

Henry McMaster
Governor



Kevin A. Shwedo
Executive Director

State of South Carolina

Department of Motor Vehicles

Thursday, January 24, 2019

The Honorable William M. "Bill" Hixon
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Representative Hixon,

During the Wednesday, January 23, 2019 House Oversight Subcommittee meeting, you inquired about the process the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV) follows when registering voters and transmitting that information to the SC State Election Commission (SEC) or county boards of voter registration. I wanted to take this opportunity to further explain and clarify the "Motor Voter" program present in all 66 branches statewide.

South Carolina Code of Laws §7-5-320 requires that agency employees ask all customers who are performing a driver's license, identification card, or address change transaction in person if they want to register to vote or update their address information for voting purposes with the county board of voter registration. Further, employees update voter registration information if a customer asks to do so when completing any transaction in person. However, a customer cannot only update his or her voter registration information at a branch office. The customer must be visiting an office to complete an agency-related transaction as well.

If a customer decides to update his or her voter registration information, an employee gives him or her an Application for Voter Registration (SCDMV Form MV-2), in addition to the form needed to complete the SCDMV transaction, to register to vote. On the Application for Voter Registration, a customer writes his or her phone number, driver's license/ID card number, and information about where he or she is, or was, previously registered to vote. If a customer does not know his or her previous voter registration information, which includes the precinct, county, state, and registration number, the SCDMV employee instructs the customer to simply leave that information blank for the county board to research and complete once it receives the signed application. I enclosed the Application for Voter Registration for your reference.

At the end of each business day, branch management teams print a report from the SCDMV's computer system showing which customers registered to vote or updated their voter registration that day. The first page of this report remains at the branch. It provides the total number of voters registered that day. A summary page and a detailed page then prints for every county in which a customer who registered to vote resides. The branch management team separates the Application for Voter Registration forms by county, and the summary and detailed reports for each particular county is placed on top of the paper applications.

Each Thursday, branch management teams mail all completed Applications for Voter Registration, separated by county, to Field Services Administration at SCDMV Headquarters in Blythewood. The only exception to this is counties that wish to pick up completed applications in person from a

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branch. If this is the case, the branch notes that a county elections official picked up the applications so Field Services will know not to look for those forms. Field Services reconciles any applications mailed to Blythewood and mails those completed packets to county boards of voter registration.

This process will remain in place until Monday, February 11, 2019 at which point, it is the agency's goal, to eliminate the paper process. At the close of business on Saturday, February 9, 2019, all SCDMV branches will have the capability to collect signatures for voter registration via an electronic signature pad, similarly to how some signatures are collected after credit card purchases. Agency IT staff will test the electronic signature capability over the weekend, and it will be available to customers at the start of business on February 11th. The electronic signature will replace the paper Application for Voter Registration explained above.

When the agency turns on the electronic signature service, the SEC will receive the data on newly registered or updated voter information every Sunday from the SCDMV. The data will contain the previous week's registered voters. The SEC will then communicate updates to the county boards of voter registration according to its own schedule.

At this time, there is no way for a customer to update his or her address at scdmvonline.com and have it automatically transmitted to the SEC or a county board of voter registration to update applicable voter registration information. Code of Laws §56-1-230 requires that an individual update his or her address with the SCDMV within ten days of the address change, but it does not require that a person purchase a new license or ID with the updated address. As I said during the subcommittee hearing Wednesday, a person's license/ID may not reflect his or her physical address, but updating the address online means the agency's computer system and law enforcement officers, via Member Services, can see the change. Further, the agency automatically mails an individual an updated registration card for his or her vehicle with the new address.

If a customer updates his or her address online, the customer sees at the end of the transaction a message that says, "To register to vote in South Carolina: Visit www.seVOTES.org and submit an online voter registration application. This will allow you to register at your new address on file with DMV or update your voter registration to your new address on file at DMV."

You asked if there was a plan in place to change this online process making it possible for SEC and county board of voter registration files to automatically update when a customer changes his or her address online with the SCDMV. At this point, there is no plan to make this change, and the agency has not completed a fiscal impact statement detailing the funding needed to automate this process. Code of Laws §7-5-320 specifies that a person's signature is required to register to vote, and there is no way to collect a signature online. In order to change an address online, an individual logs in with his or her license number, social security number, and date of birth as identity validation.

Please let me know if you have additional questions about the Motor Voter program. I am happy to be of further assistance.



Regards,

Kevin Shwedo

Executive Director, SCDMV

Post Office Box 1498, Blythewood, South Carolina 29016



South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles

APPLICATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

MV-2
(Rev. 6-05)

Social Security Number is required by the 14-7-130 S.C. Code of Laws and is used for internal purposes only. Your Social Security Number **does not** appear on any report produced by the State Election Commission nor is it released to any unauthorized individual. The Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994 (DPPA), 18 USC Section 2721-2725 restricts the disclosure of personal information contained in our records.

PHONE NUMBER: Home (____) _____ - _____	Work (____) _____ - _____	INSIDE CITY LIMITS YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	DRIVER LICENSE NUMBER
PREVIOUS REGISTRATION: Precinct _____ County _____		State _____	REGISTRATION NUMBER

VOTER DECLARATION – Read and sign below.

I swear or affirm that:

- I am a United States citizen.
- I will be at least 18 years old on or before the next election.
- I am a resident of South Carolina, this county and precinct.
- I am not confined to any public prison resulting from a conviction.
- I am not under a court order declaring me mentally incompetent.
- The address listed above is my only legal place of residence and I claim no other place as my legal residence.
- I have never been convicted of a felony or offense against the election laws OR if previously convicted, I have served my entire sentence, including probation or parole, or I have received pardon for the conviction.
- I understand that I am **not** eligible to vote until I receive a voter registration card from the county in which I live. If I do not receive a voter registration card in the mail, I will be responsible for contacting my Voter Registration Board.

Signature

Date

Whoever shall, willfully and knowingly, swear or affirm falsely in taking any oath required by law, shall be guilty of perjury and, on conviction, incur the pains and penalties of the offense.

If you decline to register to vote, that decision will remain confidential and be used only for voter registration purposes.

If you register to vote, information regarding the office in which the application was submitted will remain confidential, again, to be used only for voter registration purposes.

If you live outside the city limits, draw a diagram of the area in which you live. Show your house in relation to local landmarks such as schools, churches, stores, etc. Be sure to label the streets or roads.

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