

SVRS List Maintenance Webinar – Verification Postcards

The following questions were submitted during the verification postcards segment of the live Webinar presentation on SVRS List Maintenance, held on December 4, 2013.

Q: Is there a requirement for self providers or providers to enter a voter registration form within a certain date of receiving the form?

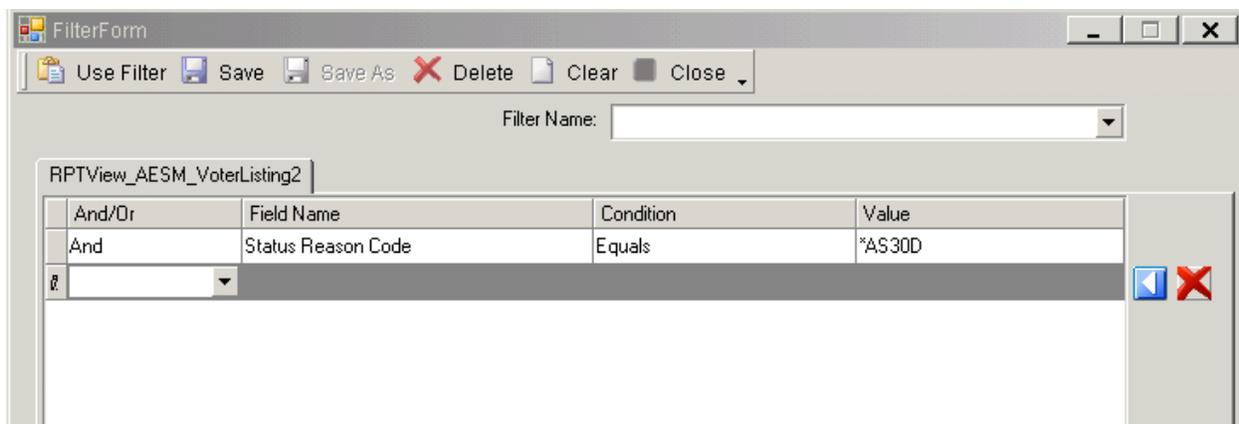
A: Wis. Stat §6.33(5)(a) references that municipal clerks will “promptly” enter the registration, but does not provide a specific deadline by which voter registrations need to be entered. Statute speaks to other related deadlines that require registrations to be entered into SVRS in a timely manner, such as the 10 day timeline to send the verification postcards to voters who register via mail or with a special registration deputy, and the 30 days to record voter history after an election. Finally, we all want poll books to be as accurate as possible and voters will only appear correctly on the poll book after their voter registration form has been entered into SVRS.

Q: In first paragraph of sample 30-day notice letter, suggest changing letter to POSTCARD. A:

Thanks, good suggestion. Clerks should feel free to change the language to the sample 30-day notice letter as they see fit. Since it is not something that is printed from SVRS, clerks can easily modify it.

Q: Is there a way to get a report of voters by date showing reminders of when to inactivate them if we don't hear back from them? A: Unfortunately, there is not a date-specific report. You can always filter a Voter Listing report (which you can choose to run as often as you like) by Status Reason for “Active – Suspended (30 day Notice).” Otherwise, it might be best to involve some manual record keeping. We will also pass this suggestion along as a future SVRS enhancement.

For Reference, here is the specific filter you would want to use (status reason code equals *AS30D):



Q: If we get the 30-day notice postcard or letter back well after the 30-day mark we are still supposed to inactivate them, correct? A: Yes, you should send them a new GAB 131. SVRS Webinar List Maintenance materials, page 2

Q: In the past we have inactivated and waited for them to show up at the polls to vote. Many of the postcards we get back that are signed to continue registration are people that have never voted here. They have been sent more than one postcard and they keep sending the postcard back, yet they do not vote. Is it a recommendation but not required to send the GAB-131? There is quite a bit of cost involved with this if we were required to. A: It is a recommendation. You can wait until they show up at the polls, but that may put more stress on a busy day. If Wisconsin were to lose Election Day Registration, this would likely be a different scenario. However, again, it is recommended. It is a good communication with the voter and they may be confused if they do come to the polls, thinking that they are, indeed, registered.

Q: Thanks, because I know that with the 28 day I have many voters who say "I moved to Green Bay 2 days ago where do I vote?" And they vote by us. Obviously the postcard will be undeliverable. A: You are quite right, and that is a great point. The 28 day residency rule can create some legitimate scenarios of undeliverable postcards, all of which should be communicated to the District Attorney.

Q: Shouldn't we, as clerks, be able to investigate those EDR postcards? With a 28 day residency requirement there is a serious issue with postcards coming back undeliverable merely because they were not living here to begin with that they have moved to another city. We have contacted the DA and it takes a while to get someone to respond from the DA. We have gotten the impression that they do not do much with those postcards. A: We do definitely suggest clerks do their own investigation, particularly if clerks believe it is a scenario of the 28 day residency requirement. But to be clear, statute directs the municipal clerk to forward information on returned postcards for EDR voters to the DA Office.