

# Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)



## **Q. Which states are members of ERIC?**

**A.** As of July 2016 Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The District of Columbia is also a member. (20 states plus DC)

## **Q. Who controls ERIC?**

**A.** The states. Each state has a vote and the first 20 states to join are members of the Board of Directors. The chief elections official from each member state designates a representative to the ERIC Board.

## **Q. What data does ERIC collect from member states?**

**A.** Each member submits at a minimum its voter registration and motor vehicle licensee data. The data includes names, addresses, date-of-birth, last four digits of the social security number. Private data such as date of birth and the last four digits of the Social Security number are anonymized and then transmitted to ERIC. An explanation of how the anonymization process works, how it is used in the ERIC data matching process, and how privacy is protected is in the Technology and Security Overview.

## **Q. What reports do states receive from ERIC?**

**A.** Each member state receives reports that show voters who have moved within their state, voters who have moved out of state, voters who have died, duplicate registrations in the same state and individuals who are potentially eligible to vote but are not yet registered.

## **Q. Who pays for ERIC operations?**

**A.** The member states. Each state pays annual dues, which are determined by a formula approved by the ERIC Board of Directors. The formula includes voting age population as a factor. Large states pay a bit more than small states. The annual budget as of 2015 is approximately \$600,000.

## **Q. Does ERIC help members save money?**

**A.** Yes. Efficient and effective data matching and cleaner voter rolls will result in such efficiencies as less returned mail, fewer provisional ballots on election day, shorter lines at polling places, etc. In addition, ERIC uses resources such as the Social Security death index and data from the US Post Office that states now buy on their own. ERIC states share these purchases when they pay their annual dues.

## **ERIC at Work**

ERIC improves voter registration by providing information for member states to contact potentially eligible but unregistered voters with instructions on how to register. ERIC members contact potential voters at least every two years, ahead of any federal general election.

ERIC also provides value by identifying out-of-date records found by comparing voter registration data between states, to motor vehicle licensing agency data, and to the Social Security Administration master death index list.

ERIC began providing list maintenance data to members in July of 2013.

Since ERIC's creation, the organization has helped states identify over 3 million out-of-date registrations, including:

12,000,000 unregistered voters identified

623,358 voters who moved across state lines, but did not update their registration

2,790,051 voters who moved within their state, but did not update their registration

54,700 duplicate registrations

150,062 deceased voters

ERIC is able to make projections for states interested in joining by applying the number of registered voters (active and inactive) and the number of driver's license holders in that state to the experience so far of states that are already in ERIC. Our projections have proven so far to be reliable predictors of the number of records that will show up on a state's initial set of ERIC reports.

Our projections for Florida predict that the initial reports will identify about 717,000 voters who have moved within the state of Florida but haven't updated their voter record. Further, ERIC predicts about 233,000 voter records in Florida are out of date because the voters have moved to another state. The first set of reports would also identify about 24,000 deceased individuals who are still on the voter rolls and approximately 17,000 duplicate registrations in the statewide database.

In addition, Florida's first report of potentially eligible but unregistered individuals would identify about 4.5 million people who are in your state's DMV database but not yet registered to vote.

Please keep in mind that these projections are based on the "averages" of what states who are now members of ERIC have experienced. It could be that some of these numbers could be higher or lower for Florida based on how good a job Florida is doing now in dealing with individuals who have moved or died. But as I said earlier, our projections have proven to be reliable in other states.