

# The Election Center

an international service association of election and voter registration officials

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06-06-2005

## **Election 2004 National Task Force on Election Reform Report**

Continuing the introduction of the National Task Force Report on Election Reform, today we present the second installment. Please find below this message the first section of the Executive Summary, "Voter Registration Recommendations."

Tomorrow resumes the Executive Summary with "Election Technology Recommendations." The full report will be available online at [www.electioncenter.org](http://www.electioncenter.org).

# Executive Summary

## National Task Force on Election Reform

### Voter Registration Recommendations

#### **Issue: Voter Registration Groups**

1. That states establish a legal requirement that registration applications be delivered to the registration office within a pre-determined amount of time. (i.e. 3 calendar days, but not later than the close of registration.) State law must also ensure that noncompliance on the part of a voter registration group does not invalidate properly completed voter registration applications if received prior to the close of registration.
2. That states prohibit payment to solicitors based on the number of registrations collected, however, compensation for time worked should be allowed. (See Appendix A for sample legislation.)
3. That states establish specific laws and penalties relating to violations of voter registration laws. All state and local election administrators should provide the list of

violations and penalties to registration solicitors. (See Appendix A for sample legislation.)

4. That the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) redesign the federal voter registration application and states redesign state applications to accommodate registration information of voter registration solicitors.

**Issue: National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)**

5. That states evaluate how local jurisdiction and state responsibilities for file maintenance will change with the installation of the new computerized statewide voter registration lists.
6. That states review and update procedures with NVRA mandated agencies and mandate training.
7. That states establish formal procedures between NVRA agencies and registration offices to track applications.

**Issue: Registration Deadlines**

8. That states without same day registration establish a minimum 29-day voter registration cutoff to assure that all registered voters' names appear on the poll lists.

**Issue: Voting Rights for Former Convicted Felons**

9. That state and local election administrators use the connectivity available through the new statewide voter registration databases to more efficiently manage felon information.
10. That judicial and/or penal systems provide information on voting rights to felons, both at the point of conviction and at the completion of terms and conditions of the sentencing order. This information should specifically explain their loss of voting rights, restoration of voting rights and how to register to vote.
11. That judicial and/or penal systems provide written documentation to exiting felons to be used as evidence of eligibility to register to vote.
12. That states implement an automatic or expedited process for the restoration of voting rights for convicted felons who have satisfied their sentences.

**Issue: Provisional Voting**

13. That each state adopt uniform written standards and procedures for casting and counting provisional ballots.
14. That, for the purpose of data collection, states develop a uniform definition for reporting provisional ballots at the state and national level.
15. That states implement procedures to collect the number of provisional ballots that were cast on Election Day as a part of their election night procedures.

**Issue Statewide Database List Maintenance**

16. That state and local election administrators incorporate monitoring procedures within the statewide voter registration systems to insure that list maintenance functions are performed in a timely, uniform, and non-discriminatory manner.
17. That state and local election administrators maximize the benefits of statewide voter registration software including transfer of voter records within the state, increased and improved services to candidates and committees, and connectivity to web based services.
18. That states be encouraged to enter into agreements with one another to share voter registration data for list maintenance purposes. This should include disclosure of death records across state lines.
19. That states develop uniform and standard cancellation language to be used in interstate notifications and develop procedures for the timely transmittal of such notices.
20. That state and local election administrators urge Congress to amend the law to allow states to require full social security numbers for voter registration purposes, subject to non-disclosure under public open record laws.