

# Indiana Statewide Voter Registration System FAQ's

**Q: Is it true that I won't be able to vote this year due to errors in SVRS?**

*A: No! Since 2003, even if county officials make an error in the system that would result in your name not being on the pollbook, Indiana law allows all voters to cast a "provisional ballot" at the polls that is later validated and hence your vote is counted. You should never be denied the right to vote in Indiana.*

**Q: What is SVRS (Statewide Voter Registration System)?**

*A: Required by federal law, SVRS is best described as a "tool" which provides the user (the county administrators) universal visibility to input new voters as well as identify potential duplicate matches by accessing networked data from the Indiana State Department of Health, Department of Correction and the Social Security Administration via the BMV.*

**Q: What federal law requires SVRS and why?**

*A: The **Help America Vote Act** of 2002 requires states to have a single uniform, centralized and interactive computerized statewide list containing the registration information required by law. Additionally, the system must connect to the specified agencies listed in the previous question. The law aims to improve the accuracy of the state's voter lists and assist in the avoidance of vote fraud.*

**Q: Why does SVRS not "automatically" purge or eliminate duplicate voter registrations?**

*A: To automatically and immediately remove possible duplicate voter registrations would violate federal law. The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (aka Motor Voter law) specifies when a voter record can be removed from the system. SVRS gives the state, for the first time, visibility to the entire voter registration database to ensure that county officials, who are ultimately responsible for removal of their voter registration records, are complying with NVRA in managing their respective voter rolls.*

**Q: Is it true that the state will make my sensitive information freely accessible to the public?**

*A: No! Indiana Election Law (3-7-26.4-3 and 3-7-26.4-8) clearly outlines what information can be accessed or distributed by the state officials. Data such as DOB, gender, telephone number, voting history, driver's license number or partial social security number cannot be released by the state except in extremely limited circumstances. State law has also provided for many years that the original paper voter registration application signed by a voter and kept at the county voter registration office is a public record. However, state law also permits county offices to adopt non-discriminatory policies about whether to make this type of voter registration information available in electronic form (IC 3-7-27-6). Many counties have adopted these types of voter registration information policies.*

**Q: So, will my vote count in 2006?**

*A: Yes, more so now than ever. The entire intent of SVRS is to bring integrity and accuracy to voter registration data and work, for the first time in Indiana's history, to clean up inflated, duplicate registrations that could be used to conduct fraudulent ballot casting. Along with the recently passed Photo ID law, which requires a eligible voter to show a state or federally issued photo id, your vote will count, and is less likely to be eliminated by illegal and fraudulently casts ballots.*

**Q: Who built SVRS for the state of Indiana?**

*A: Quest Information Systems, an Indiana based company, won the Indiana Department of Administrations objective scoring process in Spring of 2004. A successful history of related Indiana election systems development and the lowest price offered that saved Indiana \$4 million made Quest the logical choice for the bipartisan state selection team.*

**Q: Why is the physical data storage site is not located in Indiana?**

*A: Industry practice suggests that if a disaster were to strike Indiana, our data would then be best protected if housed in another state. Your voter information is safely housed in a bunker several stories underground in the state of Texas to provide a truly remote and secure location in the event an unknown catastrophe were to strike the heart of the Midwest. Furthermore, daily tape backups of the SVRS data are created and transferred periodically throughout the day to Indiana where an alternative hosting facility at Quest would quickly be made operational to support SVRS in the event of a disaster.*

*For more information regarding SVRS and related election efforts undertaken by Secretary of State Todd Rokita, please visit [www.sos.IN.gov](http://www.sos.IN.gov) .*