NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT (NVRA)
TRAINING MANUAL FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

SECRETARY OF STATE
MARK MARTIN

Revised 07/2012
• National Voter Registration Act of 1993, aka NVRA or Motor Voter Act became effective on January 1, 1995 in most states.

• NVRA became effective on January 1, 1996 in Arkansas
Three (3) states were allowed to delay implementation because they needed to amend their state constitutions to comply with the NVRA.

• Arkansas, Vermont & Virginia
To comply with the NVRA, new provisions were added to Amendment 51 of the Arkansas Constitution.

Amendment 51 is titled Voter Registration.
Purposes of NVRA

• Protect the integrity of the electoral process.

• Ensure that accurate and current voter registration rolls are maintained.
Purposes of NVRA (cont’d)

• Increase the number of eligible citizens who register to vote in elections for Federal office

• Enhance the participation of eligible citizens as voters in elections for Federal office
NVRA and Amendment 51 do not just impact “election officials”

- Public Libraries are specifically named in the NVRA as Voter Registration Agencies.
The NVRA states in part:

• Each State shall designate as voter registration agencies –
  - State or local government offices such as public libraries...

{See 42 USCS § 1973gg-5(a)(3)(B)(i)}
Amendment 51, § 5(a)(4) identifies Public libraries as a voter registration agency which shall:

- Distribute mail voter registration applications, provide assistance to applicants in completing voter registration application forms, unless the applicant refuses assistance, and accept completed voter registration application forms for transmittal to the appropriate permanent registrar via the Secretary of State.
Agency Requirements

• The agency employee must ask all clients the question:

"If you are not registered to vote where you live now, would you like to register to vote here today?"

• Public assistance agencies and disabilities agencies shall provide the same degree of assistance in completing voter registration forms as is provided with regard to the completion of agency forms, unless the applicant refuses such assistance.
Amendment 51, § 5(c)(4)(A-E) states a person who provides voter registration assistance through any voter registration agency shall not:

- Seek to influence an applicant’s political preference or party registration
- Display any such political preference or party allegiance
- Make any statement to an applicant or take any action to the purpose or effect of discouraging the applicant from registering to vote
- Make any statement to an applicant or take any action to the purpose or effect of leading the applicant to believe that decision to register or not to register has any bearing on the availability of services or benefits
- Disclose any applicant’s voter registration information, except as necessary for the administration of voter registration.
Registration applications are received from the following sources:

- In person
- Registration Drives
- Mail
- Public Assistance Agencies
- Other (Disability Services, Armed Forces, Libraries & Other State Agencies)
- Revenue/DMV
### NVRA nationwide registration application statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Person</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Drives</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail, Fax &amp; Email</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Assistance Agencies</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Disability Services, Armed Forces, Libraries &amp; Other State Agencies)</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>21.26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
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</table>
# NVRA Arkansas registration application statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Person</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Drives</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail, Fax &amp; Email</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Assistance Agencies</td>
<td>0.65%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Disability Services, Armed Forces, Libraries &amp; Other State Agencies)</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>141,580</td>
<td>59,429</td>
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How Do We Get These Statistics?
NVRA & Amendment 51 require Mandatory Record Keeping
US Election Assistance Commission Gathers the Data from Each State
US Department of Justice
Scrutinizes the Data
Civil Rights Division of DOJ has a Voting Rights Section

One of their duties is to enforce the NVRA
Non-Compliance Consequences

Agencies that fail to comply with NVRA face the following:

• **Investigation** and/or **litigation** by the U.S. Department of Justice.

• **Litigation** by individuals and clients.

• **Litigation** by concerned national interest groups.
Multiple Law Suits

• A July 12 Lawsuit in Louisiana alleged that the State and its agencies violated the NVRA by Failing to offer voter registration opportunities.

• 28 Voting Rights Lawsuits in the past few months.

• Defendants named are not just Secretaries of State, but Agency Heads as well.
Required Forms

- Arkansas Voter Registration Application
- Monthly Reporting Form
- “Register to Vote Here” signs

All forms provided by
The Arkansas Secretary of State’s Office
Register to Vote Here!

New to Arkansas? Moved across town or to another county? Has your name changed?

Complete one form to update your voter information!

A Message From
ARKANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE
MARK MARTIN

Use a QR Code app on your Smartphone to check your voter registration status

www.VoterView.org

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AGENCY CODE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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Remember to put your **AGENCY CODE** on all Voter Registration Applications. Please send completed APPLICATIONS to Secretary of State DAILY. Retain all Declination Forms for 24 months. Send original of this form to the Secretary of State. **You must retain the yellow copy for your records for 24 Months.**
Agency Form Requirements

• Post “Register to Vote Here” signs in the Agency.

• **Maintain** Monthly Reporting Form (bottom yellow copy) for 24 months **onsite at each agency office**.

• Submit top white copy of Monthly Reporting Forms and VR Applications to:

  Arkansas Secretary of State  
  ATTN: Voter Registration  
  P.O. Box 8111  
  Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-8111  

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Agency Form Requirements

ONE FINAL NOTE TO REMEMBER:

- Agency internal reporting requirements are separate and in addition to Secretary of State monthly reporting requirements.

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NVRA Points of Contact

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www.sos.arkansas.gov
Thank you for attending!

Any Questions?

www.sos.arkansas.gov