



For Immediate Release - July 1, 2014

Top 10 Reasons to Like On-Line Voter Registration

Chicago Election Board Chairman Langdon Neal praised the Illinois State Board of Elections' new online voter registration system, which is now linked to www.chicagoelections.com. Neal said these are the Top 10 reasons voters and taxpayers will like the system:

- (1) It's So Easy – With a State Driver's License or State ID, voters can register for the first time or update their name or address info. No printing, signing or mailing forms.
- (2) It's Accurate – Voter data is confirmed against the Secretary of State's database. Plus, the electronic transfer of data eliminates the possibility of errant entry of data or misreading of hand-written information.
- (3) It's Secure – The prospective voter already has proven identity and date of birth to a government agency to obtain a State ID or Driver's License. As a safeguard, the user must know the issuance date of the Driver's License or ID card.
- (4) It's Still Verified By Mail – After a registration is processed, local election authorities still mail a verification to the new voters and voters who updated their name or address information.
- (5) It's Thorough – If a voter fails to include any required information, the system tells the user. The system also supplies the election authority with the voter signature clip from the Driver's License or State ID.
- (6) It's Faster – Just ahead of an election, tens of thousands of paper forms might take two weeks to process. Electronic files will be processed in a few days.
- (7) It's Green – This system eliminates the paper chase.
- (8) It's Proven – Illinois now joins many other states – like Arizona, Indiana, Colorado, Utah and California – that have already successfully deployed similar on-line voter registration systems. Data indicate that Democratic and Republican voters use the online system in the same proportions as pre-online voter registration.
- (9) It's Efficient – The automation cuts manual data entry. Arizona officials estimate it cost 83 cents per paper form, compared to 3 cents per on-line form.
- (10) It's What Voters Want – In September 2011, the Chicago Election Board gathered more than 130 participants at a massive focus group, the "Voter Engagement Community Forum." Participants told the Board that on-line registration needed to be a top priority. The Chicago Election Board passed along those recommendations and worked with lawmakers, the Illinois State Board of Elections, the Illinois Secretary of State's Office and other election agencies to promote passage of the 2013 law that enabled the creation of the new system.

#