



ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION INFORMATION CENTER: Improving State Voter Rolls

The Electronic Registration Information Center, or ERIC, is a sophisticated data center that harnesses the latest technology to securely compare key state data to better inform election officials about voters on their list whose information might be out-of-date.

In 2012, several pioneering states partnered to launch ERIC with financial and technical assistance provided by The Pew Charitable Trusts. ERIC is an advanced data tool that securely and accurately compares state data such as voter and motor vehicles records to inform states when voters move, die, or become eligible. Participation is voluntary, and ERIC is wholly owned, managed, and funded by its member states.



A Better Way to Clean Voter Rolls

ERIC was designed to give election officials a more active role in the registration process by delivering reliable data on the voters in their jurisdictions. Every 60 days, states submit their voter rolls and limited information from motor vehicle records. ERIC then compares these records with one another and with data from the U.S. Postal Service and Social Security Administration. In addition, states may choose to submit records from other agencies, such as social service, health, or even revenue records, to broaden the scope and accuracy of the data matching.

The result is the highest quality data analysis conducted with comprehensive privacy protection. Unlike any current matching programs, ERIC compares multiple records—and multiple fields within each record—simultaneously, as well as accounting for name variations and transposed numbers. States receive this data continuously throughout the year, so list maintenance can be conducted routinely and well in advance of a coming election.

In compliance with state and federal law, election officials can then reach out to citizens identified by ERIC, encouraging them to register or update their records. **ERIC is not a list of voters, ERIC is a data resource.** ERIC does not automatically update or cancel any voter registration records. The official voter lists still

STATES RECEIVE ROUTINE REPORTS FROM ERIC INFORMING THEM OF:

- Voters who have moved within a state
- Voters who have moved to another state
- Voters with duplicate registrations
- Voters who have died
- Eligible citizens who are not yet registered

reside with the state, and complete control over voter records remains with the state and local election officials. ERIC provides election officials with the highest quality information available to reach out to voters to maintain their lists, resulting in voter rolls that are more accurate. Learn more about how ERIC's data matching process works at PewTrusts.org/elections.

ERIC is Owned and Managed by its Participating States

ERIC is a 501(c)(3) organization managed by a board of directors composed of representatives from the participating states. ERIC is staffed by an Executive Director and technical manager who report to the ERIC board and provide experienced technical and logistical assistance. Read ERIC's bylaws, and learn more about the governance of the center at ERICstates.org.

Data Security

Data sent to ERIC is collected, matched, and stored using state-of-the-art physical and virtual security on dedicated servers. Any private data—such as dates of birth, driver's license numbers, or last four digits of a Social Security number—are anonymized and protected prior to ever leaving the state's control. The center's technical platforms and governing structure have been reviewed and endorsed by leading advocates in the fields of data security and privacy, such as the Center for Democracy & Technology. Learn more at ERICstates.org.

ERIC Roster:

Alabama
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Louisiana
Maryland
Minnesota
Nevada
Oregon
Rhode Island
Utah
Virginia
Washington

ERIC Delivers Results

To date, data supplied by ERIC to the member states has led to the identification of:

- Over **2.5 million voter records that were out-of-date** due to a voter moving.
- Over **100,000 records of deceased individuals** still on the voter rolls.
- Nearly **12 million eligible, but unregistered citizens** identified and contacted, with nearly 700,000 of those individuals registering—most using highly-efficient online voter registration.

“Every state official...was confident that the ERIC matching process was superior to any efforts their states had undertaken or might do in the near future” – Research Triangle Institute

ERIC states are seeing fewer voter registration problems and reduced rates of provisional ballots. The Research Triangle Institute, in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, studied the impacts of ERIC, and concluded that “ERIC states improved on every measure ... relative to non-ERIC states.”

ERIC states improved performance, relative to non-ERIC states, on:

- **Voter Registration Rates**
- **Voter turnout**
- **Provisional ballots issued and rejected**
- **Reported barriers to registration and voting**

Costs to Participate in ERIC

Each state pays an initial, one-time membership fee of \$25,000 to join and annual dues—estimated at between \$25,000-\$50,000 per state, depending on state population—to cover ERIC's operating expenses. Since the total operational costs are relatively constant, as more states join, annual dues for each participating state will decrease.