McLean County	2339	2082	234
Menard County	98	86	3
Mercer County	117	67	0
Monroe County	330	245	50
Montgomery County	181	126	29
Morgan County	273	234	0
Moultrie County	81	64	17
Ogle County	476	437	36
Peoria County	2709	2403	40
Perry County	118	33	2
Piatt County	164	149	10
Pike County	105	92	2
Pope County	11	8	3
Pulaski County	28	20	6
Putnam County	25	0	0
Randolph County	148	97	31
Richland County	90	76	1
Rock Island County	1342	1158	40
Saline County	150	128	22
Sangamon County	2476	2195	248
Schuyler County	47	41	3
Scott County	33	20	10

Name	Total OVA's Received	Total OVA's Registered	Total OVA's Rejected
Shelby County	167	146	21
Stark County	33	26	7
St. Clair County	2508	2165	313
Stephenson County	372	330	5
Tazewell County	1516	1359	8
Union County	81	55	0
Vermilion County	327	291	32
Wabash County	44	34	9
Warren County	118	104	7
Washington County	94	83	1
Wayne County	77	45	8
White County	77	65	8
Whiteside County	521	463	9
Will County	8673	7554	84
Williamson County	647	576	64
Winnebago County	1512	1288	15
Woodford County	447	399	4
City of Bloomington	1303	1172	6
City of Chicago	54378	43864	6745
City of Danville	263	180	47
City of East St Louis	62	47	5
City of Galesburg	248	188	32
City of Rockford	1298	1183	103

20) *SBE v. Southside Democracy for America (SDFA),* 17CD092; (pgs.184-185)
21) *SBE v. Committee to Elect Elisabeth Dunbar,* 17CD099; (pgs.186-187)
22) *SBE v. Friends of Jeanne Oddo for Alderman,* 17CD100; (pgs.188-190)
23) *SBE v. Friends of Cecilia O'Brien,* 17CD104; (pgs.191-192)
24) *SBE v. DEV4Ev,* 17CD112; (pgs.193-194)
25) *SBE v. Martin Luther King Republicans,* 17CD113; (pgs.195-196)
26) *SBE v. Citizens for Frank M. Gambino,* 17CD115; (pgs.197-198)
27) *SBE v. Fix McHenry Schools,* 17CD120; (pgs.199-200)
28) *SBE v. EGOFSKE FOR MAYOR,* 17CD121; (pgs.201-202)
29) *SBE v. Citizens for Delean Fuller,* 17CD122; (pgs.203-204)
30) *SBE v. Local Governments United PAC,* 17CD127; (pgs.205-206)

Complaints following closed preliminary hearing – recommendation: no further action beyond imposition of civil penalty

31) *SBE v. McAvoy for Alderman Committee,* 17CD069; (pgs.207-209)
32) *SBE v. Citizens for Ahkeem Henderson,* 17CD116; (pgs.210-211)
33) *SBE v. Citizens to Elect Ryan Mains,* 17CD119; (pgs.212-213)
34) *SBE v. The Community Action Party,* 17CD123; (pgs.214-215)
35) *SBE v. Hard Reset Illinois,* 17CD124; (pgs.216-217)
36) *SBE v. Friends of Dennis P. Mahoney,* 17CD128; (pgs.218-219)

b. Proposed changes to Administrative Rules – Part 100 Campaign Financing. (pgs.24-31)

3. Report of the Executive Director
   a. Consideration of final approval of ES&S Unity 3.4.1.1 Election Management System; (pgs.32-34)
   b. Public Act 100-0464 – Automatic Voter Registration – informational; (pgs.35-36)
   c. Established party candidate petition filing; (pgs.37-43)
   d. Legislative update;
      1) Elections legislation; (pgs.44-48)
      2) Report on sub-committee; (oral report)
   e. IT/IVRS update; (oral report)
   f. Public Information Officer position; (pgs.49-52)
   g. FY18 fiscal status reports – informational;
      1) GRF month ending September 30; (pgs.53-60)
      2) Elections summary; (pg.61)
      3) Help Illinois Vote Fund; (pgs.62-64)
   h. Two year plan of staff activity for the months of October & November – informational. (pgs.65-66)

4. Follow up. (pg.67)

5. Comments from the general public. (pg.67)

6. Next Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 20, 2017 in Springfield. (pg.67)

7. Executive Session. (pgs.68-80)

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

From the desk of.... Steven S. Sandvoss, Executive Director
Phone: 217-557-9939
Email: ssandvoss@elections.il.gov

To: William J. Cadigan – Chairman
John R. Keith – Vice-Chairman
Members of the Board

Re: Public Hearing - AVR

Date: October 5, 2017

Please be advised that Section 1A-16.7(n) of the AVR Bill (P.A. 100-0464) requires the State Board of Elections to hold a public hearing on the implementation of automatic voter registration within 6 months of the effective date of the Act. The specific provision is on the following page of this Memo. Staff has recommended that said hearing be conducted during the November 20th meeting of the SBE, at which time interested persons may provide comment. Appropriate public notice will be provided through our regular channels of communication.

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STATE OF ILLINOIS

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Steven S. Sandvoss

AGENDA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
BOARD MEETING
Monday, November 20, 2017
9:00 a.m.

2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, Illinois
and via videoconference
James R. Thompson Center – Room 2-025
Chicago, Illinois

Pledge of Allegiance.
Roll call.

1. Approval of the minutes from the October 17 meeting. (pgs.1-5)

2. Report of the Executive Director
   a. Presentation of staff service award;
      1) 20 year award – Mickey Reinders;
   b. Public Hearing – Public Act 100-046, Automatic Voter Registration; (pg.6)
   c. Public Hearing – GEMS Voting System Approval Reconsideration; (pgs.7-14)
   d. Presentations & consideration of topics related to NVRA Voter List Maintenance, Interstate Crosscheck and ERIC; (will be sent under separate cover)
   e. Consideration of approval Unisyn OpenElect Voting System 2.0 modification; (will be sent under separate cover)
   f. Legislative update; (pgs.15-26)
   g. IT/IVRS update; (oral report)
   h. Six month review of executive session minutes; (pg.27)
   i. Student Internship Program – informational; (pg.28)
   j. FY18 fiscal status reports – informational;
      1) GRF month ending October 31; (pgs.29-36)
      2) Elections Summary; (pg.37)
      3) Help Illinois Vote Fund; (pgs.38-41)
   k. Two year plan of staff activity for the months of November & December – informational. (pgs.42-44)

3. Report of the General Counsel
   a. Campaign Disclosure;
      Request for settlement offers
      1) *Marion County Republican Central Committee,* 280, 17AD006; (pgs.45-53)
      2) *The Committee to Elect Michael Strange,* 32073, 17MQ132; (pgs.54-56)

APPENDIX
Full Public Written and Oral Testimony

Illinois State Board of Elections
Testimony on Automatic Voter Registration Implementation
November 20, 2017 Hearing
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS (LWVIL)

As a longstanding organization in support of enhancement of voting rights and as a Just Democracy coalition member, the League of Women Voters of Illinois (LWVIL) strongly supports timely implementation of Automatic Voter Registration in Illinois.

Toward this end, LWVIL encourages the relevant implementing agencies to work with the General Assembly and community stakeholders to communicate openly, rally resources, and overcome obstacles. There must continue to be collaboration, transparency and active solicitation of input from both community stakeholders and advocacy organizations throughout the implementation process. This includes holding additional hearings after the March 2018 primary elections with an emphasis on community and public education.

In addition, the implementing agencies must vigorously test, with a diverse set of stakeholders, the user experience. Doing so should ensure that the experience is clear and maximizes voter registration while also making the opt-out choice clear and easy to use. Moreover, doing so should ensure that the process is secure and accurate.

The League of Women Voters of Illinois is very pleased that the state of Illinois is now the tenth state to enact Automatic Voter Registration into law. What now must occur is its timely implementation to ensure that Illinois becomes a model state for other states to emulate.

League of Women Voters of Illinois
332 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 634
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312.939.5935
November 15, 2017

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

Schultz, Dustin

From: Thomas, Kyle
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 9:04 AM
To: Schultz, Dustin
Subject: FW: AVR comments

From: A A [redacted]]
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 7:57 PM
To: Thomas, Kyle <KThomas@elections.il.gov>
Subject: AVR comments

To Whom It Concerns,

I'm writing as a registered voter who wants to ensure that automatic voter registration (AVR) is implemented by the deadline of July 1st, 2018, if not sooner. I'm fortunate to have plenty of free time so registering to vote and casting my vote are not difficult for me. However, for some people who have less time and/or a lot to deal with in their lives, registering vote can be an unfamiliar or time-consuming process.

We should be reducing barriers to vote to encourage more people to do it. Furthermore, I believe that if the government is capable of tracking young men until they're of age to register with the selective service and require them to register, it should be capable of tracking all people until they're of age to vote and ensure that they are registered. Automatic voter registration isn't quite all-encompassing in this way, but it will surely help many people register to vote and increase voter participation.

Thank you for your time,

Adrien Aaron

Schultz, Dustin

From: Thomas, Kyle
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 9:05 AM
To: Schultz, Dustin
Subject: FW: AVR Comments

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 9:47 PM
To: Thomas, Kyle <KThomas@elections.il.gov>
Subject: AVR Comments

I am contacting you to request that AVR is implemented on its projected start up date.. This decision to automatically register voters in Illinois is important to get citizens actively engaged. Our democracy needs to hear from all voices including the young and all ethnic groups. This is also a cost saving measure for the state and is important to make sure that we maintain accurate voter rolls.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Marie Powell

Saint Charles, IL 60175

Schultz, Dustin

From: Thomas, Kyle
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 11:30 AM
To: Schultz, Dustin
Subject: FW: AVR Comments

From: Julie Harrison [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 11:25 AM
To: Thomas, Kyle <KThomas@elections.il.gov>
Subject: AVR Comments

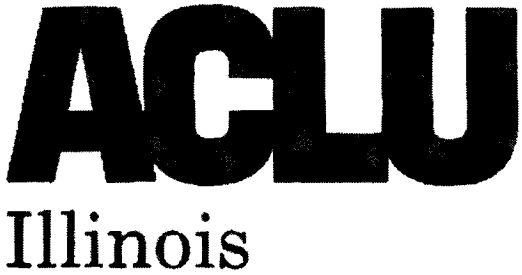
There are many reasons for prompt implementation of AVR- but what stands out for me is the message. Too many in our state feel disenfranchised, powerless.

A prompt and complete implementation associated with an effective public information campaign will

emphasize the importance of each potential voter.

A more thoroughly engaged electorate must be a a primary goal of a true democracy.

Julia Harrison
[redacted]
Chicago, 60657
[redacted]



Testimony of Bharathi Pillai

Staff Attorney, ACLU of Illinois

Before the Illinois State Board of Elections

November 20, 2017

To Chair Cadigan and members of the State Board of Elections,

My name is Bharathi Pillai, and I am a Staff Attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois. The ACLU of Illinois is part of a nationwide organization, with headquarter offices in New York City and Washington, D.C. as well as independent affiliates in all fifty states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. I am testifying today on behalf of the ACLU of Illinois and our over 70,000 members and supporters across the state.

We applaud Illinois for taking an important step towards expanding our electorate and strengthening our democracy through the passage of Automatic Voter Registration ("AVR"), and we strongly support an AVR implementation process that involves and incorporates input from community stakeholders and advocacy organizations, provides for community education and adequate training for agency staff, and ensures rigorous testing of the AVR program that results in secure, accurate registrations. Such an implementation process is critical not only to AVR's success, but also for avoiding serious negative consequences for individuals throughout Illinois.

We support the statements of community organizations in Illinois that have explained the importance of incorporating diverse perspectives from across the state, including from historically excluded communities, in building a more inclusive, stronger AVR system. We encourage agencies to seek input from community partners, and to work with them to provide ongoing community education to help residents understand voter eligibility, and how to register or opt-out of registering. We also recommend clear and comprehensive training about AVR for agency staff. In part, such training should ensure that agency staff understand that the adoption of AVR does not require or encourage the collection of new information, such as citizenship status, that could discourage all members of our community from applying for needed benefits and services, such as licenses, health care, disability, and employment.

Drawing from the lessons learned by our affiliates in states that have implemented AVR, we believe it is critical that AVR systems are rigorously tested to ensure that the system is easy to understand and use. Such testing should ensure that the AVR system is both accessible to *all* residents, including people with disabilities or limited English proficiency, while still safeguarding against unintentional registration. Agencies should work with design experts to ensure eligibility requirements are clear and forms contain plain, accessible language that clearly alert residents of eligibility requirements and how to either opt-in to or opt-out of registration. Agencies should consult with representatives of language minority communities to ensure that AVR communications, public education materials, registration information, and/or opt-out materials are available in the language that the applicant speaks. If AVR programs include electronic interactions, those websites should be fully accessible to voters with disabilities and voters with limited English proficiency. Incorporating accessibility during the implementation of AVR will not only help create an effective, inclusive AVR system, but it will also ensure that taxpayers do not have to shoulder the substantial costs of adapting the systems later.

I thank you for your time, and I am available for further questions.

Schultz, Dustin

From: Thomas, Kyle
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 1:12 PM
To: Schultz, Dustin; Menzel, Ken; Matthews, Bernadette
Subject: FW: AVR Written Testimony

From: Tricey & Lou[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 1:04 PM
To: Thomas, Kyle <KThomas@elections.il.gov>
Subject: AVR Written Testimony

Dear State Board of Elections,

As an Illinois voter, I cannot tell you how thrilled I was when Automatic Voter Registration passed in our state last August. The ability to vote is the most precious right in our democracy and I strongly believe that AVR will make it easier for voters to participate in our government as never before.

However, like many things, the devil is in the details. I hope that you will move forward in implementing this law with the following considerations:

1. Please ensure that this legislation is implemented on time. My understanding is that for AVR to be successful, it must be implemented by July 2018 so please ensure that this deadline is met. It would be so disheartening to have to start the process from scratch.

2. Continue to work with communities and stakeholders to ensure that the process is secure and accurate and that citizens are educated about this new law so that they are aware that they have registered once they have interacted with an appropriate agency.

I think you for your time and consideration.

Patricia Morelli

BGA

Better Government Association
223 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60606

312.427.8330 P
312.821.9038 F
www.bettergov.org

Hello,

My name is Jose Sanchez and I am representing the Better Government Association, where I am a policy analyst and a state lobbyist. The BGA is a full-service, nonpartisan watchdog organization. The BGA's mission is to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in government. We go beyond exposing problems, to proposing solutions and advocating for good government reforms. As part of the Just Democracy coalition, the Better Government Association long has advocated for Automatic Voter Registration (AVR).

I am writing today to support the implementation of AVR in Illinois in a timely and collaborative manner. State agencies should continue to actively solicit input from community stakeholders and advocacy organizations like ours throughout the process.

Quick and careful implementation of AVR is important because it provides a direct path to voting for Illinois' two million eligible, but unregistered, voters, potentially increasing turnout. According to U.S. Census data, Illinois has approximately 9 million citizens of voting age, but 2.3 million of those people are unregistered. Many of those who are unregistered are youth.

After AVR was implemented in Oregon in January 2016, the state subsequently saw a six-percentage-point increase in youth voter turnout and a 26-percent increase in registration rates for people of color. In addition, AVR allowed Oregon to create a more efficient process of registering voters throughout the year, rather than registering voters right before Election Day. Timely implementation of AVR in Illinois will allow agencies to create a streamlined process to update voter rolls statewide.

In order to register to vote now, you have to go to your local election authority, such as a county election commission. After AVR's implementation, you will be able to register at a number of state agencies including Driver Services, Employment Security, Natural Resources, Financial & Professional Regulation, and Human Services. This means that when people interact with agencies to access everyday services such as signing up for public benefits, obtaining a driver's license, or obtaining a permit, if they will be eligible to vote, they will be registered or can have their voter registration information updated.

For AVR to be successful, it must proceed on schedule. If there are barriers to timely implementation, we encourage the agencies involved to work with the General Assembly and community stakeholders to communicate openly, solve problems, rally resources, and overcome obstacles.

Better Government Association
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We also ask that agencies continue to actively solicit input from community stakeholders and advocacy organizations throughout the implementation process. This also includes the ongoing and important work of community education. Civil rights, community, and government reform organizations bring with them a wealth of diverse perspectives and access to various communities.

Lastly, we ask that more hearings be held after the March 2018 primary elections, choosing times and locations so more community members can participate, including those who have been excluded historically from our voting systems. We ask that these hearings be announced far in advance of the hearing dates so community members can plan to attend.

Thank you,
Jose Sanchez
Policy Analyst
Better Government Association

CHANGE Illinois Testimony to the Illinois State Board of Elections

Submitted By:
Jeff Raines, Director of Communications & Engagement at CHANGE Illinois
309-533-1152 | jeff@changeil.org
www.changeil.org

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for your November 20, 2017 public hearing on the implementation of Illinois Public Act 100-46 (the automatic voter registration law).

CHANGE Illinois is a part of the steering committee for Just Democracy Illinois coalition, which also includes: Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago, Chicago Votes, Common Cause Illinois, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, & Illinois Public Interest Research Group. While we, as a member of that coalition, are submitting testimony to the Illinois State Board of Elections about the implementation of the AVR law, we wish to submit the following testimony as a supplement to that.

Our organization, as well as our coalition partners, worked hard to drive the campaign for the passage and signing of automatic voter registration (AVR) and believe that once fully implemented, AVR will act as a crucial safeguard against voter disenfranchisement and a great tool for expanding ballot access in the Land of Lincoln.

We strongly encourage Illinois and State Board, in its role as the chief voting and elections authority of the state, to implement the AVR law fully and effectively.

Statutes from the AVR law outline a clear implementation deadline of July 1, 2018 at the Secretary of State's office, in time for many eligible Illinois residents to be registered before the 2018 statewide and state legislature races next November. Because the Secretary of State's office includes the Department of Drivers' Services, and the majority of existing and future voter registration updates will occur through that office – whether it's when an eligible Illinois voter is receiving a new license or updating the address of a current one – the on-time implementation of AVR at the DMV will be critical for the law to be successful.

If there are barriers to timely implementation or to meeting this deadline, we, at CHANGE Illinois, encourage that agencies responsible for implementation work with the General Assembly to receive the necessary support and resources to overcome such challenges.

Eligible Illinois voters who have interacted with Driver Services (or any other state agency after the July 2019 implementation date) and thus, qualify to have their voter registration automatically updated by the AVR law, should not be potentially penalized because an unforeseen delay.

Because of the universal and - perhaps more telling - bipartisan support the AVR law had from the Illinois General Assembly, as well as the backing of dozens of organizations and their thousands of members, we believe this can and should be used as a resource for the State Board during implementation. CHANGE Illinois, as well as our members, coalition, and partner organizations can be called upon to help implementing agencies address any issues that arise, including raising political support for additional appropriations to these agencies.

We recognize and appreciate the challenges the State Board faces in implementing this law, especially given recent consequences from not having a state budget for the last several years.

Lastly, we would like to encourage the State Board to continue to give the public and specific communities that will be positively affected by this law additional opportunities to engage on this topic. This could include the scheduling of additional public hearings in the new year and after the March 20th primary election.

We look forward to working with the State Board and other implementing agencies to ensure the successful implementation of Public Act 100-46. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Written Comments of Just Democracy Illinois
Regarding the Implementation of Public Act 100-46, Automatic Voter Registration
November 20, 2017

Chairperson Cadigan, Vice Chairperson Keith, members of the Board, Executive Director Sandvoss, and staff, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the implementation of Public Act 100-46, Automatic Voter Registration.

Just Democracy Illinois is a broad-based and diverse coalition that works to protect and promote the value of a single vote, no matter the geographic, racial, ethnic, or party affiliation of the voter. The Just Democracy Illinois steering committee includes Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago, CHANGE Illinois, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, Chicago Votes, Common Cause Illinois, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights, and Illinois Public Interest Research Group. Our campaign for Automatic Voter Registration was endorsed by a diverse collection of over 65 organizations from around Illinois.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide written and oral comment and to work on an ongoing basis with the staff of the Illinois State Board of Elections ("State Board") and other state agencies responsible for the implementation of automatic voter registration. The members of our coalition played a critical role in crafting and passing Illinois Public Act 100-46 ("the AVR statute"), and we are proud of the universal bipartisan support that the legislation earned. That level of support was only possible through ongoing conversations and negotiations with stakeholders such as the State Board, and it is our hope that this spirit of collaboration and problem-solving will continue as Illinois completes implementation in a strong, timely, and community-centered manner.

Our comments are organized into five sections: Community Engagement and Education, User Experience, Security and Accuracy of Data, Best Practices, and Timeliness. We are happy to discuss our recommendations in any of these areas in more detail, refer agency staff to additional resources, and facilitate conversations with technical experts and agency staff in other states to make the implementation process a success.

Once again, we thank you for your consideration.

Community Engagement and Education

Just as the legislation was improved through various stakeholders' feedback and guidance, we believe that the implementation of automatic voter registration will be improved through the input and guidance of community members, organizations, and other stakeholders, including local election officials.

We are encouraged that the State Board plans to hold additional hearings after the March 2018 primary elections. We urge the State Board to choose locations and times that make it feasible for community members to participate, including those who have been historically excluded from our voting systems. Our coalition is willing to co-host hearings and convenings and help spread the word about these opportunities for community engagement. We also encourage the State Board to schedule and announce the dates of these hearings far enough in advance so as to maximize the opportunities for participation. Additionally, we request the State Board, local election authorities, and other government partners to proactively disseminate information about such events to media and community contacts.

While we believe that ongoing opportunities for meaningful community engagement are valuable to all aspects of implementation, we especially encourage implementing agencies to prioritize community input when making decisions about community education, informational signs in agencies, and the user experience of the voter registration process at agencies.

Civil rights, community, and government reform organizations have access to and have earned the trust of a diversity of communities across Illinois. We can help state agencies effectively educate the public about the new law and what it means to those communities.

User Experience

Automatic voter registration is a subtle but important shift in how the opportunity to register to vote, or update one's voter registration, is presented to eligible voters. This shift, if implemented correctly, should make our voter lists more complete, accurate, and secure.

As the State Board knows, some voter registration applications will remain "opt-in" while others will become "opt-out," based on the availability of reliable citizenship information for every applicant in the underlying application process. In practice, a key distinction between the two types of interactions is the signature to affirm eligibility. For opt-out applications, the signature to complete the underlying application will simultaneously serve as the affirmation of voter eligibility, unless the application opts out. For opt-in applications, the applicant will be prompted to provide a second, separate signature affirming that they meet the eligibility requirements.

The main goal of the AVR statute is for Illinois to have a more complete and accurate voter list. To meet this goal, the application process should maximize new voter registrations and voter registration updates, while providing applicants with clear opportunities to opt out if they choose to do so.

We recommend that implementing agencies test prototypes and drafts of the potential written prompts and visual layouts that would be presented to applicants. Testing with a diverse set of stakeholders will be critical, including representatives of language minority communities. An iterative testing program will result in a better outcome for the state agencies and applicants. This process need not take long, and organizations such as the Center for Civic Design are available to serve as a resource to Illinois implementing agencies in such an iterative testing program.

Security and Accuracy of Data

The State Board of Elections is responsible for facilitating the secure electronic transfer of voter registration applications from state agencies to local election officials. This aspect of the AVR statute will be important to implement well. If the State Board would like assistance from technical experts who have implemented AVR in other parts of the country, we would be glad to facilitate conversations with such individuals and institutions. We also offer initial comments on the collection, analysis, and sharing of data by state agencies.

First, it is of utmost importance that agencies reduce and prevent the potential for the inadvertent registration of non-citizens. A set of data, including a record of the documentary evidence of citizenship status that applicants produce to complete the underlying service application, should be reviewable by software to remove any applicant who has documented they are not a citizen. All our community organizations, state agencies, and stakeholders agree that this aspect of the AVR statute must be implemented well. This is of critical importance to the integrity of our voting system and to our community members who are non-citizens, who could face severe consequences due to inadvertent registration.

It should be noted that if the underlying service application process does not otherwise ask for documentary evidence of citizenship status, the process should not now ask for evidence citizenship status just because of the AVR statute. However, if citizenship status data is already available for at least some applications, software should be used to review the available data. And robust privacy and security safeguards must be instituted for all this data, to keep the personal data of Illinois residents safe and secure and to avoid deterring immigrant community members and others from seeking necessary public services.

Similar steps should be taken, using all available data, to protect the privacy of individuals with special reasons to keep their address private, such as domestic violence victims with orders of protection and individuals in witness protection programs.

State agencies should not send the State Board of Elections the record of documentation applicants produce to complete the underlying service application. Local election officials do not need this data to complete the registration process. It is a bad practice to share sensitive personal information among state agencies when not necessary.

Best Practices For Other State Agencies

Beyond Driver Services at the Secretary of State's office, other state agencies are covered by the AVR statute as well. Some of these agencies are covered under Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), while others are not. In Illinois, as in many states, the registration rate at motor vehicle facilities is much higher than at other state agencies. It is our hope that we can learn from other states that have a good track record of voter registration success at public assistance agencies – and use the implementation of automatic voter registration as an opportunity to implement best practices.

Illinois lags behind the country and region in terms of voter participation by young voters and voters of color. Strong implementation of the AVR statute has the potential to help close these disparities, as we are one of the first states in the nation whose AVR statute includes social service and public assistance agencies, not just driver's license agencies. There is an important opportunity here for election authorities and other state agencies to reach communities who have previously been excluded from our voting systems, even if this exclusion was inadvertent. It will be crucial to solicit and incorporate input from these communities throughout AVR implementation in order for voter registration access at all AVR agencies to be strong.

The United States Elections Assistance Commission (EAC) compiles data on the percentage of overall voter registrations that come from public assistance agencies. This data is not exhaustive and more details about these and other states' NVRA implementation are needed, but a good next step would be to initiate conversations with agency staff of other key states to learn what steps they have taken to implement the NVRA at public assistance agencies.

According to 2014-2016 data from the EAC, the states with the highest percentage of registration coming from public assistance agencies include Mississippi (11%), Alabama (8.5%), Montana (7.4%), Oklahoma (7.4%), and Tennessee (7.1%). This compares to Illinois at 3%. There remains great potential for all our states, especially Illinois, to meaningfully increase voter registration at public assistance agencies.

Recommendations to improve agency registration include:

- Regularly soliciting and incorporating input from community members who interface with these agencies, including communities of color, about topics such as service applications, interactions with agency personnel, and other issues critical to the success of successful AVR implementation at agencies;
- Assigning a voter registration coordinator for each agency and a coordinator for each local office;
- Ensuring that proper training is taking place; and
- Requiring a comprehensive oversight system for compliance.

Timeliness

Finally, we strongly encourage implementing agencies to meet the implementation deadlines mandated by the AVR statute, starting with the July 1, 2018 deadline.

We appreciate the great challenges that state agencies face, especially given the lack of a state budget for several years.

That said, this public act was passed with universal bipartisan legislative support and with the support of dozens of organizations and tens of thousands of supporters who expect the law to be implemented well and on time. That level of enthusiastic support is a *resource* for implementing agencies and can be called upon to overcome the inevitable obstacles that will arise in the implementation process.

Whether it is technical expertise, advice from agency staff in other states, or advocacy for the monetary resources that agencies need to complete implementation well and on time, Just Democracy Illinois is prepared to help.

Conclusion

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to submit written comment today. We look forward to ongoing communication and collaboration and the successful implementation of automatic voter registration.

Schultz, Dustin

From:	Thomas, Kyle
Sent:	Friday, November 17, 2017 12:03 PM
To:	Menzel, Ken; Matthews, Bernadette; Schultz, Dustin
Cc:	Cray, Cris
Subject:	FW: AVR- Automatic Voter Registration Law

From: Diane Louis [redacted]
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 12:01 PM
To: Thomas, Kyle <KThomas@elections.il.gov>
Subject: AVR- Automatic Voter Registration Law

Dear K. Thomas:

I would like to encourage Illinois to implement Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) on time!

I believe that you know there is a clear implementation deadline outlined in the statute for the opt-out process at the Secretary of State's office: July 1, 2018. For AVR to be successful, it must proceed on schedule.

If you find that there are any barriers to timely implement this program, please engage appropriate agencies to work with the General Assembly and community stakeholders to communicate (in an open and public way), to solve problems, rally any necessary resources, and please work to overcome any obstacles that stand in the way!

Agencies should be required and continue to collaborate with and actively solicit input from community stakeholders and advocacy organizations throughout the implementation process. Additional hearings should be scheduled with public announcement of times and where and when! Public input is necessary for this process to work so please do the right thing by announcing far in advance when meetings will be held and where. I hope you include several areas of the City of Chicago so to enhance attendance.

Please note that civil rights, community, and government reform organizations bring with them a wealth of diverse perspectives and access to communities. The implementation process will be strengthened through ongoing communication and collaboration with a diverse group of stakeholders.

I hope that appropriate agencies should rigorously test, with a diverse set of stakeholders, to ensure that the user experience is clear and maximizes voter registration, while making opting out clear and easy for those who wish to.

It is my sincere hope that my comments are accepted and included in your deliberations on this important topic!

Diane Louis

[redacted]

Chicago, Illinois 60613

Written Comments of MALDEF and USHLI
Regarding the Implementation of Public Act 100-46, Automatic Voter Registration
November 20, 2017

Chairperson Cadigan, Vice Chairperson Keith, members of the State Board of Elections, Executive Director Sandvoss, and staff, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the implementation of Public Act 100-46, Automatic Voter Registration.

On behalf of MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) and USHLI (United States Hispanic Leadership Institute), we write to express our support for Automatic Voter Registration ("AVR") in the State of Illinois. As you are aware, AVR will greatly increase access to voter registration by streamlining the process of registering individuals through certain government agencies. MALDEF applauds this valuable and much-needed reform.

MALDEF is the nation's leading Latino legal civil rights organization, promoting social change through advocacy, communications, community education, and litigation. Since its inception nearly fifty years ago, MALDEF has made significant contributions in securing rights for Latinos in the areas of education, employment, immigrant rights, and political access at both the state and federal levels.

USHLI is a Chicago-based national nonprofit organization. Since1982, USHLI has worked to empower the Latino community and similarly disenfranchised groups by promoting education, leadership development, unity, and non-partisan civic participation. USHLI has registered over 2.3 million new voters.

As the State Board of Elections and designated agencies begin the process of AVR implementation, we urge the State to consider the effect of AVR on the Latino community and other communities of color. Care should be taken to ensure that AVR makes registering to vote easier for eligible voters, and protects non-citizens from inadvertent registration. Therefore, we present the following considerations and recommendations:

- **Language Access** –All AVR-related announcements, dual-purpose forms, and other materials should be available in Spanish and other major languages. All notices about the status of the person's application to vote, whether complete or incomplete, must be written in English and Spanish. Making information available in a person's native language not only decreases the chance of error, it sends a message of inclusivity and fosters full participation in our democracy.

- **Understandable Forms** – All AVR-related announcements, dual-purpose forms, and other materials must be as accessible as possible. Implementing agencies should avoid using formal, technical, or legal language. All dual-purpose forms that collect AVR-related information should clearly state the requirements to register to vote in Illinois. The Secretary of State and designated AVR agencies should utilize electronic forms for all transactions that collect AVR-related information.

- **'Opt-Out' Registration** – If the transaction requires a person to check an opt-out box to avoid being registered, the dual-purpose form cannot require a single signature attesting that the person is eligible to vote in the State of Illinois. The AVR statute establishes a system of opt-out registration for REAL ID compliant driver's license and identification cards. REAL ID applicants must present evidence of citizenship or immigration status. We are concerned that poorly worded instructions could result in the inadvertent attestation and registration of non-citizens or denial of a license or identification card. We urge the State Board of Elections and designated AVR agencies to consult with community groups and to circulate proposed forms before putting them into use.

- **Same-Day Registration** – While we are confident that AVR will make voter registration easier and more accurate, we urge the State Board of Elections to prioritize opportunities for registration outside of AVR. The implementation of same-day-registration a few years ago greatly increased political access in the State. It remains a crucial component of our elections system.

- **Public Awareness and Engagement** – We urge the State Board of Elections and other government partners continue to engage the community and create meaningful opportunities for public comment. We request that the Board of Elections sponsor several hearings throughout the implementation of AVR in diverse communities of the state, both geographic and demographic. We also request that the State release proposed AVR-related dual-purpose forms before putting them into use.

MALDEF and USHLI are prepared to help in the implementation of AVR, whether through technical assistance or community education. We strongly encourage implementing agencies to meet the implementation deadlines mandated by the AVR statute, starting with the July 1, 2018 deadline. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven Monroy
Legislative Staff Attorney
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Faith Coalition for the Common Good

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FCCG Members

Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Church
AFSCME IL Council 31 Locals 2600, 2481, 1964, Retiree Subchapter 86
Ambassadors for Christ Ministries
Boys and Girls Club
Beardstown/Rushville Immigrant Families United
Calvary Missionary Baptist Church
Central Baptist Church
Church Women United
Dominican Sisters of Springfield
First Presbyterian Church
Garvey-Tubman Center
Hospital Sisters of St. Francis
IL Association of Community Action Agencies
IL Federation of Public Employees Local 4408/IFT/AFT/AFL-CIO
Memorial Health Systems
Ministerial Alliance of Springfield and Vicinity
Monroe Street Christian Church
Operating Engineers Local 965
Operative Plasters and Cement Masons Local 18
Painters Local 90
Pax Christi Springfield
Sangamon County Community Resources
SEIU Healthcare
Springfield and Central IL Trades and Labor Council
St. Frances Cabrini Parish
St. John's Hospital
St. Patrick's School
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Word and Spirit

Testimony for Automatic Voter Registration for the Illinois State Board of Elections

Faith Coalition for the Common good urges timely implementation of automatic voter registration in Illinois. Prior to the 2014 election, we did a concentrated canvass of voters in three precincts in low-income neighborhoods in Springfield, Illinois. By actually knocking doors and comparing residents listed on the voter file and the person who actually lived in the home, we learned that there was a large percentage of people not registered and a large percentage of people registered at an address no longer lived there. Had we not done this canvass, many people would not have voted.

Even though they could have registered at the polls on Election Day, many would not have had the proper documentation with them and would have left the polling place unable to vote. It is questionable whether these people would have registered at a later time after being turned down. This is yet another way to suppress the vote for low-income people.

Inaccurate and bloated voting lists are used to deny representation to people in low-income neighborhoods. We often hear from politicians in our community that "those people don't vote". Then a politician ignores low-income communities because the politician thinks they care less than people in other neighborhoods who have a higher percentage of people voting. We know people from higher income neighborhoods move less and are more likely to update their voter registration and therefore those neighborhoods have more accurate voter lists.

As Faith Coalition for the Common Good continues to work for social and economic justice in lower income and underrepresented neighborhoods in Springfield, IL., we urge the State Board of Elections to work with community and civil right organizations across Illinois to implement the law and we stand ready to collaborate and provide input on behalf of our members.

Shelly Heideman, Executive Director
Faith Coalition for the Common Good

Schultz, Dustin

From: Thomas, Kyle
Sent: Sunday, November 19, 2017 4:03 AM
To: Sandvoss, Steve; Schultz, Dustin; Menzel, Ken; Matthews, Bernadette; Cray, Cris; Calvin, Amy
Subject: Fwd: AVR Comments

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S®6 active, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: Anna Breen [redacted]
Date: 11/18/17 4:07 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Thomas, Kyle" <KThomas@elections.il.gov>
Subject: AVR Comments

To the members of the Illinois State Board of Elections:

I am writing to impress upon the Board the importance of implementing Automatic Voter Registration by the deadlines outlined in the statute.

Firstly, Illinois has taken an important modernizing step by passing AVR, and we must not allow inertia to prevent our state from implementing a measure proven to increase voter registration and participation in an era when voters are increasingly disenfranchised and separated from the decisions of their own government. Illinois has, to date, lagged behind much of the nation in voter participation, and we cannot afford to delay this advance, one shown to remove bureaucratic hurdles to voting while leaving responsibility for participation in citizen hands.

Secondly, I urge the Board to remember the importance of working with local leaders and advocacy organizations during the timely implementation of AVR. It is vital to leave lines of communication - regarding AVR testing, local feedback, and the correction of any bugs in the system - open.

Sincerely,

Anna Breen

Chicago, IL 60647

Schultz, Dustin

From: Thomas, Kyle
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2017 9:40 AM
To: Schultz, Dustin; Sandvoss, Steve; Cray, Cris; Menzel, Ken; Matthews, Bernadette; Calvin, Amy
Subject: Fwd: AVR Implementation

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S®6 active, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

-------- Original message --------
From: Dick Simpson [redacted]
Date: 11/18/17 9:38 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Thomas, Kyle" <KThomas@elections.il.gov>
Subject: AVR Implementation

Dear Illinois Board of Elections:

I write before your public hearing to urge a quicker implementation of Automatic Voter Registration before the March Primary Election. Given that we have had Electronic Voter Registration for some time in Illinois, I see no reason that it can't be implemented at least along with Driver Licenses by the Secretary of State in January. That would have the possibility of registering tens of thousands of new voters by March.

I am unable to appear in person at the hearing because I teach my 85 UIC students on Monday. They would be happy to hear that our state is moving forward in implementing the new system.

In the future, I hope we extend AVR to state universities when students get their student IDs in the same way we will be doing with Driver Licenses.

Yours faithfully,
Dick Simpson
UIC Professor of Political Science and
Former Chicago Alderman

Sent from my iPad

881 UFCW
a VOICE for Working Families
UNITED FOOD and COMMERCIAL WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION
10400 W. HIGGINS RD., SUITE 100 / ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS 60018-3705
Phone (847)994-5064 / Fax (847)769-1790 / www.local881UFCW.org

November 17th, 2017

Illinois State Board of Elections
100 W Randolph St.
Chicago, IL 6060

To the Honorable Members of the State Board of Elections;

I write today on behalf of the 34,000 hardworking members of Local 881 United Food and Commercial Workers who live and work in every community across Illinois, to express our strong support of the new Automatic Voter Registration law. For the last two years, Local 881 UFCW worked with a broad coalition to help pass this pro-worker piece of legislation and we were ecstatic to see it signed into law.

With a 1/3rd of our members typically moving within a two-year period, we found the need to engage on this issue so that we could enfranchise our members and their families so they can join us at the ballot box fighting for the issues that affect working people.

To that end, we encourage Illinois to implement AVR on time as the statute clearly stated. For AVR to be successful, it must be implemented on schedule. Agencies that will deal with the implementation of the law should collaborate with and actively solicit input from community stakeholders and advocacy organizations throughout the process. We've educated our 34,000 members about this new law and want to prove to them that state government is capable of enacting important governmental reforms like AVR.

We represent a diverse membership, in ethnicity, racial, gender, and geographic considerations, we strongly encourage you to hold additional hearings that would allow for our community to participate. When it comes time to educate local election officials and their related offices, we hope you consider the full diversity of our state in promotional materials and trainings.

Finally, because we represent people from Chicago to Cairo, my union is well aware of the significant digital and language divide Illinois has. We strongly encourage you to rigorously test, with a diverse set of stakeholders, to ensure that the user experience is clear and maximizes voter registration, while making opting out clear and easy for those who wish to. This process should be an empowering one for millions of citizens in our state and in the process, and we encourage you to consider the highest standards for secure and accurate data management.

It is our sincere hope that AVR is implemented on time. If you have any questions or concerns, or seek to partner with our union, please do not hesitate to reach out.

In Solidarity,

Zach Koutsky
Legislative and Political Director
Local 881 UFCW
630-254-3104 (cell)

1 STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
2 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
3 November 20, 2017
4 at
5 9:11 o'clock a.m.
6 STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had in
7 the above-entitled cause held at the Thompson
8 Center, 100 West Randolph Street, Room 2-025,
9 Chicago, Illinois, MR. WILLIAM J. CADIGAN, presiding.
10 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
11 MR. WILLIAM J. CADIGAN, Chairman
12 MR. JOHN R. KEITH, Vice Chairman,
13 Springfield
14 MR. IAN K. LINNABARY
15 MR. WILLIAM M. McGUFFAGE
16 MS. KATHERINE S. O'BRIEN
17 MR. CHARLES W. SCHOLZ
18 Springfield
19 MS. CASANDRA B. WATSON
20 ABSENT:
21 MR. ANDREW K. CARRUTHERS
22
23 Reported By: Anna M. Morales, CSR, RMR
24 License No.: 084-002854

1 beyond to do what she does and help individuals
2 within this agency with payroll, et cetera. She's
3 knows all the status intimately, et cetera.
4 (Inaudible)
5 CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: Thank you, Mickey, and thank
6 you, Jeremy. We also this morning have within our
7 meeting a public hearing that's been properly
8 noticed on Public Act 100-046, the Automatic Voter
9 Registration that was enacted last year by the
10 General Assembly and signed into law by
11 Governor Rauner.
12 Steve, if you want to go ahead and take it
13 from here to recognize staff, and we've got some
14 people here in Chicago that also want to comment on
15 the status of Automatic Voter Registration.
16 MR. SANDVOSS: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 The statute that implements Automatic Voter
18 Registration in Illinois requires that a public
19 hearing be conducted within six months after the
20 enactment of the act, and we chose this particular
21 meeting to solicit comment. While the
22 implementation process has begun, we're taking
23 steps to fulfill the mandates of the act including
24 preparing technical specifications for the transfer

1 of data, performing the necessary programming for
2 the automatic update in-state registrations and
3 other various tasks that our staff is diligently
4 working on.
5 We have received several comments, written
6 comments on AVR. There was -- we asked that those
7 comments be submitted to the Board no later than
8 the last Thursday at noon for the Board's
9 consideration. We have received additional
10 comments over the weekend and even some as late as
11 this morning. Staff will accept those, and if any
12 Board member would like to take a look at those, we
13 can have those submitted to the Board following the
14 meeting.
15 I understand there's people down -- or up
16 in Chicago, rather. There's also -- I have four
17 people who have requested to speak here down in
18 Springfield. So whatever the pleasure of the
19 Chairman is as far as the order of the speakers, we
20 can go ahead and begin to solicit the public
21 comments they have to offer.
22 CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: Why don't we keep it down in
23 Springfield and you can go ahead down there.
24 MR. SANDVOSS: Okay. The first person on the

1 list to speak is a Steven Monroy with MALDEF.
2 Mr. Monroy, we have a seat up here. If you would
3 like to step forward and address the Board and
4 offer your comments.
5 MR. MONROY: Thank you, Mr. Executive Director.
6 Chairperson Cadigan, Vice Chairman Keith, members
7 of the Board of Elections, thank you for the
8 opportunity to comment on the implementation of
9 AVR. My name is Steven Monroy. I'm a legislative
10 staff attorney with MALDEF, the Mexican-American
11 Legal Defense Educational Fund, and we are an
12 organization that works on voting rights nationally
13 specifically for the protection of the Latino
14 community and other minority communities in the
15 United States.
16 We have offered public comment, and I
17 would like to just highlight a few of the various
18 issues that we would like to discuss. The first
19 one is dealing with opt-out registration. We have
20 some concerns that if the transaction requires the
21 person to check the opt-out box to avoid the
22 registration that the dual purpose form cannot
23 require a single signature attesting that the
24 person is eligible to vote in the State of

1 Illinois.

2 The AVR statute, as you know, establishes

3 a system where individuals apply for driver's

4 license, and what we're concerned is that if a

5 single signature is required that states that this

6 person attests that they're a citizen or that they

7 are eligible to vote, this is going to perhaps have

8 the person choose between not completing the form

9 or to make a misleading attestation.

10 So we want to make sure that the agencies

11 that are implementing this have the correct wording

12 on there so that the information that the person

13 attests to is accurate.

14 Along with that, too, is that we are very

15 encouraged with the implementation of AVR. We

16 believe that there is a lot of protections to

17 prevent noncitizens for being registered. There's

18 also a lot of protections to prevent individuals

19 who intend to register and are citizens to have

20 them actually be registered.

21 So we would like to encourage the further

22 implementation and the expansion of same-day

23 registration to make sure that individuals who are

24 eligible to vote actually are registered as is

1 their intention even if some, you know, errors
2 occur in the process.
3 We would also encourage the Board to
4 further public awareness of Automatic Voter
5 Registration and to ensure that there is public
6 input along the process to ensure that when the
7 forms are rolled out and various systems are being
8 established that the opportunity has a chance to --
9 that the community has the opportunity to look at
10 the forms and the various campaign and give
11 feedback as the roll-out comes along.
12 And to close out, MALDEF is very
13 encouraged with the expansion of Automatic Voter
14 Registration in the State of Illinois. We believe
15 that this is a watershed opportunity for
16 individuals to get registered who perhaps did not
17 have contact with registration before. And we look
18 forward to contributing to the process, and if we
19 could help at all, please let us know. We look
20 forward to continuing to participate in the
21 process. Thank you.
22 CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: Thank you very much. Is
23 there anyone else down there?
24 MR. SANDVOSS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There's

1 three more people that have requested to speak.
2 The next on the list is Laura Bedolla with the
3 USHLI. Step forward and address the Board.
4 MS. BEDOLLA: Good morning, Chairperson
5 Cadigan, Vice Chairman Keith, members of the State
6 Board of Elections, Executive Director Sandvoss.
7 Thank you for your time this morning.
8 My name is Laura Bedolla. I'm a policy
9 analyst with the U.S. Hispanic Leadership
10 Institute. We are a Chicago-based national
11 nonprofit organization. We have been working to
12 empower the Latino communities since 1982, and we
13 have registered approximately 2.3 million voters.
14 Today, we have submitted written comments,
15 and I would like to highlight two of those. The
16 first is on language access, and we would like to
17 suggest that all AVR-related announcements, dual
18 purpose forms, and other materials should be
19 available in Spanish and other major languages.
20 All notices about the status of a person's
21 application to vote, whether complete or
22 incomplete, must be written in English and in
23 Spanish. Making information available in a
24 person's native language not only decreases the

1 chance of error, but it also sends a message of
2 inclusivity to foster full participation in our
3 democracy.
4 The second point was understandable forms.
5 We would like to suggest that all AVR-related
6 announcements, dual purpose forms, and other
7 materials must be accessible as possible.
8 Implementing agencies should try to avoid formal,
9 technical or legal language. All dual purpose
10 forms that collects AVR-related information should
11 clearly state the requirements to register to vote
12 in Illinois, and the Secretary of State designated
13 AVR agencies should utilize electronic forms for
14 all transactions that collect AVR-related
15 information.
16 Lastly, we would also like to suggest that
17 individuals have the option of receiving mail
18 notices or written notices rather than electronic.
19 Despite having included in e-mail address when they
20 registered, many individuals in our community
21 prefer to have written records rather than
22 electronic. Thank you.
23 MR. SANDVOSS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, next
24 on the list is Abraham Scarr with the Just

1 Democracy organization. He's here to present his
2 testimony.
3 MR. SCARR: Good morning, chairperson Cadigan,
4 members of the Board, staff, thank you for the
5 opportunity to comment today. My name is
6 Abe Scarr. I'm the Director of Illinois PIRG and a
7 member of the Just Democracy Illinois Steering
8 Committee.
9 We've submitted more detailed written
10 comments, and a colleague of mine, Jay Young, is in
11 Chicago who will provide further comment from our
12 written comments. We will work to keep this brief.
13 I want to start again by thanking the
14 Board for holding this hearing and the ongoing
15 opportunities to provide feedback and discussion
16 around implementation of Automatic Voter
17 Registration. Our coalition was intimately
18 involved in drafting the legislation and building
19 the political support for the legislation. We
20 found in our process that open collaboration among
21 all stakeholders really led to a better piece of
22 legislation, more support for the law; and we think
23 that same spirit of collaboration should continue
24 in the implementation and that there's a real value

1 in that.
2 I know from other previous legislations
3 that we've been involved with, there have been
4 challenges with implementation, at times a lack of
5 funding to accomplish key goals of the legislation,
6 and we think that there's a value in the broad
7 stakeholder process that exists already and
8 continues to exist to build support to successfully
9 implement the law.
10 In that spirit, we appreciate that the
11 Board has already made commitments to hold further
12 public hearings after the March primaries. We're
13 hopeful there's a better opportunity for more
14 members of the public and a broader swathe of folks
15 to provide comment.
16 The one other piece from our written
17 testimony that I want to touch on is the user
18 experience when applicants are going to one of the
19 state agencies. The subtle changes in language and
20 design have really big impacts in terms of the
21 success of the program. And there's, again, more
22 detailed comments on this in our written comments,
23 but the one thing that I would drive home is the
24 importance of having an iterative testing process

1 with a diverse set of stakeholders.
2 We've consulted with some national civic
3 design experts and they really stress that the most
4 important part of the process is to try things out,
5 to have diverse stakeholders, again, whether that
6 be members of the public, members from language
7 minorities, election officials, different
8 perspectives so that we can have a little trial and
9 error in the design process and hopefully come up
10 with a best outcome.
11 So I'll conclude there. Again, I want to
12 thank everybody for the opportunity and highlight
13 that again Jay from Common Cause and our coalition
14 will extend our comments from Chicago and commit
15 our coalition to continue working with the
16 State Board and other implementing agencies to make
17 this law a success. Thank you very much.
18 CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: Is that it from Springfield?
19 MR. SANDVOSS: There's one other individual,
20 James Dixon, and he's with the Faith Coalition for
21 the Common Good. He's approaching the table now.
22 MR. DIXON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members
23 of the Board, Mr. Executive Director. Faith
24 Coalition for the Common Good is an organization in

1 Springfield represented by 32 different
2 organizations, churches and other civic
3 organizations, working primarily with lower income
4 people in the City of Springfield.
5 Prior to the 2014 election, we did a
6 concentrated canvass of voters in three precincts
7 in low-income neighborhoods in Springfield. We
8 actually knocked on doors and compared residents
9 listed on the voter file and the person who
10 actually lived in the home.
11 We learned that a large percentage of the
12 people were not registered, and there was a large
13 percentage of people registered who no longer live
14 there. So that means to us that there was a
15 tremendous amount of movement in our neighborhoods
16 of lower income people.
17 Had we not done this canvass, many people
18 would not have had a chance to vote. Even though
19 they could have registered at the polls on election
20 day, many would have not had the proper
21 documentation with them and would have left the
22 polling place unable to vote. It's quite
23 questionable whether these people would have
24 registered at a later time after being turned down.

1 This is yet another way to suppress the vote for
2 low-income people.
3 We often hear from politicians in our
4 community that "those people don't vote". Then a
5 politician ignores low-income communities because
6 politicians think they care less about people in
7 older neighborhoods and poor neighborhoods who --
8 they care less than people in higher income
9 neighborhoods who always register to vote. We know
10 people from these higher income neighborhoods move
11 less and are more likely to update their voter
12 registration list, and they have more accurate
13 voting lists.
14 As Faith Coalition for the Common Good
15 continues to work for social and economic justice
16 in lower income and underrepresented neighborhoods
17 in Springfield, we urge the State Board of
18 Elections to work with community and civil rights
19 organizations across Illinois to implement the law,
20 and we stand ready to collaborate and provide input
21 on behalf of our members.
22 We urge that this be done in a timely
23 manner. Soon after the March primaries, we're
24 hoping that there will be more meetings so we can

express our views for the people we represent. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: Thank you. Is that it?

MR. SANDVOSS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that was the remaining commenter from the Springfield office.

CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: I've got four names here. I don't know what order you may have checked in, but I'm going to use a little discretion here and recognize Mr. Young first, Jay Young. Good morning, Mr. Young.

MR. YOUNG: Good morning, sir.

CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: Mr. Scarr said that you had some additional comments you wanted to make.

Before do you that, I just want to point out that the Automatic Voter Registration bill really was a bipartisan success. I think that everybody watched that process unfold and saw that things can happen in Springfield when people of good will apply themselves.

The Governor, as everyone knows, vetoed the original bill but issued a very detailed veto message that I believe gave advocates and the members of the General Assembly kind of a road map

1 to common ground, and that happened and it was kind
2 of fun to watch and fun for our agency to be a part
3 of and that Springfield can function.
4 And I know that your organization at PIRG
5 also played a role in that. I also want to
6 recognize the work of Senator Andy Manar on the
7 bill and Mike Fortner. I think when Representative
8 Fortner got involved, at least from the Republican
9 perspective, it helped advance the discussion
10 measurably; and, if I recall correctly, the
11 Automatic Voter Registration bill passed
12 unanimously.
13 MR. YOUNG: It went to vote.
14 CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: That deserves recognition.
15 With that, Mr. Young, your comments, please.
16 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. I appreciate that lead
17 in. Good morning, Chairperson Cadigan, Vice
18 Chairperson Keith and honorable members of the
19 Board. My name again is Jay Young. I'm the
20 political director for Common Cause Illinois; and,
21 on behalf of our 35,000 members in this state and
22 our 1 million members nationwide, I'm here to urge
23 the timely and effective implementation of the AVR
24 statute.

1 As Abe mentioned, as I believe was just
2 also noted, I'm also here on behalf of the Just
3 Democracy Illinois Steering Committee. I also want
4 to give a brief quick shout out to the other
5 members of the steering committee which include
6 Asian-American Advancing Justice, the Illinois
7 Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, the
8 Chicago Lawyers Committee. Who else am I missing?
9 Chicago Votes. Thanks. All of us really again
10 appreciate and enjoy the process. I agree, this
11 was a great opportunity to see things actually work
12 in Springfield and we were glad to be a part of
13 that.
14 I want to start out with some real quick
15 comments around data security. As you know, all
16 agencies that are going to be in the process of
17 collecting voter registration data, we believe we
18 need to take every necessary step and precaution to
19 keep from inadvertently registering noncitizens
20 particularly given the severe consequences those
21 noncitizens could face through their inadvertent
22 registration.
23 We also believe that robust privacy
24 protections and security safeguards must also be

1 implemented to avoid deterring members of the
2 immigrant community and others from seeking
3 necessary public services. If the underlying
4 service application does not otherwise request
5 documentary evidence of citizenship, the process
6 shouldn't be altered to now ask for such evidence
7 just because the AVR statute is in place.
8 Finally, we believe that the Board should
9 take similar steps to protect all the data of
10 Illinois residents particularly given that there
11 are some individuals out there that have special
12 reasons for keeping their addresses private such as
13 domestic abuse survivors with an order of
14 protection or individuals in the Witness Protection
15 Program.
16 I want to turn now, I'm trying to keep my
17 comments brief, to best practices from other state
18 agencies -- for other state agencies. In Illinois,
19 as in many other states, the rate of registration
20 is much higher at motor vehicle facilities than
21 other state agencies.
22 We would urge the Board to learn from
23 those states that do better than we do at
24 registering voters at public assistance agencies

1 and use AVR implementation as an opportunity to
2 implement best practices. I know that Illinois
3 lags behind both the country and the region in
4 terms of voter participation by young voters and
5 voters of color. A strong implementation of the
6 AVR statute has the potential to help close some of
7 those disparities.
8 As processes are developed, those voices
9 should also be incorporated in the process so that
10 voter registration at all AVR agencies can be
11 strong.
12 My colleague, Abe, had noted that we've
13 been talking to some of those leaders from around
14 the nation, other states that are a little bit
15 ahead of us in terms of implementing and have some
16 idea of best practices. We just got today from the
17 Center for Civic and Modern Design some field
18 guides to ensure that the process is designed in as
19 inclusive a manner as possible. And, again, I'm
20 happy to provide those.
21 In addition to these voter guides, we
22 would also recommend that voter registration
23 coordinators for each agency be appointed and a
24 coordinator at each local office be provided. We

1 also want to ensure that proper training is taking
2 place and that there's a comprehensive oversight
3 system for compliance.
4 Finally, we strongly encourage the
5 implementing agencies to meet the implementation
6 deadlines that were mandated by the AVR statute
7 starting with the July 21, 2018, deadline. We
8 appreciate the great challenges that state agencies
9 face particularly given the fact that we went for
10 so many years without a budget.
11 With that said, as has been noted, this
12 statute was passed with universal bipartisan
13 support amongst not just the General Assembly but
14 key stakeholders, people in this room, thousands of
15 folks around this state who expect the law to be
16 implemented well and on time. Please think of that
17 enthusiastic support as a resource that can be used
18 to overcome the inevitable obstacles that I'm sure
19 will rise.
20 Whether it's technical expertise, advice
21 from agency staffs from other states or just
22 advocacy for the resources that you guys are going
23 to need to get this thing done, please know that
24 the Just Democracy Coalition stands ready and

1 willing to help. Thanks for the opportunity to
2 come before you; and, again, on behalf of Common
3 Cause and Just Democracy, we look forward to an
4 ongoing communication and partnership.
5 CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: Thank you very much,
6 Mr. Young. Again, in no particular order, I'm just
7 going through the names as they were submitted to
8 me. Andy Kang. Good morning, Mr. Kang.
9 MR. KANG: Good morning. I'll be very brief.
10 I want to thank the Chairman and Board for having
11 us today.
12 My name is Andy Kang. I'm the legal
13 director at Asian-American Advancing Justice in
14 Chicago. We are a member of the steering committee
15 for the Just Democracy Coalition, so I will kindly
16 refer back to Jay's comments for our largest
17 concerns.
18 But I'm bringing one specific concern. I
19 know you heard testimony from MALDEF. The
20 Asian-American community, the immigrant community
21 in Illinois, has a very keen interest in Automatic
22 Voter Registration. In many ways, this is a
23 game-changer for our community. I'm speaking also
24 on behalf as a member of the Illinois Coalition for

1 Immigrant and Refugee Rights which is also a
2 steering committee member. We do nonpartisan
3 get-out-to-vote work every year. One of the
4 biggest barriers for us is language. About a third
5 of the Asian-American community is limited English,
6 and so there are some barriers to becoming
7 comfortable with the voting process that we are
8 constantly trying to educate and engage the
9 community on.
10 Now specifically for the Asian-American
11 community, we are the fastest growing group in our
12 state. We've doubled in size over the last
13 20 years. And so this presents many challenges but
14 many opportunities I think for our state to have a
15 whole group of individuals that are new to our
16 democracy and being engaged.
17 So I would kindly urge the Board to work
18 with the Just Democracy Coalition, work with
19 community groups. We are part of the Pan Asian
20 Voter Empowerment Coalition which is a coalition of
21 service organizations that anchor many of the
22 Asian-American communities that we all know about
23 and help us really get the word out so that people
24 are as comfortable and familiar with this process

1 as it rolls out.
2 And then, finally, on the language access
3 piece, Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act
4 for Cook County covers two Asian languages, one
5 being Chinese, and the second being for the South
6 Asian community in written translations, and that
7 would be Hindi. And so if there's anything that we
8 as Asian-Americans Advancing Justice or others can
9 do to help with that process and making sure that
10 words gets out effectively, we would be happy to do
11 so.
12 So thank you so much for working with us.
13 Very much appreciated.
14 CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: Thank you very much,
15 Mr. Kang. Sharon Alter from the League of Women
16 Voters. Good morning. Thank you for joining us.
17 MS. ALTER: Thank you for holding this hearing
18 both in Springfield and in Chicago. For your own
19 information, I'm one of the state vice presidents
20 of the League of Women Voters Of Illinois, and on
21 behalf of the League of Women Voters of Illinois, I
22 offer this testimony.
23 As a long-standing organization in support
24 of enhancement of voting rights and as a Just

1 Democracy Coalition member, the League of Women
2 Voters of Illinois strongly supports the timely
3 implementation of AVR in Illinois.
4 Towards this end, the League encourages
5 the relevant implementing agencies to work with the
6 General Assembly and community stakeholders to
7 communicate openly, rally resources, and overcome
8 obstacles. There must continue to be
9 collaboration, transparency, and active
10 solicitation of input from both community
11 stakeholders and advocacy organizations throughout
12 the implementation process. This includes holding
13 additional hearings, as was mentioned earlier,
14 after the March 2018 primary election with an
15 emphasis on community and public education.
16 In addition, the implementing agencies
17 must vigorously test with a diverse set of
18 stakeholders, as mentioned earlier, the user
19 experience. Doing so should ensure that that
20 experience is clear and maximizes voter
21 registration while also making the opt-out choice
22 clear and easy to use. Moreover, doing so should
23 ensure that the process is secure and accurate as
24 mentioned in previous testimony.

1 The League of Women Voters in Illinois is
2 very pleased that the State of Illinois is now the
3 tenth state to enact Automatic Voter Registration
4 into law. What now must occur is its timely
5 implementation to ensure that Illinois becomes a
6 model state for other states to implement and
7 emulate. Thank you.
8 CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: Thank you very much,
9 Ms. Alter. And finally on this topic, the
10 ACLU of Illinois, is it Ms. Pillai.
11 MS. PILLAI: My name is Bharathi Pillai, and
12 I'm an attorney at the American Civil Liberties
13 Union of Illinois. ACLU of Illinois is part of the
14 nationwide organization with headquarter offices in
15 New York City and Washington, D.C., as well as
16 independent affiliates in all 50 states,
17 Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.
18 I'm testifying today on behalf of the ACLU
19 of Illinois and our over 70,000 members and
20 supporters across the state. We have submitted
21 written comments and today would like to repeat our
22 support for the statements of community
23 organizations in Illinois that have explained the
24 importance of incorporating diverse perspectives

1 from across the state including from historically
2 excluded communities and building a more inclusive
3 stronger AVR system.
4 We encourage agencies to seek input from
5 community partners and work with them to provide
6 ongoing community education to help residents
7 understand voter eligibility and how to register or
8 opt out of registering.
9 We also recommend clear and comprehensive
10 training about AVR for agency staff. In part, such
11 training should ensure that agency staff understand
12 the introduction of AVR does not require or
13 encourage the collection of information such as
14 citizenship status that could discourage all
15 members of our community from applying for needed
16 benefits and services such as licenses, health
17 care, disability, and employment.
18 We would like to urge the State Board to
19 consult with experts to ensure the state continues
20 to protect private citizens' rights of all
21 residents.
22 Drawing from the lessons learned by our
23 affiliates in states across the country who have
24 implemented AVR, we believe it is critical that AVR

1 systems are rigorously tested to ensure that the
2 system is easy to understand and use. Such testing
3 should ensure that the AVR system is both
4 accessible to all residents including people with
5 disabilities or limited English proficiency while
6 still safeguarding against unintentional
7 registration.
8 Agencies should work with design experts
9 to ensure the eligibility requirements are clear
10 and forms contain plain accessible language that
11 clearly alert residents of eligibility requirements
12 and how to either opt in or opt out of
13 registration.
14 Agencies should consult with
15 representatives of language minority communities to
16 ensure that AVR communications, public education
17 materials, registration information and/or opt-out
18 materials are available in the language that the
19 applicant speaks. If the AVR program includes
20 electronic interactions, those Web sites should be
21 fully accessible to voters with disabilities and
22 voters with limited English proficiency.
23 Incorporating accessibility during the
24 implementation of AVR would not only help create an

1 effective and inclusive AVR system, but it will
2 also ensure that taxpayers do not have to shoulder
3 the substantial cost of adopting these systems
4 later.
5 We are available to consult on these
6 issues, and I thank you for your time. We are
7 available for further questions.
8 CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: Wonderful. Thank you. Just
9 so everyone knows, we have received some other
10 written comments on this topic. I'm going to
11 direct the clerk to make sure that those written
12 comments are made part of our record. They were
13 coming in as late as --
14 MR. MENZEL: This morning.
15 CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: -- this morning. So we
16 thank everybody that took the time to do that.
17 I think before I ask other Board members
18 to comment and weigh in on this topic, we have
19 proposed, are working with the General Assembly on
20 a supplemental appropriations bill to fund our
21 implementation plan.
22 Steve, correct me if I'm wrong, but there
23 are two implementation deadlines, one of July 1st
24 of 2018 for the secretary, intraoperability with

1 the Secretary of State; and then the other one is
2 July 1st of '19 with the other state agencies. Is
3 that correct?
4 MR. SANDVOSS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I believe
5 that is correct.
6 CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: So our plan, our funding
7 plan is sort of built around those two big
8 milestones. And we think that in January, the
9 General Assembly will be considering a supplemental
10 appropriation bill to further those efforts.
11 If any other Board members have any
12 comments or statements, I would be happy to hear
13 from you now. Member McGuffage?
14 MEMBER McGUFFAGE: I want to find out, if it's
15 possible, for the November general election,
16 November 2018, how does this Automatic Voter
17 Registration impact on voter turnout in the 2018
18 election. I think that can be measured by looking
19 at who the new voters are --
20 CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: The new registrants?
21 MEMBER McGUFFAGE: -- who signed up under the
22 Automatic Voter Registration once you cull out the
23 duplicates and all that. And you match them up
24 with the voter participation in the various

1 jurisdictions and see if it has an effect on voter
2 turnout.
3 I'm all for registration opportunities.
4 I'm for Automatic Voter Registration, but I want to
5 see what the impact is on voter participation. I
6 mean, you can register the whole word, but you
7 can't make them vote. Turnout is very important.
8 People who register, they don't bother to vote. I
9 want to see what impact, if any, that Automatic
10 Voter Registration has on bringing new voters to
11 the polls, if it can be done.
12 CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: Any other comments from the
13 Board? No action needed for this, Steve, right,
14 other than to say we'll be holding another hearing
15 after the March primary at some point, and then
16 when we have that scheduled, you know, notice will
17 be posted on our Web site and the stakeholders will
18 be informed. We'll let the world know when that
19 next hearing occurs.
20 MR. SANDVOSS: Yes, that would be the thing to
21 do. Yes.
22 CHAIRMAN CADIGAN: Thank you all very much who
23 took the time to come here and present.
24 We're going to move on to the next item on

Complaints following closed preliminary hearing (separate packet)

55) *Shestokas v. Citizens for Grasso*, 17CD130; (pgs.1-7)
56) *Eberhardt v. Citizens of Tinley Park PAC*, 17CD131; (pgs.8-17)
57) *Field v. Field*, 18CD001. (pgs.18-23)

5. Report of the Executive Director
   a. Preparations for the March 20, 2018 General Primary Election;
      1) Objection & candidate withdrawals update; (will be sent under separate cover)
      2) Voting systems pre-testing; (pg.271)
      3) Delayed early voting update; (will be sent under separate cover)
      4) Election judge training schools – informational; (pgs.272-274)
   b. Legislative update;
      1) 2017 Elections related legislation; (pgs.275-279)
      2) 2018 Elections related legislation; (pg.280)
   c. Automatic Voter Registration report; (pgs.281-290)
   d. IVRS/IT update; (oral report)
   e. FY18 fiscal status reports – informational;
      1) FY18 Fiscal Note; (pgs.291-292)
      2) GRF month ending January 31; (pgs.293-300)
      3) Elections Summary; (pg.301)
      4) Help Illinois Vote Fund; (pgs.302-304)
   f. Two year plan of staff activity for the months of February & March – informational. (pgs.305-308)

6. Follow up. (pg.309)

7. Comments from the general public. (pg.309)

8. Next Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 19, 2018 in Springfield. (pg.309)

9. Executive Session. (pgs.310-324)

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

From the desk of.... Dustin Schultz
Election Specialist II/ AVR Coordinator – VRS
Phone: 217-782-1568
Email: dschultz@elections.il.gov

To: Steve Sandvoss – Executive Director

Re: December – January Automatic Voter Registration Update

Date: February 6, 2018

Since the November 20, 2017 AVR public hearing there has been steady progress towards the implementation of Public Act 100-0464 (AVR Bill). On December 28, 2017 ERIC/NCOA data required by Section 1A-16.8 of the AVR Bill was made available to Election Jurisdictions through an "Electronic Automatic Updates" bucket in IVRS for them to process their potential matches. The Election Authorities are currently within their 90 day window for processing those transfers.

The AVR Bill imposes two statutory deadlines, July 2018 for connection with the Secretary of State's Office and July 2019 for connection to four additional "Designated AVR Agencies." We have held productive legal and overall scope conversations with the Secretary of State and will be meeting on February 8 to further discuss the technical needs for AVR implementation. The AVR Bill requires us to establish electronic communication with the Secretary of State's Office to process "Opt-In" registrations, which are voter registration applications requiring a separate signature and attestation to meeting the requirements to vote. Then the AVR Bill also establishes "Opt-Out" registrations, which are voter registration applications that meet the qualifications of the REAL ID Act of 2005 and do not require a separate signature. When the applicant applies for a REAL ID, the applicant will be automatically registered to vote unless they opt-out of registration. All parties are committed to meeting the July 2018 deadline for opt-in registrations. However, the Secretary of State's Office has indicated REAL ID will not be implemented until early 2019, which is a necessary component for opt-out voter registration applications.

Two of the four designated AVR agencies, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, have been working with the Department of Innovation and Technology to develop an "Enterprise" application for licensing. We have been in discussions with these agencies about incorporating AVR into their Enterprise application process. In addition, the AVR Bill allows us to make agreements with other state agencies not specifically designated by Public Act 100-0464, but are good candidates for establishing electronic transfers of voter registration applications. The Enterprise application may provide an opportunity to expand AVR to other State of Illinois agencies and provide additional avenues of voter registration.

Following the November 20, 2017 public hearing we have reviewed the comments and made an analysis of the requests that are in progress, requests to be incorporated, and requests that we are unable to incorporate. We have also included in the analysis, public comments more appropriate for designated automatic voter registration agencies with a request for feedback. We have included our analysis of the public hearing in this packet and will make additions as designated AVR agencies provide feedback.

On January 16th, I attended the County Clerks Convention in Peoria to hear Nathan Maddox from the Secretary of State's Office give a presentation on REAL ID and its impact on voter registration. Then on January 17th, multiple members from the State Board of Elections gave presentations at the County Clerks Convention and a short presentation on AVR was given.

Technical Specifications have been available to AVR agencies, administrative rules are being drafted, and IT work orders are being created as we work towards the first statutory deadline of July 2018.

Automatic Voter Registration
November 20, 2017 Public Hearing Analysis
For Designated AVR Agencies

This document prepared by the

Illinois State Board of Elections
2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, IL 62704-4660

AS OF 1/17/2018

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Section 1: Overview

On Monday, November 20th, 2017 the State Board of Elections hosted its first Public Hearing on Public Act 100-0464/SB 1933 (AVR Bill) for the public to submit written and oral testimony to members of the State Board and staff as required by the AVR Bill.

This analysis will highlight many of the comments and designate them **in progress**, **to be incorporated**, **unable to be incorporated,** or **feedback requested** along with brief comment on the designation. The intention of this analysis is to provide designated AVR agencies an opportunity to review public comments, see a State Board of Elections response, and for the SBE to request feedback to comments geared more specifically toward designated AVR agencies.

At the conclusion of this analysis, please find the full written testimony and oral transcript of the November 20th, 2017 Automatic Voter Registration Public Hearing for review.

In addition, a link to the AVR legislation may be found here:

http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/100/100-0464.htm

Section 2: Public Comments Already In Progress

Appoint an Agency Voter Registration Coordinator

> *Recommendations to improve agency registration include: Assigning a voter registration coordinator for each agency and a coordinator for each local office.*

Many designated AVR agencies already have an appointed coordinator to lead the implementation of Automatic Voter Registration for their agency. In addition, prior data sharing agreements between the State Board of Elections and other state agencies have stipulated the need for a "designated agent." An agreement between the SBE and a designated AVR agency will include this provision.

Host Additional Public Hearings

> *We encourage...additional hearings after the March 2018 primary elections. We urge the State Board to choose locations and times that make it feasible for community members to participate.*

The State Board of Elections is committed to holding additional public hearings. Also, the SBE may be able to partner with Election Authorities and designated AVR agencies to provide public interaction opportunities outside of Springfield and Chicago.

Registration Opportunities

> *While we are confident that AVR will make voter registration easier and more accurate, we urge the State Board of Elections to prioritize opportunities for registration outside of AVR.*

The Paperless Online Voter Application (POVA) is a convenient, online source for voter registration already provided by the State Board of Elections. In addition, the POVA platform will assist the SBE with elements of AVR implementation.

Security and Accuracy of Data Transmitted to the State Board of Elections

> *State agencies should not send the State Board of Elections the record of documentation applicants produce to complete the underlying service application.*

When completing a government agency voter registration application, the State Board of Elections will only accept information in certain fields needed to complete a voter registration. The SBE

does not need to know the reason for the interaction between a constituent and the designated AVR agency, but simply that an interaction has occurred and the constituent wishes to register to vote.

Work With Community Organizations

> *We urge the State Board of Elections to work with community and civil rights organizations across Illinois to implement the law.*

The State Board of Elections worked closely with community organizations, such as Just Democracy, to create an AVR Bill that passed with unanimous, bi-partisan support and the State Board of Elections is available to the public for any AVR related implementation discussion.

Section 3: Public Comments to be Incorporated

Implementation Deadlines

We encourage implementing agencies to meet the implementation deadline mandated by the AVR statute.

There are two explicit implementation deadlines in the Automatic Voter Registration Bill. The first, July 2018, is specifically for the Secretary of State's Office. It is a challenging, but feasible goal to implement electronic transfer of data to complete opt-in registrations. The opt-out method of AVR will not be made available until REAL ID is implemented, which is projected to be 2019.

Four additional State of Illinois agencies are specifically deemed by the AVR Bill as, "designated automatic voter registration agencies," which are the divisions of Family and Community Services and Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Human Services, the Department of Employment Security, the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, and the Department of Natural Resources. These agencies face an implementation deadline of July 2019.

Statistical Data Tracking

I want to see what impact, if any, the Automatic Voter Registration has on bringing new voters to the polls.

The AVR Bill requires the tracking of statistics for submission to the General Assembly once a year. These statistics will come in the form of counts (e.g. X new voter registrations were completed at Y agency in Z year).

Section 4: Public Comments Unable to be Incorporated

Accelerated Timeline

> *I write to...urge a quicker implementation of Automatic Voter Registration before the March Primary Election.*

Unfortunately, this is not a feasible request. The first deadline provided in the AVR Bill of July 2018 is quite aggressive. The period between the March Primary and July will be crucial to ensure effective and safe implementation of the first phase of Automatic Voter Registration.

Concerns Regarding Opt-Out Registration

> *If the transaction requires the person to check the opt-out box to avoid the registration then the dual purpose form cannot require a single signature attesting that the person is eligible to vote in the State of Illinois. The AVR statute...establishes a system where individuals apply for a driver's license, and we're concerned that if a single signature is required that states this person attests that they're a citizen or that they are eligible to vote, this is going to perhaps have the person choose between not completing the form or to make a misleading attestation.*

The AVR statute explicitly states that opt-out registration requires only a single signature. However, opt-out registration for driver's license applications is limited to individuals applying for a REAL ID, which requires proof of citizenship or legal status. Those who do not pursue a REAL ID, but still want a driver's license and register to vote will still be able to do so, and provide a second and separate signature (opt-in registration) attesting they meet the requirements of voter registration.

Receiving Electronic or Mail Notices

> *Lastly, we would also like to suggest that individuals have the option of receiving mail notices or written notices rather than electronic. Despite having included an email- address when they registered, many individuals in our community prefer to have written records rather than electronic.*

10ILCS 5/1-16 provides that an Election Authority may provide notices solely by electronic mail if the voter provides an e-mail address. However, a voter may always request a notice by mail directly from the Election Authority.

Section 5: Public Comments Where Feedback is Requested

Public comments in this section are more applicable to a designated AVR agency than the State Board of Elections. Please, provide feedback regarding how your agency would respond to the specific public comment.

Application Filtering

- *A set of data, including a record of the documentary evidence of citizenship status that applicants produce to complete the underlying service application, should be reviewable by software to remove any applicant who documented they are not a citizen.*

Application Process

- *It should be noted that if the underlying service application process does not otherwise ask for documentary evidence of citizenship status, the process should not now ask for evidence of citizenship status just because of the AVR statute.*
- *We would like to suggest that all AVR-related announcements, dual purpose forms, and other materials should be available in Spanish and other major languages.*
- *All dual purpose forms that collect AVR-related information should clearly state the requirements to register to vote in Illinois, and the Secretary of State should utilize electronic forms for all transactions that collect AVR-related information.*

Staff Training

- *We also recommend clear and comprehensive training about AVR for agency staff. In part, such training should ensure that agency staff understand that the adoption of AVR does not require or encourage the collection of new information, such as citizenship status, that could discourage all members of our community from applying for needed benefits.*

Testing and Accessibility

- *We believe it is critical that AVR systems are rigorously tested to ensure that the system is easy to understand and use. Such testing should ensure that the AVR*

system is both accessible to all residents, including people with disabilities or limited English proficiency, while still safeguarding against unintentional registration.

- *Agencies should work with design experts to ensure eligibility requirements are clear and forms contain plain, accessible language that clearly alert residents of eligibility requirements and how to either opt-in to or opt-out of registration.*
- *Recommendations to improve agency registration include regularly soliciting and incorporating input from community members who interface with these agencies, including communities of color, about topics such as service applications, interactions with agency personnel, and other issues critical to the success of successful AVR implementation at agencies.*
- *We also request that the State release proposed AVR-related dual-purpose forms before putting them into use.*

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AGENDA
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, July 10, 2018
10:30 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center – Room 16-504
Chicago, Illinois
and via videoconference
2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, Illinois

Pledge of Allegiance.
Roll call.

1. Recess the State Board of Elections and convene as the State Officers Electoral Board. (agenda will be sent under separate cover)

2. Recess the State Officers Electoral Board and reconvene as the State Board of Elections.

3. Report of the General Counsel
   a. Campaign Disclosure;
      Appeals of campaign disclosure fines – recommendation: denied
      1) *SBE v. Mercer County Democratic Central Committee,* 5164, 18DQ011; (pgs.1-3)
      2) *SBE v. East St. Louis Republican Central Committee,* 18551, 18DQ029; (pgs.4-6)
      Other campaign disclosure items
      3) Payment of civil penalty assessments – informational. (pg.7)

4. Report of the Executive Director
   a. Public Hearing – Public Act 100-0587, Cyber Navigator Program; (pgs.8-11)
   b. Request for approval of Dominion's Integrated Voting System WinEDS 4.0/Democracy Suite 5.6; (will be sent under separate cover)
   c. Independent and New Party candidate petition filing update; (pg.12)
   d. IVRS/IT update;
      1) Report on AVR Public Hearings – informational; (pgs.13-24)
   e. Cybersecurity Conference – informational; (pgs.25-26)
   f. Two year plan of staff activity for the months of July & August – informational. (pgs.27-29)

5. Follow up.

6. Comments from the general public.

7. Next Board Meeting scheduled for Friday, August 24, 2018 in Chicago.

8. Executive Session. (pgs.30-39)

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR)

Public Hearing Series Overview & Analysis

This document prepared by:

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June 26, 2018

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Section 1: Mandate to Conduct AVR Public Hearings

Public Act 100-0464, also known as Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) mandates in (10 ILCS 5/1A-16.7[n]):

> *No later than 6 months after the effective date (August 28, 2017) of this amendatory Act of the 100th General Assembly, the State Board of Elections shall hold at least one public hearing on implementing this amendatory Act of the 100th General Assembly at which the public may provide input.*

A link to the Automatic Voter Registration legislation may also be found here:

http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/100/100-0464.htm

This document provides an overview of the State Board of Elections' (SBE) efforts to meet and exceed the statutory mandate, as well as provide an analysis of the substance of the public hearings.

At the November 20, 2017 AVR public hearing, which was held in order to meet the statutory timeline requirement, the State Board of Elections committed itself to provide additional public hearings following the March 2018 General Primary at request of the general public. The additional six sites were later chosen to represent the geographical diversity of Illinois and to provide each of the eight SBE Board Members an opportunity to personally participate in an AVR hearing. A total of seven public hearings were held, locations and dates as follows:

- Springfield, IL SBE principal office and Chicago, IL via video – November 20, 2017
- Quincy, IL KROC Corps Community Center – April 3, 2018
- Collinsville, IL Doubletree Hilton – April 9, 2018
- Rockford, IL Public Library – April 12, 2018
- Mt. Prospect, IL Public Library – April 16, 2018
- Charleston, IL Eastern Illinois University – April 26, 2018
- Chicago, IL Chicago Board of Election Commissioners' principal office – May 23, 2018

Attendance at the public hearings varied, from a handful of attendees to as many as sixty-five attendees. The audiences included members of the general public, community advocacy groups, and Illinois election authorities.

The form in which the public hearings were conducted also varied. For the initial public hearing in November 2017, both written and oral public comments were accepted and an AVR synopsis was provided by the Executive Director, Steve Sandvoss, and the Chairman of the Board, William J. Cadigan. At the subsequent six public hearings, a more detailed presentation on Automatic Voter Registration was provided, after which comments and questions were heard. Although invited to all six 2018 public hearings, the Office of the Secretary of State (SOS) was only able to present at the final public hearing in Chicago on May 23, 2018. In addition, key AVR legislators, as well as local legislators were invited to attend, but the timing of the public hearings fell within the spring legislative session and made attendance difficult. Some representatives and senators expressed regret at being unable to attend and sent staff on their behalf.

Through SBE's Public Information Officer (PIO), Matt Dietrich, the public hearings were advertised on SBE's public website, Facebook, and Twitter accounts. Also, the PIO reached out to local media and conducted several interviews regarding AVR and the public hearings. At the final public hearing in Chicago, media outreach was handled by Jim Allen, Chicago Board of Election Commissioners director of communications. A link to the Chicago AVR public hearing may be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSsuM1c27vc

This document, titled "Automatic Voter Registration Public Hearing Series Overview and Analysis" will highlight many of the topics presented; state the questions, comments, and concerns brought forth by the attendees, and explain the responses provided by the AVR presenters.

Section 2: AVR Overview

Public education of the Automatic Voter Registration statute was one of the primary objectives of the series of public hearings. The first point of emphasis was to explain exactly "what is AVR?" and "what is not AVR?" Three bullet points were offered for each of those questions. First of all, AVR is:

- An establishment of electronic voter registration applications at multiple State of Illinois agencies through dual purpose applications by an "opt-in" or "opt-out" process;
- The ability to verify and update your voter registration status while interacting with the designated AVR agency;
- And streamlined processing of voter registration applications by electronic submission to the State Board of Elections.

The AVR statute mandates the State Board of Elections establish electronic communication with the Office of Secretary of State by July 2018 for processing of voter registration applications and four other state agencies, the Department of Employment Security, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation by July 2019. Registration at these agencies is to be accomplished through an "opt-in" or "opt-out" method of registration, all while completing an application for services at the agency through a dual-purpose application. Whether an application is to be processed by an "opt-in" or "opt-out" method depends on the type of citizenship verification documents presented by the applicant.

Also in the AVR statute is a requirement for the designated AVR agency to automatically verify registration status in order to provide the applicant with an informed decision whether to register as a new applicant or update their current voter registration. This new voter registration verification process will completely incorporate voter registration into the daily work flow of the designated AVR agency.

Finally, the AVR statute replaces a paper registration process at state agencies with an electronic connection with the SBE for faster processing to the applicant's proper local election authority. Along with this change, there are some additional changes, such as a new close of registration, which will be discussed more thoroughly in Section 6.

At the AVR public hearings, in order to clear up common misconceptions, it was explained that AVR:

- Does not automatically register someone to vote without agency interaction;
- Does not allow non-citizens to automatically register to vote;
- And does not send confidential, non-registration, information to the SBE.

Often, when members of the public hear the phrase, "automatic voter registration," there is a perception that all eligible but unregistered citizens will be automatically registered to vote. One of the primary goals of the public hearings was to dispel this myth. At an AVR public hearing an individual questioned, "Will voters be removed from the rolls when AVR is implemented?" This question is the exact opposite of the common misconception of mass automatic registration, but one in which the answer is also, "the statute only affects those who interact with a designated AVR agency and AVR has no effect on those who do not."

As for the second common AVR misconception, the statute is explicit in excluding non-citizens and other unqualified voters by stating,

> *Before transmitting any personal information about an applicant to the State Board of Elections, the agency shall review its records of the identification documents the applicant provided or that the agency cross-references in order to complete the dual-purpose application, to confirm that nothing in those documents indicates that the applicant does not satisfy the qualifications to register to vote in Illinois at his or her residence address (10 ILCS 5/1A-16.2[e]).*

In sections 3 and 4 of this document, the differences between registration verification methods for "opt-in" and "opt-out" voter registration applications will be discussed.

Finally, AVR does not send confidential, non-registration information to the SBE. 10ILCS 5/1A-16.7(L) mandates,

> *Nothing in this Code shall require designated voter registration agencies to transmit information that is confidential client information under State or federal law without consent of the applicant.*

So, in other words, the SBE will never receive information about whether an applicant is an organ donor or collecting unemployment insurance, for example, nor would such information ever be useful to the SBE for the purposes of processing a voter registration application.

Section 3: AVR Implementation with Secretary of State for Non-REAL ID Applicants

Early in the AVR implementation process, the Office of the Secretary of State indicated REAL ID would not be available by the July 2018 AVR statute implementation deadline to process "opt-out" voter registration applications, but was committed to working with the SBE to establish the proper connections to process "opt-in" voter registration applications electronically by July 2018. By putting all of the steps in place to process "opt-in" voter registrations, both the SBE and the SOS will be well placed to implement voter registration for REAL ID applicants in January 2019.

As AVR was presented at the public hearings, an emphasis was placed on two of the most significant aspects of the AVR statute, which greatly improve upon the current paper process at the SOS; the use of dual-purpose forms to prevent an applicant from having to repeat information and the ability to verify current registration status as an applicant makes their dual-purpose application.

The AVR statute mandates in 10ILCS 5/1A-16.1(d):

> *The Office of the Secretary of State shall not require an applicant for a driver's license or State identification card to provide duplicate identification or information in order to complete an application to register to vote or to change his or her registered residence address or name.*

Instead of an applicant for voter registration filling out a paper voter registration application, which is then mailed to the local election authority, the voter registration application is now completed through a dual-purpose application as the applicant makes their application for a driver's license or State identification card. The completed voter registration application is then electronically submitted to the SBE for processing to the proper local election authority.

One of the main concerns expressed at the public hearings is an inconsistent presentation of voter registration at driver's license facilities, with extreme variance between different facilities and even variance between different facility employees presenting opportunities for voter registration. The AVR statute addresses this through a mandate to:

Review information provided to the Office of the Secretary of State by the State Board of Elections to inform each applicant for a driver's license or permit...or a State identification card issued by the Office of the Secretary of State whether the applicant is currently registered to vote in Illinois and, if registered, at what address (10ILCS 5/1A-16.1 [c]).

To meet the mandate, the SBE will be providing SOS with a weekly updated file of the nearly eight million active registered voters, which will be utilized by SOS to automatically inform an applicant for a driver's license or State identification card of their current registration status. Through this new method, voter registration has become completely integrated into the processing of SOS driver's license or State identification applications.

At the public hearings, it was explained that "opt-in" voter registrations still require the applicant to attest to meeting the qualifications to register to vote. SOS will be providing an electronic check box that requires an applicant for voter registration to affirm that they are both a US citizen and meets the age requirements for voter registration. If the applicant selects "Yes" to both questions, they are then able to electronically sign on a signature pad. At this point, all registration fields of voter data are uploaded to a table and sent to the SBE daily for electronic processing to the correct election jurisdiction.

Finally, the new signage displayed at SOS facilities for voter registration was of interest to the general public, most prominently at the final AVR hearing in Chicago. Many felt the proposed sign used too much legal language and did not promote voter registration in an engaging manner. From the Secretary of State's perspective, the signs are merely an informative publication and SOS plays no active role in promoting or not promoting voter registration. Also, Lance Gough, Executive Director of the Chicago Board of Elections, requested signs be printed in Chinese and Hindi for all Chicago driver's license facility locations.

Section 4: AVR Implementation with Secretary of State for REAL ID Applicants

In January 2019, the Office of the Secretary of State is expected to begin implementation of REAL ID, which means voter registration applications for REAL ID applicants will be processed through the "opt-out" method. Under the "opt-out" method of registration, qualifying applicants will be automatically registered to vote unless they opt-out of registration.

At the public hearings, it was also important to explain REAL ID itself, with a distinction provided about why some types of applications are processed as an "opt-in" method and others are processed through the "opt-out" method. The REAL ID act of 2005 is a federal law that sets security standards for the issuances of driver's licenses and identification cards, used primarily at airports for domestic flights. A large component of REAL ID is citizenship verification, usually provided as a birth certificate or passport. Since an applicant for a REAL ID provides documents proving United States citizenship, there is no need for an applicant for registration to attest by signature to being a United States citizen.

At the public hearings, the "opt-out" method of voter registration generated a large amount of interest, with an overwhelming expression of disappointment that it cannot be implemented by July 2018. As one advocacy group member stated it, "Opt-out registration is the cornerstone of AVR."

A comment was made that AVR should be implemented with REAL ID citizenship verification checks without an official implementation of REAL ID to meet the deadline set by the AVR statute, however, the statute is explicit in stating:

> *If an application, an application for renewal, a change of address form, or a recertification form for a driver's license, other than a temporary visitor's driver's license, or a State identification card issued by the Office of the Secretary of State meets the requirements of the Federal REAL ID Act of 2005, then that application shall serve as a dual-purpose application (10ILCS 5/1A-16.1[b]).*

In order to meet the requirements of the Federal REAL ID Act of 2005, REAL ID must first have an official implementation.

Section 5: AVR Implementation with Designated AVR Agencies

In addition to the Office of the Secretary of State, the AVR statute designates four additional state agencies, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Employment Security, the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, and the Department of Natural Resources by July of 2019. Also, by majority vote from the SBE Board, the SBE may add any additional federal or state agency that has access to reliable personal information regarding voter registration and who enters into an interagency agreement with the SBE (10ILCS 5/1A-16.2[g]). All of the same requirements for dual-purpose applications and registration verification apply to designated AVR agencies as are applied to applicants at SOS.

Recently, the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) has taken over much of the IT responsibilities of various Illinois state agencies, which has been helpful to the SBE for the potential of building one platform to incorporate agency registration and to potentially allow the SBE to more easily add new agencies for electronic voter registration.

At multiple public hearings, community advocacy members stated the Department of Corrections (DOC) should be added as a designated AVR agency. DOC is an example of an agency that could be added by majority vote of the SBE Board if the agency itself desired to become a designated AVR agency. At the Chicago public hearing, Member Casandra B. Watson suggested the advocacy groups come and speak before the SBE Board and generate a discussion. Also, there has been proposed legislation to add the DOC as a designated AVR agency as well.

Whether a designated AVR agency's dual-purpose applications are processed as an "opt-in" or an "opt-out" registration would depend on what type of citizenship verification documents are collected by the agency. In order to be processed through the "opt-out" method of registration, the agency will have to collect similar documents as required to obtain a REAL ID, such as a birth certificate or passport.

Section 6: Additional AVR Statute Mandates

There are additional mandates in the AVR statute which were presented at the public hearings. The following four additional mandates most thoroughly discussed were:

1) A new close of registration date;
2) ERIC Automatic In-State Updates;
3) A new pending signature status;
4) New required annual reporting.

In 10ILCS 5/1A-16.7(b) the AVR statute mandates voter registration applications are to be processed in the same manner as Paperless Online Voter Applications (POVA) by stating:

> *voter registration data received from the Office of the Secretary of State or a designated automatic voter registration agency through the online registration application shall be processed as provided in 1A-16.5 of this Code.*

Aside from setting rules about how quickly voter registration applications are to be processed, the POVA statute reduces the close of registration from 28 days before an election to 16 days before the election due the faster electronic processing of all registration applications. This new close of registration generated more discussion among the election authorities than the general public since the election authorities are affected by a five-day timeline to process the voter registration applications. The election authorities who utilize web services for voter registration applications are much better positioned to handle the new close of registration. Some registration vendors are working to switch their clients over to web services soon.

At the public hearings there was interest, primarily from election authorities, about ERIC automatic in-state updates. The statute requires the SBE to cross-reference the statewide voter registration database against the database of designated automatic voter registration agencies, and share the findings with election authorities at least 6 times a year (10ILCS 5/1A-16.8[b]), who then automatically updates the voter if they are found to have a more recent address from the designated agency (10ILCS 5/1A-16.8[c]. Some election authorities shared concerns regarding the change of voter registrations for individuals who may not want to have their registration changed. However, the voter does

have the ability to reject the change of registration when the change of registration is sent to their new address and old address.

The AVR statute also establishes a new "pending signature" status. When a voter registration application is transferred from an agency, the agency must submit an electronic signature to tie to the application. If they are unable to collect one, and one cannot be obtained from SOS, the applicant must be notified that their registration will remain in pending status until they provide a signature at first time of voting (10ILCS 5/1A-16.7[e]). Since it is unknown at this time how widely the pending signature status will need to be utilized, election authorities in general do not have a strong opinion about this new registration status.

Finally, the AVR requires certain annual public reporting to the Governor's Office and the General Assembly. Items required to be reported are:

1) The number of records transferred (to the SBE) by agency;
2) The number of voters newly added to the statewide voter list because of records transferred by agency;
3) The number of updated registrations by agency;
4) The number of persons who opted out of registration;
5) The number of voters who submitted applications through POVA (10ILCS 5/1A-16.7[o]).

In addition, the SBE is allowed by statute to provide limited reporting in 2018 and 2019.

Appeals of campaign disclosure fines – recommendation: granted & amendment required

10) *SBE v. Illinois Trial Lawyers Association PAC,* 627, 18AM009; (pgs.69-73)
11) *SBE v. Citizens for David Moore,* 23127, 18AD018; (pgs.74-77)
12) *SBE v. Ives for Illinois-Governor,* 34254, 18AD042; (pgs.78-82)
13) *SBE v. Committee to Elect Amanda Pillsbury,* 34284, 18MQ102; (pgs.83-86)
14) *SBE v. Committee to Elect Jason A. Olson,* 34470, 18AM069; (pgs.87-91)

Appeals of campaign disclosure fines – recommendation: denied

15) *SBE v. Boone County Democratic Central Committee,* 610, 18AM008; (pgs.92-97)
16) *SBE v. County Clerks & Recorders Special Action Fund,* 1358, 18MQ008; (pgs.98-100)
17) *SBE v. PAC of the Structural Engineers Association of Illinois (SEA PAC),* 4943, 18MQ010; (pgs.101-103)
18) *SBE v. Village Party,* 12780, 18AD011; (pgs.104-107)
19) *SBE v. Plumber & Pipefitters Local 149 Political Action Committee,* 16138, 18MQ024; (pgs.108-110)
20) *SBE v. Committee to Elect Erik Rankin,* 21447, 18MQ037; (pgs.111-113)
21) *SBE v. Chicago for Rahm Emanuel,* 22989, 17AS048; (pgs.114-118)
22) *SBE v. McDonough County Young Republicans,* 25701, 18MA018; (pgs.119-122)
23) *SBE v. 39th Ward Democratic Organization,* 32128, 18AM033; (pgs.123-127)
24) *SBE v. Citizens for Madison County Schools,* 32580, 18AM037; (pgs.128-131)
25) *SBE v. Greater Austin Independent Political Organization,* 32751, 18AM040; (pgs.132-136)
26) *SBE v. Root for Sheriff,* 32864, 18AM042; (pgs.137-140)
27) *SBE v. Friends of Julie Coe for Coles County Clerk,* 33993, 18AM046; (pgs.141-144)
28) *SBE v. Friends of Jen McMillin,* 34150, 18AD064; (pgs.145-149)
29) *SBE v. Friends of Jeff Braun,* 34425, 18MA027; (pgs.150-154)
30) *SBE v. Citizens for Butitta,* 34510, 18MA030; (pgs.155-158)
31) *SBE v. Women United Network,* 34544, 18D1006; (pgs.159-162)

Appeals of campaign disclosure fines – recommendation: denied &amendment required

32) *SBE v. Fulton County Republican Central Committee,* 251, 18MQ001; (pgs.163-168)

Appeals of campaign disclosure fines – recommendation: granted &denied

33) *SBE v. Committee to Elect Robert Harris Judge,* 34061, 18AD061; (pgs.169-174)
34) *SBE v. Friends of Jake Castanza,* 34184, 18MA024; (pgs.175-179)

Other campaign disclosure items

35) Random audits of political committees; (pgs.180-181)
36) Assessments/Board Orders; (pgs.182-186)

Complaints following closed preliminary hearing – separate packet

37) *Troscinski v. Personal PAC, Inc. & Friends to Elect Terra Costa Howard,* 18CD077; (pgs.1-49)
38) *Illinois Campaign for Political Reform v. Wilson,* 18CD079; (pgs.50-79/ H.O. report will be sent under separate cover)

b. Proposed Administrative Rules – Cyber Navigator Program. (pgs.187-191)

8. Report of the Executive Director
   a. Preparations for the November 6, 2018 General Election;
      1) Election judge training schools – informational; (pgs.192-196)
   b. Legislative update;
      1) Listing of elections legislation; (pgs.197-201)
   c. Equip for Equality presentation; (pgs.202-209)
   d. Update on the Cyber Navigator Program; (pgs.210-212)
   e. IVRS/IT update; (pgs.213-214)
      1) Automatic Voter Registration; (pgs.215-216)
   f. NASED Summer Conference – informational; (pgs.217-225)
   g. Updates to the SBE Policy Manual – Harassment & Anti-Bullying; (pgs.226-230)
   h. FY18/19 fiscal status reports – informational;
      1) Fiscal Note; (pgs.231-232)
      2) GRF month ending July 31; (pgs.233-248)
      3) Elections Summary; (pgs.249-250)
      4) Help Illinois Vote Fund; (pgs.251-259)

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

From the desk of.... ***Dustin Schultz***
Election Specialist II/ AVR Coordinator – VRS
Phone: 217-782-1568
Email: dschultz@elections.il.gov

To: Steve Sandvoss, Executive Director
Kyle Thomas, VRS Director

Re: Automatic Voter Registration Implementation Update

Date: 08/13/2018

On July 2, 2018, the first phase of AVR went live with the Office of the Secretary of State (SOS). We have since received a batch of opt-in registration applications completed at an SOS facility for each facility business day. As of the writing of this report, we have received 77,049 registration applications. 58,121 applicants have had their registrations added as new or updated, 14,912 applications are in a pending or processing phase, and 4,016 applications have been rejected. On average, we receive 2,140 voter registration applications each day from SOS.

There have been some unanticipated issues encountered, which have required adjustments in order improve the overall functionality of the system. We quickly discovered that approximately 10% of applicant signatures were not coming through. SOS has outlined a plan to fix this issue. For signatures that do not come through we pass that application back through our POVA webservice to retrieve the signature provided by the applicant for their DL or State ID. After the first four days of SOS daily batches were passed to election authorities, it became evident the election authorities were not receiving some address information from us, such as apartment numbers. We modified the program to display this information and all election authorities were provided the address information they had been missing.

We have also encountered an issue where our parsing software is unable determine an applicant's address and properly parse it for certain problem addresses. The primary reason for this is the applicant has a State Route address or the address was misspelled by the SOS agent. For this, we are displaying to all election authorities the free form address, which is the exact address entered by the SOS agent to compare against the parsed address provided by ESRI. We have deployed a new bucket in IVRS for election authorities to give special attention to these applications.

Midway through July, we discovered SOS had not been providing former names of applicants. This issue has since been corrected. Currently, the DL or State ID issue date being provided by SOS is the same as the registration date. In the majority of the cases, this is true, however, there are cases in which the issue date of the driver's license or State ID should be an alternate date. We are awaiting a fix to provide the true DL or State ID issue date on voter registration applications.

Finally, SBE staff discussed with SOS senior staff their specific plans for rolling out opt-out registration beginning January 1, 2019. Much of the process will remain the same, but voter registration will be initially presented differently to REAL ID applicants to align with statutory requirements. Those applying for a REAL ID will be informed they will be registered unless they opt-out versus being asked if they would like to register to vote.

Despite some technical issues, the deployment of electronic transfer of opt-in voter registration applications from SOS has been extremely successful. An employee from the Lake County Clerk's Office wrote to us that they enjoy the ease of the process, not having to wait weeks for paper records, and the ability to tell their constituents the day after they make application that their registration has been completed. Illinois election authorities have been a crucial source of information to us as we make continual improvements on an electronic registration process from a paper process. The State Board of Elections and the Office of the Secretary of State enjoys a strong collaborative working relationship and SOS has been a very responsive partner in the development and improvement of the electronic transfer of voting registration applications.

4. Report of the Executive Director
   a. Preparations for the November 6, 2018 General Election;
      1) Election day staff assignments; (pgs.59-60)
      2) Election judge training schools – informational; (pgs.61-66)
   b. Report on HAVA funding; (oral report)
   c. Legislative update; (oral report)
   d. IVRS/IT update; (pgs.67-69)
   e. NCSL Election Cybersecurity Conference – informational; (pgs.70-75)
   f. National Election Security Summit – informational; (pgs.76-77)
   g. FY18/19 fiscal status reports – informational;
      1) GRF month ending September 30; (pgs.78-93)
      2) Elections Summary; (pgs.94-95)
      3) Help Illinois Vote Fund; (pgs.96-104)
   h. Two year plan of staff activity for the months of October & November – informational. (pgs.105-109)

5. Follow up.

6. Comments from the general public.

7. Next Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 19, 2018 in Springfield.

8. Executive Session. (pgs.110-122)

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

From the desk of.... Dustin Schultz
Election Specialist II/ AVR Coordinator – VRS
Phone: 217-782-1568
Email: dschultz@elections.il.gov

To: Steve Sandvoss, Executive Director; Kyle Thomas, VRS Director

Re: Automatic Voter Registration Update

Date: October 1, 2018

Since the implementation of electronic opt-in voter registration with the Office of the Secretary of State we have received 157,841 applications to register to vote. Of those, 136,079 have become registered, 6,872 have been rejected, and the remaining applications are in a pending or processing phase. The reject rate is just under 5%, mostly due to duplicate registrations.

Section 1A-16.7(f) of the AVR bill mandates the SBE to only send to local election authorities applications made by qualified voters. VRS staff has been working with IT to programmatically filter out applications received by individuals who will not be 18 years of age by the next General or Consolidated election. Since initiation of this programming on September 26, 2018, we have received 54 applications from individuals who will not be 18 by November 6, 2018. These individuals will receive a letter from the SBE informing the applicant of their ineligibility.

Kyle Thomas and I met with the General Counsel from the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) to discuss their requirements under the AVR bill. IDFPR has moved their constituent application process entirely online, even for their in-person applicants. As a result, we discussed with IDFPR utilizing a website transfer option, initially created by Public Act 098-1171, to satisfy their requirements under AVR. When utilizing a website transfer, the applicant is presented an opportunity to register to vote as they finish their application with IDFPR. For those who choose to register to vote, their demographic information would automatically transfer to our POVA site. Then, the applicant could finish out the application with any additional information necessary.

Some VRS and IT staff also met with representatives from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) to discuss AVR implementation for DNR. Again, website transfer was chosen as the best method to offer voter registration to their customers. Some added complexities exist with DNR's AVR implementation as they've expressed interest in utilizing a web service to inform applicants at their vendor sites, such as Walmart, or their main offices of the applicant's registration status before presenting the opportunity to register to vote since so many of their customers are repeat customers.

Also, we discussed with DoIT the potential to use the Enterprise application process being developed to open up voter registration to additional state agencies not named in the AVR bill. If and when this occurs, these agencies will need to be approved by majority vote of the Board, which is required by 1A-16.7(d) of the AVR Bill.