

February 23, 2024

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and members of the committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide information to the committee about the Upgraded Automatic Voter Registration system implemented in Colorado.

Since its implementation in May of 2020, Colorado's Upgraded AVR system has proven to be an overwhelming success.

Under Colorado's AVR system, eligible voters who provide identification that shows citizenship are automatically registered to vote any time they apply for or renew their driver's license or state ID. They are then sent a letter informing them that they will be registered and providing the option to decline the registration or affiliate with a political party.

This process adds only eligible voters who do not opt out of the registration. If voters do not provide identification that shows citizenship at a driver's license office, they are provided information on how to register independently if they are eligible.

In addition, AVR greatly streamlines the interaction with the DMV and reduces the possibility of human error. Existing registrants who have a change of address from their voter record have their information automatically updated to ensure their record is up to date.

This ensures voter rolls are more accurate, which means voters get their ballots at the correct address and the counties save postage from fewer ballots mailed to wrong addresses, the rolls are more secure because data is transferred electronically, reducing the potential for human error.

Additionally, it provides more convenient options to citizens by reducing the number of trips to government agencies, particularly for working people with multiple jobs or rural residents who may not live close to government offices.

Research by political scientists Dr. Justin Grimmer and Dr. Jonathan Rodden of Stanford University shows how these improvements to Colorado's AVR system resulted in an additional 200,000 registered voters per year having their out-of-date addresses updated and almost doubling the registration rate for unregistered DMV customers when compared to the old system.

Statistical analysis of Colorado's AVR data showed that the effect of revising and streamlining the DMV interaction led to an additional 29 to 38 customers registering to vote out of every 100 unregistered DMV customers. The positive impact was even more significant for younger voters.¹

¹ Justin Grimmer and Jonathan Rodden, [Changing the Default: The Impact of Motor-Voter Reform in Colorado](#) (2022).

These improvements mean more eligible Coloradans are able to participate in elections and receive their mail ballots at their correct address. They have also resulted in significant benefits for our local election officials: as one of our county clerks has previously noted, “[t]he new best-in-class AVR system has been a resounding success for our ability to keep voter rolls up to date and accurate. An accurate voter roll means less undeliverable election mail, which helps reduce costs for local election officials and ensures voters are receiving what they need to cast their ballot.”²

I hope that this information helps inform your deliberations about legislation pending before your committee.

Chris Beall
Deputy Secretary of State
Colorado Secretary of State

² Colorado Secretary of State, [News Release, Colorado's Automatic Voter Registration System Doubles Registration Rate, Reduces Costs to Taxpayers](#) (2022).