

# MOTOR VOTER NEWS



Washington  
Secretary of State  
SAM REED

## Upcoming Elections

Don't forget: the statewide primary and general election are not the only elections held in Washington State.

There are also four "special" election dates from February through May in which county and local issues are decided.

As partners in the Motor Voter program, licensing agents should know that the last day to register at a DOL office for the February 6, 2007 special election is January 6, 2007. The other mail-in/ Motor Voter registration cutoff dates for the spring election season are February 10<sup>th</sup>, March 24<sup>th</sup>, and April 14<sup>th</sup>.



## 71,721!

71, 721! That is the number of Washington citizens who were able to vote this fall, thanks to the work of Department of Licensing employees in 2006.

By asking licensing applicants if they want to register to vote or change their registration name or address, licensing agents are not only facilitating our compliance with state and federal law, but more importantly, they are ensuring that each eligible voter can exercise his/her constitutional right to vote.

On any given week, the Secretary of State's Elections Division processes approximately 1,750 "Motor Voter" transactions received from the Department of Licensing, and we are hoping to do even more in the future. "Thank you" to all who contribute to this important component of our democratic process!

## Weekly Performance

In the Motor Voter Registration business, we want three things: volume, timeliness, and accuracy. The more registrations processed, the more citizens get to vote.

During the week of October 16<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>, the Bothell Licensing Office led the way with 115 successful registration transactions, and the Wenatchee Office followed close behind with 97.

One note on timeliness: do not hold onto completed forms longer than one week. State law says that agencies must mail the completed registration forms to the Secretary of State's office once per week.

Finally, the paper registration forms mailed in should match up with the motor voter transactions generated electronically that week. This is important because current state law requires the paper forms, bearing voters' original signatures, to be transmitted to county auditors along with the matching electronic data file. Once at the counties, the signatures are scanned into the counties' voter management systems.

Congratulations are in order this week to the Kelso Licensing Office for turning in 55 voter registration forms that matched its 55 electronic records.

## Voter Registration by County

Licensing Offices can play a significant role in helping county elections officials to increase their overall registration rates. Some counties, like Jefferson County, have almost as many registered voters as the Census Bureau's estimates of their 18-years-and- older population. Other counties in Washington State have much farther to go, with as little as 53% of their estimated voting-eligible populations registered. DOL employees interested in finding out where their counties stand with voter registration should call the Elections Division's Motor Voter representatives (see right).

## Resources

For Voter Registration, and for information about downloadable forms (including foreign language forms) go to: [www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/register.aspx), or contact:

Dave Motz -or- Susan Johnson  
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