

USING TECHNOLOGY TO ELIMINATE PAPER VOTER REGISTRATION IN PA

Presented by
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PENNSYLVANIA VOICE

- Pennsylvania Voice is a statewide partnership of over 40 nonpartisan organizations.
- Coordinated over 90,000 voter registrations among 15 partner organizations in 2016.
- Pennsylvania Voice also provides staffing for the Keystone Votes coalition. Keystone Votes is a coalition of state, local, and national advocacy and community organizations dedicated to updating Pennsylvania's election system.

PA IS A NATIONAL ONLINE VOTER
REGISTRATION LEADER

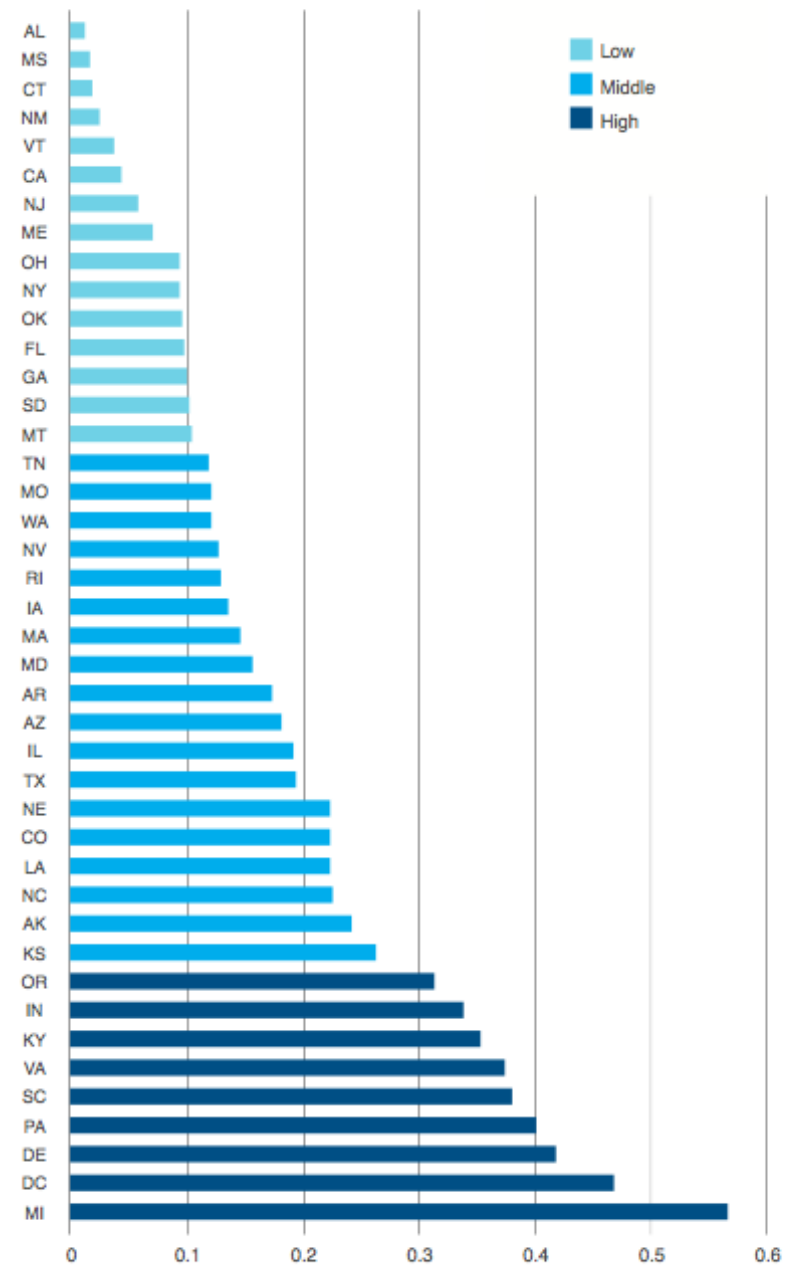
COST PER PAPER VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESSED

- A national study found an average cost about of \$3.54 per form
- Labor is biggest cost-driver
- A 2010 Pew study estimated that Arizona spends \$.83/per voter registration card

PENNDOT AND DOS BLAZED THE TRAIL FOR OVR

- PennDOT is number #1 source of voter registrations in non-presidential years
- It is one of the best motor voter systems in the country
- Most registrants only interact with it once every four years

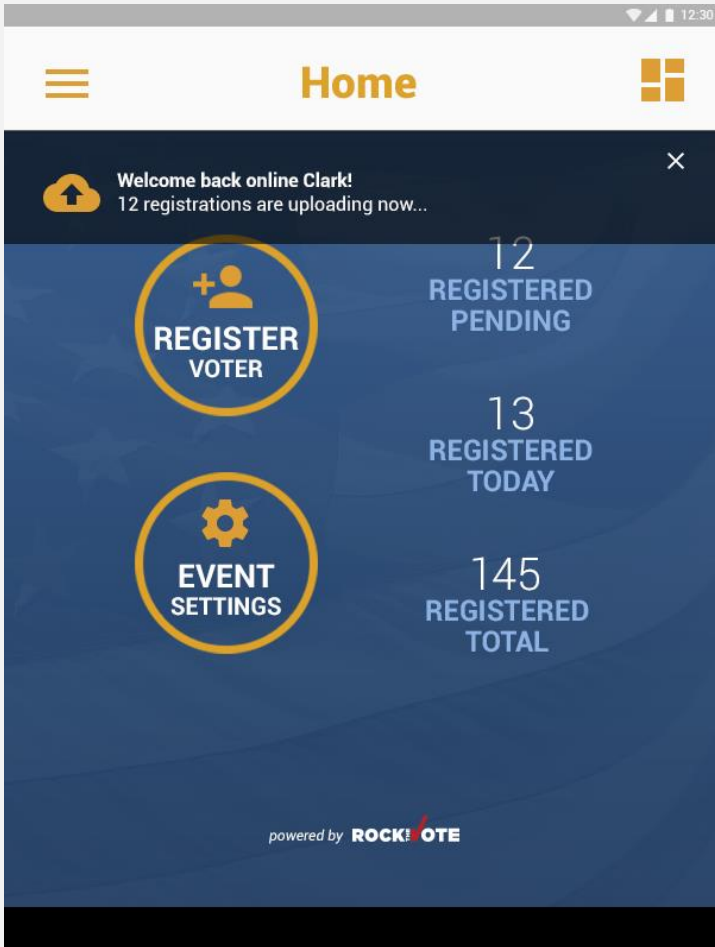
Figure 1. Ratio of DMV Voter Registration Applications to DMV Transactions, by State



*Data not reported for HI, UT, or WV

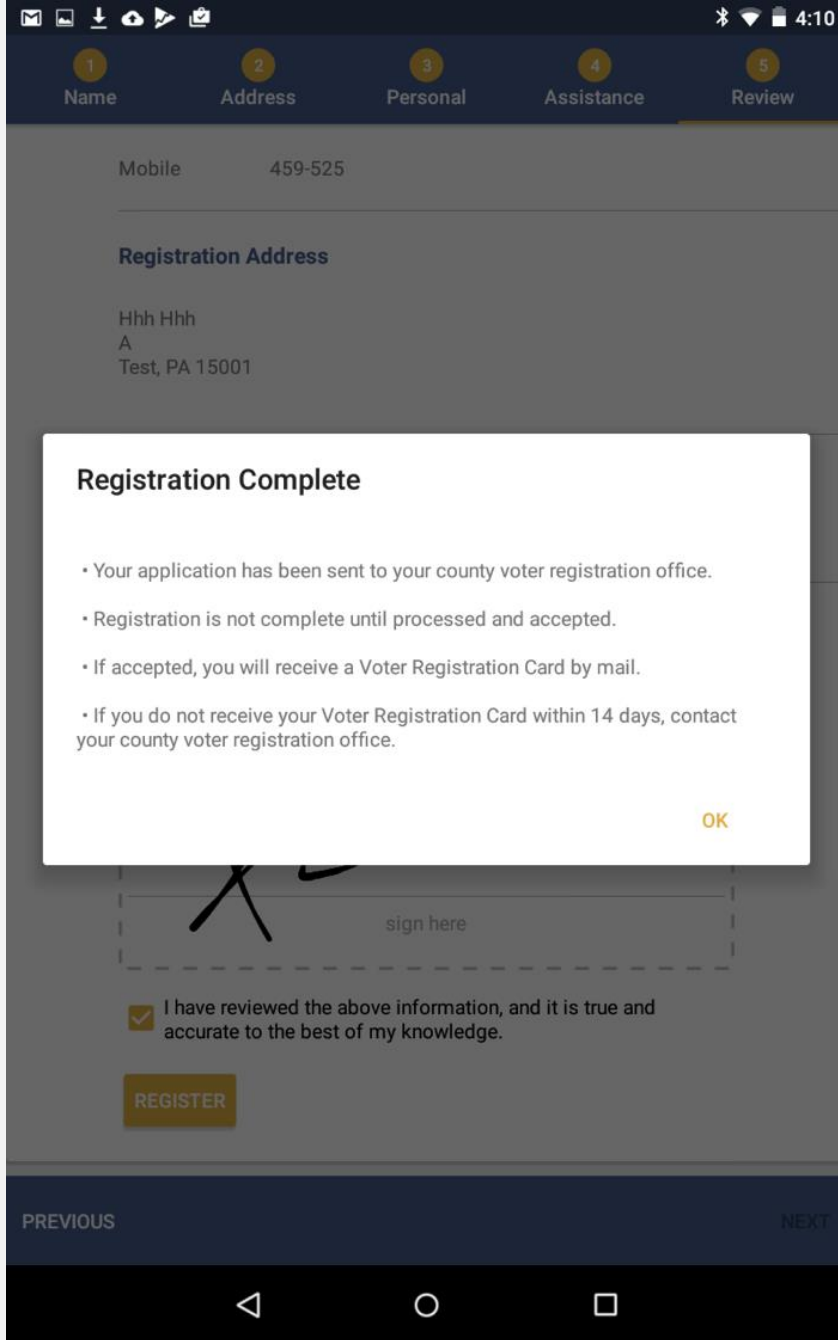
WHAT IF YOU COULD MAKE VOTER REG AS
COST-EFFECTIVE AND EASY TO MANAGE AS
MOTOR VOTER?

- API is the answer.
 - Allows third-parties—including county and state agencies—to seamlessly transfer electronic records
 - An organization wishing to use PA OVR WebAPI must register with the Department of State's Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation at <https://paovrwebapi.votespa.com/SUREWebAPIAdmin/>.



FIRST THIRD PARTY REGISTRATION SOFTWARE IN PA: PENNSYLVANIA VOTER REG APP

- Developed by Pennsylvania Voice and Rock the Vote, working closely with OSET's TrustTheVote Project
- App feeds valid registrations directly into Pennsylvania's innovative API, developed by DOS
- At least one other software program was developed after ours in 2016: total API registrations in 2016: 75,647



KEY BENEFITS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA VOTER REGISTRATION APP:

- Applications are passed directly to the Pennsylvania Department of State for approval
- All applications are complete,
- Does not require internet connectivity
- Electronic signatures are accepted via a stylus
- Available to voters in English and Spanish.

WHERE COULD MORE ONLINE
APPLICATIONS HAPPEN?

WHAT THE CHANGE WOULD REQUIRE

Eligibility

If you answer "No" to either question, you cannot register to vote.

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Are you a citizen of the U.S.? Yes No

Will you be 18 years or older on or before election day? Yes No

Reason

3

New registration Change of name Change of address

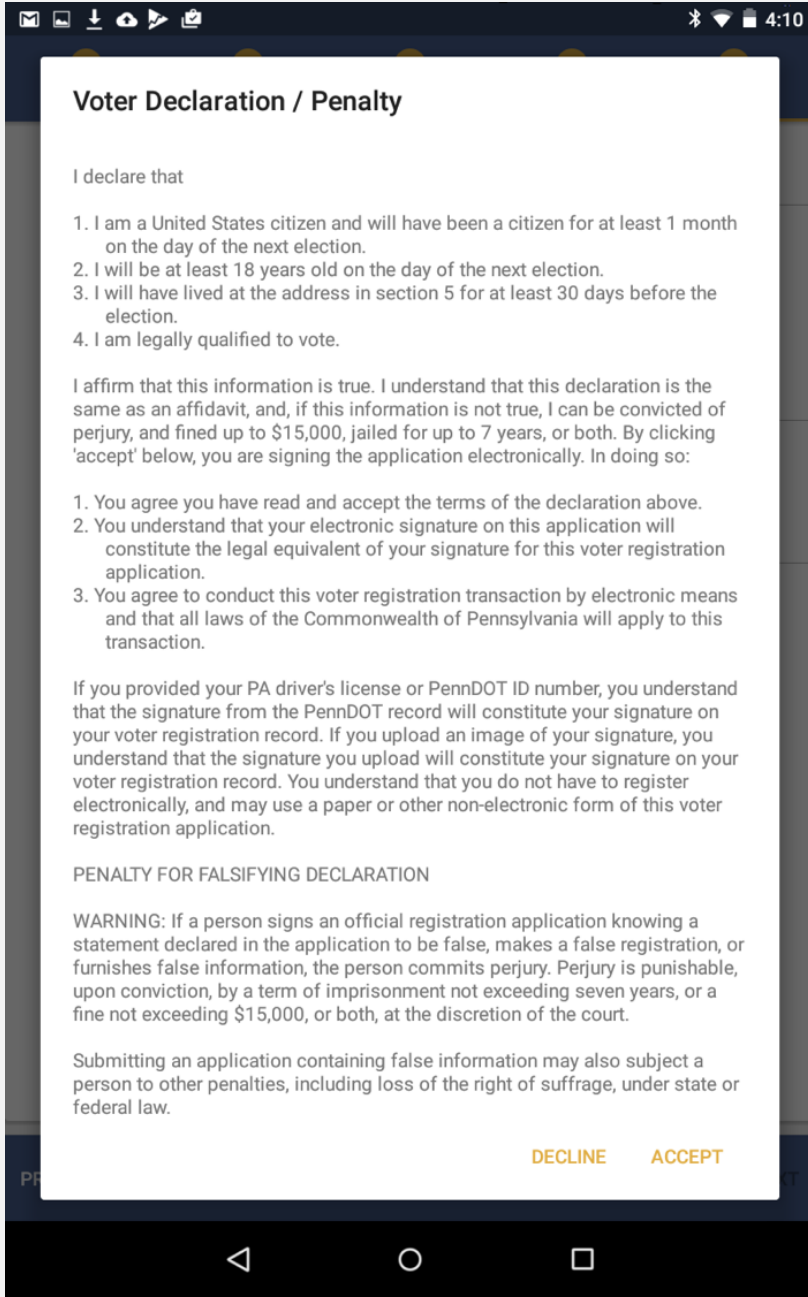
Change of party Federal or State employee registering in county of last residence

Political party

To vote in a primary, you must register with either the Democratic or Republican party.

8

Democratic Republican Other: _____ None



WHAT THE CHANGE WOULD REQUIRE

INTEGRATE TECHNOLOGY AT AGENCIES REQUIRED TO OFFER VOTER REGISTRATION

- The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (AKA "motor voter") requires DMVs and a set of agencies to offer voter registration opportunities
- PennDOT is the only one in PA that does electronic registration. The rest do one of the following:
 - a) Provide a web link that takes a benefit/service applicant to a PDF form or 3rd party website
 - b) Have staff offer a paper voter registration form to consumers during in-person interactions,
 - c) Mail consumers paper voter registration forms.

NVRA-MANDATED (AKA MOTOR VOTER) AGENCIES

- County Assistance
- State Mental Hospitals
- County Mental Health/Mental Retardation
- State Mental Retardation Centers
- Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services Industry
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Centers for Independent Living
- Woman, Infants and Children (WIC) clinics
- Area Agencies on Aging
- Bureau of Special Education
- Student Disability Services
- County Clerk of Orphans' Court offices, including marriage license bureaus
- Armed Forces Recruitment Centers
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Complementary Para-Transit providers
- All offices in the state that provide public assistance and all offices that provide state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities.

ONE WEBSITE TO RULE THEM ALL

- Medical Assistance (including Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities and the Medicare Savings Program for payment of Medicare premium)
- Family Planning Services and Family Planning-related services
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- The Health Insurance Marketplace
- Cash Assistance (TANF)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits
- Long Term Care
- Home and Community-Based Programs
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- School meals programs
- Child Care Works Program



EXPANSION TO OTHER STATE DEPARTMENTS?

- Veteran services
- Parks and recreation (including hunting/fishing license applications)
- State University System
- Unemployment Compensation
- Revenue/tax payments

AT COUNTY LEVEL?

- Aging
- Commerce
- Community college
- Corrections
- Health services
- Human services
- Jury Services
- Parks
- Public Libraries
- Taxes

IT'S ALREADY HAPPENING IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

- The County is going to reduce barriers to voter registration by requiring staff to engage in an active voter registration ask among eligible citizens at Health and Human services agencies, day care services, adult and aging, veterans services, and prisons).
- Their program is not seamlessly integrated into existing application/intake forms, but will instead direct staff to a 3rd party site to collect registrations separately.

OTHER IDEAS

- School districts
- Utility companies
- Colleges and universities
- Hospitals
- Private businesses

TAKE AWAYS

SIMPLE TECH UPDATES TO ENCOURAGE MORE ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

- Paper costs a lot more money than online voter reg
- PA's OVR system is effective and robust
- Room to grow in terms of 3rd party groups (who generate the most paper) to go online
- Expand to COMPASS and other NVRA-agencies
- Then get creative: counties, and other government agencies
- Ultimate goal: cleaner rolls, that are cheaper to maintain, and expand eligibility