

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT (NVRA) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do we have the NVRA?

The NVRA increases the opportunities for eligible voters to register to vote in federal elections. States are required to offer voter registration opportunities by mail, at Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices, at public assistance agencies and at other designated offices.

What type of public agencies must offer voter registration?

The NVRA required each state to designate a set of voter registration agencies. Generally, registration agencies are the Department of Motor Vehicles and other offices that provide either public assistance or state services to people with disabilities. In California, the list of NVRA voter registration agencies also includes the Franchise Tax Board and the Board of Equalization.

What are the voter registration agencies for California?

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), California Health Benefit Exchange, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), CalFresh Program, Med-Cal Program, California WIC Agencies, In-Home Supportive Services Program, Department of Rehabilitation: Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Independent Living Centers, Department of Developmental Services, Regional Centers, Department of Social Services: Office of Deaf Access, State and County Mental Health Providers, Armed Forces Recruitment Offices, Franchise Tax Board, and Board of Equalization.

What if the agency provides services to a person at their home?

If an agency, such as In-Home Support Services (IHSS), provides services to people at home, then the NVRA requires the agency to provide voter registration services in the home as well.

What duties does the Secretary of State have under the NVRA?

The Secretary of State is the chief elections official responsible for coordination of the state's responsibilities under the NVRA. The Secretary of State is also in charge of making the registration forms available through governmental and private entities.

What duties does the County of Orange have under the NVRA?

The County of Orange must have available vote registration affidavits to the voter registration agencies and provide training assistance to those agencies, if requested. The County of Orange is also required to submit to the Secretary of State a report of the data provided by the voter registration agencies.

Who has enforcement authority?

The Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice is tasked with enforcing the NVRA.