

# Online Voter Registration

Nine states have online voter registration using a secure website that checks the data entered against the data from the department of motor vehicles. Most of these states require instant verification of the data entered, and online registration closes when open registration closes.

## Reference List

Election officials experienced with online registration, listed in order of establishing the system.

### **Arizona**

Republican Secretary of State Ken Bennett, phone 602-542-8683, has had online registration since 2002. From a press release October 7, 2008, by then-Secretary of State (now Governor) Jan Brewer:

"Obviously, there is a great amount of interest in this year's General Election, and it is just so important that citizens take the time to get involved in the election process," added Secretary Brewer, "I am very proud that Arizona continues to lead the country with our EZ Voter system delivering a secure, convenient and efficient way for citizens to register and participate."

"The Secretary of State's EZ Voter system has shown a marked increase in voter registrations under the Brewer Administration. Upon taking office in January 2003, the EZ Voter registration system had processed 6,535 people to vote over an entire month. This past month of September '08, the same system registered 105,392 people, the largest one-month total for any primary or general election. Also of note, thus far in 2008, over 60 percent of all people who registered to vote in Arizona did so via the Secretary of State's EZ Voter online system."

### **Washington**

Republican Secretary of State Sam Reed, phone 360-902-4180, has had online registration since January 2008. From the Washington Secretary of State's website:

"Q: Is online voter registration secure? Yes. The online voter registration system uses the same technology that banks and retailers use to encrypt and protect a customer's personal information. In addition, a randomly generated security number is presented to each user to make it more difficult for an automated hacking program to fraudulently fill out voter registration applications via the website."

"Since only people who have a driver's license or state ID card can register to vote online, each applicant will have personally stood before a state employee, presented proper documentation, and had their pictures taken."

## **Kansas**

Established by Republican Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh. From an Associated Press article July 28, 2009:

“An online voter registration application is the next step in making the traditional elections process easier, faster and cheaper,” Thornburgh said. “As technology continues to change and evolve, it is important that we implement strategies that will allow the citizens of Kansas to register in a way that is most convenient to them, without sacrificing the security and uniformity that sets our elections system apart.”

## **Oregon**

Democratic Secretary of State Kate Brown, phone 503-986-1518, from a guest column about online registration, March 1, 2010:

“It will help people who find traditional procedures out of reach, including the housebound and the disabled community. With the right equipment, for example, sightless people can register without the assistance of another person to fill out a card. Our military servicemen and women will find far less delay in registration, eliminating worries about whether the snail mail will deliver their paperwork in time.”

## **Colorado**

Established by Democratic Secretary of State Bernie Buescher. From Democratic Governor Bill Ritter, upon signing the bill authorizing online registration, May 15, 2009:

"This measure gives Coloradans a convenient way to register to vote, request a mail-in ballot or update their contact information," Gov. Ritter said. "The bi-partisan cooperation reflected in the support of this bill helps to lay a foundation for a long-term vision for election practices in Colorado."

## **Louisiana**

Republican Secretary of State Tom Schedler, phone 225-922-2880

## **Utah**

Republican Lieutenant Governor Greg Bell, phone 801-538-1041

## **Indiana**

Established by Republican Secretary of State Todd Rokita, quoted in his June 29, 2010 press release:

“Giving our citizens access to an online registration tool also helps local election administrators better serve voters and should cut their costs, all while enhancing accessibility, accuracy and security.”

## **Nevada**

Democratic Secretary of State Ross Miller, phone 775-684-5708