

ERIC Postcard Q&A

Q. Will any voters be removed from the registration list as a result of this card?

A. No. This card is simply encouraging voters to register to vote and will not be used to change any voter's status.

Q. What should a voter do if they do not have access to a computer?

A. They can register other ways as the ERIC postcards indicates. They can register in person at their municipal clerk's office, with a Special Registration Deputy, registration drive, or at the polls on Election Day.

Q. Will a printable version of the PowerPoint for this webinar be available at a later date?

A. The webinar has been posted to the website for viewing. If you would like a hard copy of the PowerPoint for you to take notes on, please let us know.

Q. Can a voter use the ERIC postcard as proof of residence?

A. Yes, it is a government issued document so it does qualify as proof of residence, as long as the 10 day residency requirement is also met and it includes their residential address (not a PO Box).

Q. Is it possible to get the number of postcards sent out per municipality?

A. No, but the number sent to each county and to each zip code is available on the WEC website at <http://www.gab.wi.gov/node/4194>.

Q. Do you anticipate a spike in absentee by mail/email requests due to voters being directed to MyVote?

A. Not necessarily. The ERIC postcard directs people to register to vote, and does not mention absentee voting. The voter must register first before they can request an absentee ballot. However, absentee voting rates have been historically high for this election so far, and some of these newly registered voters may choose to vote absentee.

Q. Will the postcards clearly indicate that proof of residence must be supplied?

A. Yes, the postcards indicate that a copy of the voter's proof of residence document is required to be sent with the registration. The MyVote website also clearly outlines this.

Q. Will ERIC review felon records before sending out postcards?

A. WEC staff were not able to compare the ERIC list with currently serving felons because the lists provided from ERIC do not include the date of birth. The date of birth data was anonymized by the Department of Transportation prior to being submitted to ERIC and is therefore not able to be read.

Q. If a voter registers on MyVote, do they need to provide proof of residence?

A. Yes.

Q. Has ERIC ever been hacked?

A. No. For more information on ERIC security protocols, visit the ERIC website at <http://www.ericstates.org/>.

Q. If someone comes into City Hall with a postcard do we need to report that to WEC?

A. No, it does not need to be reported to WEC; there is not any reporting that needs to be done by municipalities with this postcard mailing. If you have difficulty answering any questions from any voters, you may contact the WEC Help Desk for assistance.

Q. Will Wisconsin municipalities face an annual cost due to ERIC?

A. No, there is no direct cost to municipalities for Wisconsin's membership in ERIC. However municipalities may have indirect costs such as answering questions from their voters or reviewing list maintenance reports.

Q. Why would a registered voter get the ERIC postcard?

A. It depends on the scenario:

- They registered before HAVA and have no driver license or SSN, and/or a default date of birth in WisVote: For the voters who do not have a driver license number on file in WisVote, they got the postcard if their date of birth and/or address in WisVote did not match the data at DOT. In these cases, we recommend checking with the voter to confirm the date of birth and their current address.

For the date of birth, check to make sure we have it correct in WisVote. If not, go ahead and fix it. We also recommend having them check their driver license too in case it is incorrect at DMV.

For the address, you just need to confirm their current address and make sure they have not moved since their last registration. If they moved, they need to re-register. If they did not move, maybe they just forgot to update their address at DOT. (State Law requires you update your address at DOT within 30 days of moving. They can do it on-line at DOT's website for no cost).

We also think it is a great idea to ask them if they want to voluntarily provide their driver license or state ID number. They do not have to if they registered before 2006, but the data is very helpful to us. If they provide it, you can just enter it into WisVote. They do not have to re-register for that.

- They have a typo in their date of birth or driver license record: Typos could cause them to look like they are not registered when they actually are. For these voters, you can just correct the typo.
- The voter was previously registered and is now inactive: These people will have to re-register.
- The voter is registered to vote, but their name in WisVote does not match the name on their Driver License: If the voter legally changed their name to be something different than what is currently in WisVote, then they have to re-register. If it looks like different variations of the same name, they do not have to re-register. We recommend setting WisVote to be whatever the voter indicates their legal name actually is. It does not have to exactly match DMV, particularly if DMV has it wrong. If the voter wants to get their name corrected at DMV they can contact them.
- The voter was incorrectly updated through a match and link or merge: If you have a voter that was incorrectly updated in WisVote, contact the WEC and we will help restore them.

Q. Will all of my voters who do not have a Driver License number on their voter record receive the ERIC postcard?

- A. No. If there was no driver license on the voter record, ERIC matched using name, date of birth and address. If all of those fields matched, the voter did not get the postcard. If that data did not match, then WEC could not be sure that the driver and the voter were the same person, and a card was sent just in case.

Q. If I am updating voter information (fixing a typo, etc.), do I need to have the voter fill out a new voter registration form?

- A. If you are making corrections to the voter record such as fixing typographical errors or adding missing data like driver license number, the voter does NOT need to re-register. These corrections can be made directly in WisVote. However, if a voter has legally changed their name or moved to a different address since their last registration, they must re-register and a new Voter Registration must be entered in WisVote.

Q. If the voter does not register or does not provide the missing information will they receive the postcard again?

A. Each of these voters will only get this postcard once. If they are still not registered two years from now when we do this mailing again (or if we still do not have their DL on file), we do not send them a second card. We will only send cards next time to new people who have not received the card yet. So no matter what you do in WisVote, you can assure them they will not get the postcard again.

Q. If the voter registered prior to 2006 and is missing identifying information like a DL# or DOB, is it okay to ask them for it?

A. Yes, you may ask the voter if they would like to provide this information, but they are not required to do so. While the voter will never get this specific postcard again, providing their identifying information helps other matching processes such as Registration List Alerts for potential duplicate records, felony convictions and death notices.

Q. Why did the WEC send out the ERIC postcard now?

A. The legislature mandated that Wisconsin join ERIC with 2015 Wisconsin Act 261. ERIC requires that all member states reach out to residents that are potentially eligible to vote and who may not be registered prior to each general election. The next mailing to eligible but unregistered voters will be sent in the fall of 2018.

Q. Why would a 17 year old receive the ERIC postcard?

A. In order to be included in the ERIC postcard mailing, they had to be 18 years of age as of the date the DOT pulled the file. If a 17 year old received the postcard, please contact the WEC Help Desk immediately so it can be investigated.