

Voter Registration

Program Evaluation
July 8, 2026

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Key Findings

- The Office of the Secretary of State (OSS) established appropriate procedures for processing voter registration applications.
- Counties processed at least 99% of identity and residency verification transactions correctly.
- Counties did not always update voter registration records appropriately.
- Federal law, state law, and OSS establish different criteria for inactivating voter registration records.

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State of Minnesota
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Overview: Laws and Responsibilities

- Voter registration governed by federal and state law
- Responsibility split between OSS and Counties:
 - OSS maintains state registration system (SVRS), provides training and guidance to counties
 - Counties add, update, challenge records

Overview: Registration Methods

- Before Election Day
 - Automatic Voter Registration (AVR)
 - Online
 - Paper (mail, in-person)
- Election Day
 - In person at the individual's polling place

Overview: Voter Statuses

- Registered Statuses
 - Active
 - Challenged
- Nonregistered Statuses
 - Deceased
 - Deleted
 - Inactive
 - Pending

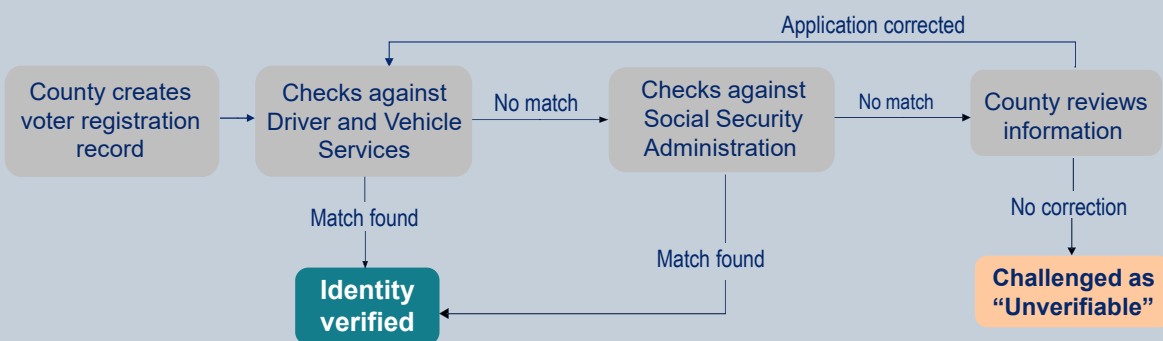
OSS Procedures and Guidance

- OSS established appropriate procedures for processing voter registration applications (p. 15)
 - Rules and guidance align with law
 - SVRS design supports compliance with law
 - OSS provides useful resources

Verification Overview

- We analyzed the results of the following processes:
 - Identity verification
 - Residency verification
 - Ongoing maintenance of voter registration records
- Population analyzed:
 - 211,000 **new** applications received 7/1/2024 – 11/5/2024

Identity Verification

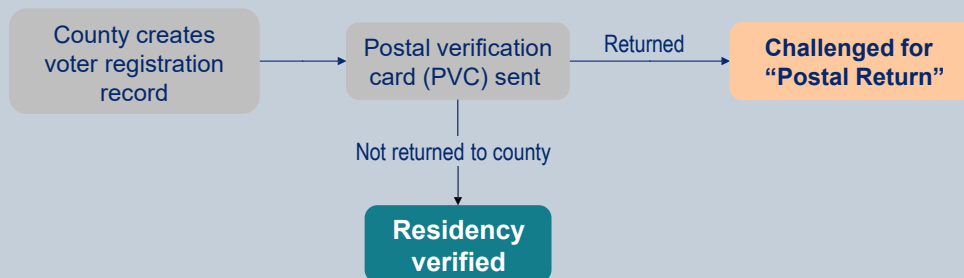


- Population analyzed: 156,800 (non-AVR) applicants
- 99.9% passed identity verification (p. 25)

Identity Verification Accuracy (p. 23)

- 99.9% (156,600): processed correctly
- 0.1% (200): status inaccurate or not documented
 - Voter statuses activated without documentation
 - Voter statuses not reactivated after identity verified

Residency Verification



- Population: 191,000 (non-Pending) applications
- 99% passed residency verification (p. 33)

Residency Verification Accuracy (p. 30)

- 99% (188,600) processed correctly
- 1% (2,400) status inaccurate or not documented
 - Voter statuses challenged without documentation
 - No PVC sent

Reporting on Residency Verification (pp. 33–36)

- Statutes require a report on PVCs sent to election-day registrants
 - Meets statutory requirements
 - Limited value



The Report Must Include:

Total number of individuals for whom the county does not receive or obtain satisfactory proof of an individual's eligibility to vote

— **Minnesota Statutes 201.121, subd. 3**

Recommendation

The Legislature should clarify the purpose and requirements of post-election reporting on returned PVCs

Other State Agencies with Information on Voter Eligibility

- OSS receives data from various state agencies:
 - Department of Corrections (DOC) – individuals incarcerated for felonies
 - Department of Public Safety (DVS) – individuals on an active temporary stay in the U.S.
 - State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO) – individuals under guardianship
 - Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) – deceased individuals

Maintaining Accurate Lists of Registered Voters (pp. 40–42)

	Number of Registered Voters	Status Changed on Time	Status Changed Late	Status Not Changed
Newly Incarcerated (challenged)	59	54%	19%	27%
No Longer Incarcerated (challenge removed)	39	51%	44%	5%
Guardianship, Voting Rights Removed (challenged)*	17	76%	24%	0%
Active temporary stay (challenged)	1	100%	0%	0%
Deaths (marked deceased)	2,642	99.4%	0%	0.6%

* The two individuals whose rights were restored were not registered voters at the time.

Recommendations

- Counties should either update—or document their rationale for not updating—all voter registration records flagged by OSS.
- OSS should modify its monthly match reports on disqualifying conditions to include all matching voter registration records that counties have not yet updated.

Inactivation of Lapsed Voters (pp. 55-57)

Criteria for Inactivating Voter Registration Records

Federal Law	• After missing two consecutive federal elections, and • Failing to respond to a notice
State Law	• After four years of not voting
OSS Process	• After four years of no activity

Recommendation

The Legislature should consider revising the criteria for inactivating voter records

Voter Registration

www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us