



DENISE W. MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 8, 2017

Streamlined Motor-Voter Registration System Registers 100,000 New Voters in its First Year

HARTFORD – Connecticut’s streamlined motor-voter system has registered 100,000 new voters since it went live on August 8, 2016, said Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill and the Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Michael Bzdyra.

In the last year, the new automated motor-voter system has accounted for 31% of newly registered voters, nearly matching new online voter registrations, which made up 34% of new registrations. In-person registrations (19%) and mail-in registrations (11%) made up the other significant portion of new voters over the last year.

Secretary Merrill said, “This is fast, efficient government at its best. This automated motor-voter system allows us to complete two different state functions in a single transaction. Moreover, it has helped tens of thousands keep their registrations up to date. When people move they usually update their driver’s license first but put off changing their voter registration. Working with the DMV is an opportune time to help voters update their registrations so it does not create a problem on Election Day. The first year has been a tremendous success.”

DMV Commissioner Michael Bzdyra said, “DMV takes very seriously its obligation under federal and state law to offer its license and ID customers the opportunity to register to vote. This system makes it quick and convenient for our customers to apply for voter registration. We are thrilled that our efforts in implementing this system have resulted in this significant addition to our voter rolls.”

The modernized system has allowed the DMV and Secretary of the State’s office to modernize a function already required under federal law by making it much more convenient, cost efficient, and user-friendly. This streamlined, updated system allows full auditing and accountability to quickly investigate any inquiry from an individual voter or registrar and to confirm timely submission of voter registration applications and changes of address made at DMV.

The program was made possible through an agreement between the Secretary of the State and the DMV to develop a streamlined motor-voter system. The document envisions a fully automated

system within two years. In the interim, the existing streamlined system was introduced, which offers electronic prompts to the customer service agent at the DMV to provide a voter registration form as well as the capacity to autofill data from Motor Vehicles in order to make the transaction more efficient. In addition, the application can now be electronically transmitted to election officials, saving the DMV staff time on paper mail.

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