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# Republican National Lawyers Association

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## A Great Tool to Clean Up Voting Lists

Accurate voter registration records are one of the most effective ways for states to protect the integrity of their elections. Voters are often registered in more than one state or locality. Such multiple registrations are a widespread problem and present great opportunity for fraud.

The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) requires states “to protect the integrity of the electoral process by ensuring the maintenance of an accurate and current voter registration roll for elections for Federal office.” An **effective tool to ensure accurate voter registration records is interstate data sharing**. There are two systems for sharing voter registration data, and it is **vital that states belong to both** to ensure that all duplicate registrations are identified. The two existing data sharing programs are *Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program* (IVRC or Crosscheck) and [Electronic Registration Information Center \(ERIC\)](#). Previous bipartisan presidential commissions have recommended actions to increase the accuracy of voter registration records. For example, President Obama’s bipartisan [Presidential Commission on Election Administration \(PCEA\)](#) strongly endorsed data sharing in its 2014 report:

- [D]ata-matching tools have advanced to the point where seemingly intractable registration problems can be addressed by simple coordination between the states using publicly available databases concerning “who” lives “where.” . . . Such projects should strive to improve the accuracy of voter registration records, enhance the ability to detect ineligible voting and prosecute voter fraud, reduce administrative costs, and increase registration rates.

While some states and localities are beginning to take this problem seriously and improve the accuracy of these records, others are afraid to undertake the effort for fear of political reprisals. For example, at the same time Obama’s Lawyer and PCEA Co-Chair Bob Bauer was advocating for Crosscheck, his law firm was suing Virginia, as [RNLA wrote at the time](#):

- Mr. Bauer’s law partners representing the state Democratic Party sued Virginia unsuccessfully to stop its lawful removal of non-resident, out-of-state voters from its rolls. In its Complaint the DPVA specifically targeted Crosscheck, one of the very programs PCEA endorses, as a Republican-hatched program that is “purportedly designed to prevent voting fraud but that ha[s] the effect of suppressing voter turn-out among the poor, the elderly, and minorities – many of whom are Democratic.” The judge summarily rejected the Democrats’ arguments claiming voter suppression stating they had “not presented any evidence” that the program would disenfranchise any voters.

In 2016, only nine states participated in both ERIC and Crosscheck: Alabama, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

These are the Republican-leaning states that should be targets for joining Crosscheck: **Alaska, Florida, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Utah.**

The targets for joining ERIC are: **Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming.**

Currently, Texas and Florida have legislation pending that would allow them to participate in data sharing generally. Illinois has a bill to allow participation in ERIC, and Arizona is looking to enter into ERIC later in the year based on previously enacted legislation. For additional information on the need for accurate voter visit [www.rnla.org](http://www.rnla.org) or contact Michael Thielen at [thielen@republicanlawyer.net](mailto:thielen@republicanlawyer.net) or 202-802-0437.