

Voter List Maintenance in Rhode Island



Maintenance through Election Mailings

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Election officials send mailings to voters at their residence address. If the mail is returned undeliverable by the United States Postal Service (USPS), it starts the confirmation process.

Types of mailings:

- An acknowledgment or change notice to ensure the voter lives at the address
- An official mailing, from either the State Board of Elections, local board of canvassers (BOC), or the Department of State's Elections Division, which has been sent to at least a majority of the registered voters in a particular city or town
- Notices to registered voters that have not voted or communicated with the local BOC in the past five years
- Change-of-address mailings based on the USPS National Change of Address (NCOA) database, asking a voter to confirm whether or not they have moved
- Jury notices

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Initiating the confirmation process in the Central Voter Registration System (CVRS) after an undeliverable mailing

- The local board of canvassers changes the voter status in the CVRS to inactive. Inactive voters do not lose their right to vote, but must take the necessary steps to confirm their address before they are allowed to vote.
- Making a voter record inactive generates a confirmation letter, which is sent to the voter with a blank voter registration form

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Steps for voters to confirm their address upon receipt of a confirmation letter

- If the voter returns the voter registration form, their status will be reactivated
- If the voter tries to vote, they will be required to complete an affirmation confirming their address
- If the voter does not update/confirm their registration, and does not vote in one of the next two federal elections, then the registration record will be canceled



Voter List Maintenance Activities

The table below explains the sources and information used for voter list maintenance efforts.

SOURCE OF DATA	TYPE OF DATA	PROCESS	DATA SHARE FREQUENCY	LAW
Rhode Island Department of Health	Rhode Island Vital Records	If the vital record of a deceased individual matches the information on a voter record, then the voter registration will be canceled.	Weekly	Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) 17-10-1
Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) ericstates.org	- Vital Records - Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) - Social Security Administration	ERIC compares the RI voter file against the Social Security Master Death Index. If the vital record of a deceased individual matches the information on a voter record, then the voter registration will be canceled.	Every 60 days	National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)
ERIC ericstates.org	- DMV - Voter registration	Out-of-State Moves: ERIC identifies voters who appear to have moved from one ERIC member state to another. We conduct voter outreach to help remove those who are no longer RI voters. In-State Moves: ERIC identifies voters who appear to have moved within Rhode Island or who recently updated their contact information. We conduct voter outreach to ensure their information is up-to-date.	Quarterly	NVRA
Rhode Island Department of Corrections	- Felony Incarceration - Felony Restoration	Incarceration: Individuals who are incarcerated in a correctional facility upon a felony conviction will have their voter registration canceled. Restoration: Individuals who are released from a correctional facility upon a felony conviction will have their voting rights restored.	Monthly	RIGL 17-9.2
Voter	Authorized Cancellation	A voter may choose to cancel their voter registration record. The form is available online, or voters may contact their local board of canvassers.	Any time	N/A
Public	Voter Registration Challenge	Anyone may file a challenge to a voter registration. The local board of canvassers will investigate and determine if the voter is eligible to remain registered.	Any time	RIGL 17-9.1-28
National Change of Address (NCOA)	Moved in-state or out-of-state	An NCOA letter is sent to the voter asking them to confirm their address and update their information, if needed.	Quarterly	RIGL 17-9.1-27
Other States	Moved out-of-state	Other states will send RI election officials a notice that an RI resident has moved and registered to vote in their jurisdiction. If the information matches an RI voter record, then the record will be canceled.	Any time	N/A