



Washington Secretary of State

CLEARINGHOUSE

ELECTIONS NOTICE

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NVRA Notices

The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) was enacted in 1993 and introduced many changes to voter registration administration in our state. Most provisions have been incorporated into our current state laws.

In 1994, elections were still held at poll sites and voters were cancelled after not voting for two years. Our state was extremely careful to implement the new laws and ensured that each section was addressed.

We have reexamined our interpretation of one of the provisions. It was originally assumed that sending two notices to the voter – an acknowledgement notice followed by a confirmation notice – was required when an address change within the county was received from the Post Office. (Sec 8(c)(1)(B)(i)) We reevaluated our current state law and NVRA and concluded that two notices are no longer necessary.

NVRA states that compliance with voter list maintenance provisions “may” be accomplished by sending a confirmation notice in addition to the acknowledgement notice. Because the provision is a “may” in NVRA, it allows for alternate procedures. Our state’s procedure for complying with NVRA is found in RCW 29A.08.110.

When receiving an address change from the Post Office within your county, the following procedure should be followed:

1. Transfer the voter.
2. Send the voter an acknowledgment notice (ID card).
3. If the acknowledgement notice is returned as undeliverable, place the voter on inactive status and send a confirmation notice.

Remember that confirmation notices should be sent to the voter registration address and “...any other address at which the county auditor or secretary of state could reasonably expect mail to be received by the voter...” (RCW 29A.08.030(3)) When a confirmation notice is required in this scenario, the notice should be sent to both the new and old addresses.

For further information, please contact the Certification and Training Program at (360) 902-4180.