

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: What happens if I receive a postcard?**

A: You do not need to do anything to respond to the first postcard. If you receive a second postcard asking for a response, you need to fill it out and return it to the Indiana Election Division by July 24, 2014.

### **Q: What happens if I don't update my information before the due date of July 24, 2014?**

A: If you do not respond to the second postcard by July 24, your voter registration status may be changed to inactive by your county. **This does not mean you can't vote in the November election.** You are still able to vote in the 2014 November General Election, 2015 municipal elections (if you live in a municipality) and the 2016 Primary and General Election. Voting in any of these elections from that address will change your voter registration status to active. You will need to update your voter registration online at [www.indianavoters.com](http://www.indianavoters.com), at your county clerk's office or at the BMV.

If you respond to the second postcard after July 24, the postcard will be forwarded to your county voter registration office. The county can continue to process late arriving postcards except during the 90 day period before the General Election (August 6-Nov. 4). This is due to federal law.

### **Q: What happens if I don't vote in any of these elections, including the November 2016 General Election?**

A: If you do not update your address or voter registration information nor do you vote or appear to vote from that address in any election before 2017, the county will remove you from the poll lists at that address.

### **Q: If I don't need to update my information until the November 2016 General Election, why are you doing the mailing and public outreach campaign now?**

A: Federal law requires a voter list cleanup process that takes several years to complete. We have to start now. Our goal is to make sure that every Hoosier voter has ample time and information to correct any errors or update his or her voter registration record before 2016.

### **Q. How do I check my current registration information?**

A. You can check to see if you are registered to vote online at [www.indianavoters.com](http://www.indianavoters.com). You can call the Hoosier Voter Hotline at 866-IN-1-Vote or at 866-461-8683. You may also check at your county clerk's office or county board of registration.

**Q. How do I register to vote?**

A. If you have an Indiana's driver's license or BMV ID card, you can register to vote online at [www.indianavoters.com](http://www.indianavoters.com) or you can update it at your county clerk's office, license branch, local family and social services office, WorkOne center or department of health.

**Q. How do I update my existing voter registration?**

A. If you have an Indiana driver's license or BMV ID card, you can update your voter registration online at [www.indianavoters.com](http://www.indianavoters.com) or you can update it at your county clerk's office, license branch, local family and social services office, WorkOne center or department of health.

**Q. How do I cancel my outdated voter registration?**

A. You can cancel your voter registration by filling out an Authorization to Cancel Registration form. The form is available online at <http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/files/VRG-14.pdf> or at your county clerk's office. If you print and fill out the online form, you must mail in the signed form to the Indiana Election Division or your county clerk.

**Q. Where can I find contact information for my county clerk or county board of registration?**

A. The mailing and contact information for your county clerk or county board of registration is available online at [www.indianavoters.com](http://www.indianavoters.com) or by calling the Hoosier Voter Hotline at 866-IN-1-VOTE or 866-461-8683.

**Q: Why is it important to do a voter list refresh?**

A: This is first about cleaning up our voter lists. We need to help county clerks perform much needed maintenance to outdated voter registration information and protect the integrity of elections. Inaccurate voter information can affect public confidence in the integrity of our voting process. Candidates and voters can question the integrity of our voting process when they know we have so many inaccurate registrations. It can discourage citizen participation in the election process when we have artificially low voter turnout statistics.

Plus, it's the law. The Indiana General Assembly requires a refresh of voter list information every two years and voter list maintenance is a continuous, ongoing federal requirement of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

**Q: How big of a problem is this for counties?**

A: Counties often struggle with having enough resources to accomplish all of the important work they have to do. Voter list maintenance can be one of those tasks that is put off to another time. As each election cycle begins, different groups conduct drives to register people to vote. Some people may register to vote not realizing they are still registered at an old

address. After each election, counties do not always have enough information to contact the voter's previous county of residence to have the former voter registration record canceled in accordance with the law. And as each election cycle passes without comprehensive maintenance, the voter rolls grow since this old information is still an active record.

**Q: What kind of voter list maintenance is done at the county level?**

A: Counties conduct voter list maintenance in several ways. This includes receiving information from the Social Security Administration, Department of Correction and the State Department of Health to determine if someone has passed away. It also includes removing voters convicted of a crime and put in jail following their conviction based on information from the Department of Correction and voters who cancel their registration through a cancellation request.

Some counties send a first postcard to all active voters; others may send a first postcard to voters to notify them that polling places or precinct boundaries have changed or to follow up a jury duty summons when a jury notice is returned by the US postal service. If the postcard comes back as undeliverable due to an unknown or insufficient address, then the county may send the voter a second postcard by forwardable mail. If the second postcard is also returned as undeliverable, then the voter registration record may be made inactive.

**Q: What kind of progress has been made by the counties in removing inaccurate registrations?**

A: The National Voter Registration Act requires two federal election cycles (up to 4 years) to pass before a county can remove inactive voter registration records from the list. This means even the most proactive county that does regular maintenance will have inactive voters during this 4 year process. This is why it is so important that we do regular voter list maintenance.

**Q: Doesn't this cleaning up of voter rolls have the potential to remove legitimately registered voters, therefore preventing them from exercising their right to vote?**

A: No, even if a voter registration record is canceled in error, that voter can still cast a ballot by simply affirming to the pollworkers that they have continuously resided at their address. A voter can also cast a provisional ballot, which gives voter registration officials time to sort out the facts in that voter's case, so that their vote can be counted if they are still eligible.