

# Wisconsin Elections Commission

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**DATE:** For the July 22, 2022, Commission Meeting

**TO:** Wisconsin Elections Commission

**FROM:** Meagan Wolfe, Administrator

Prepared by Commission Staff

**SUBJECT:** Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) Processes

#### Introduction

This memo provides an update of ERIC Movers data, the 2022 Eligible but Unregistered mailing, and 2020 General Election voter participation reports.

#### A. Movers Review Process

As part of Wisconsin's membership in ERIC, the WEC is required to contact voters flagged by ERIC as having potentially moved. ERIC obtains data from a variety of sources, such as Wisconsin motor vehicle records, voter registration and motor vehicle records from participating states, and the National Change of Address (NCOA) database from the U.S. Postal Service. The Commission approved a quarterly Movers postcard mailing cycle in 2021. The postcard notifies voters that a transaction with WisDOT Division of Motor Vehicles or NCOA indicates their address may be different than their voter registration address. Voters who receive the postcard and have moved may choose to register online, by mail, at their clerk's office, or at their polling place on the next Election Day.

Voter records identified for these mailings remain active in status and have an updated status reason of "Movers"; thus they will appear as "Active/Movers" in WisVote. Records identified as "Active/Movers" in WisVote will also have the "Have you Moved?" watermark included on poll books for that record. Clerks have discretion to assess each case individually and may decide to deactivate records or restore the record to "Active/Registered" status. If the postcard is returned to the clerk's office as undeliverable, clerks must still send an Undeliverable 30-Day Notice letter to the voter prior to deactivating the record. If the 30-day notice comes back as undeliverable it would be handled normally and clerks can deactivate the voter record.

Voters who initiate a voter registration in another state are deactivated, do not receive the mailing, and are not flagged as Movers. ERIC recently determined that some voter records from late 2021 were incorrectly flagged as having registered in another state. The incorrect data came from a handful of other states and affected 1,157 voter records in Wisconsin. After confirming the error, WEC staff corrected the affected records. ERIC also implemented additional quality control procedures to address this possibility moving forward.

The Quarter 2 (Q2) 2022 Movers Mailing work is underway. Approximately 61,000 postcards were scheduled to be sent on June 30, 2022.

Table 1: Summary of 2022 Movers Mailings

2022 Movers Summary as of June 27, 2022	Voter Count	Percentage of Mailing
Active - Movers Designations	45,090	82%
Active - Registered (includes merged records)	7,520	14%
Deactivated Records (includes Undeliverable)	2,422	4%
Total Records	55,032	100 %

Table 2: Summary of 2021 Movers Mailings

2021 Movers Summary as of June 27, 2022	Voter Count	Percentage of Mailing
Active - Movers Designations	148,100	64%
Active - Registered (includes merged records)	35,887	16%
Deactivated Records (includes Undeliverable)	46,615	20%
Total Records	230,602	100%

Table 3: Summary of Recent Movers Mailings

2021 & 2022 Movers as of June 27, 2022	Voter Count	Percentage of Mailing
Active - Movers Designations	193,190	68%
Active - Registered (includes merged records)	43,407	15%
Deactivated Records (includes Undeliverable)	49,037	17%
Total Records	285,634	100%

<u>Table 4: Requested Continuation (voters asking to remain registered)</u>

Quarter	Total Postcards	Requested Continuation – Active Status	Percentage of Mailing
Q1/Q2 2021	97,704	957	.98%
Q3 2021	32,691	479	1.47%
Q4 2021	100,207	752	.75%
Q1 2022	55,032	558	1.01%

# B. 2022 Eligible but Unregistered Mailing

ERIC member states are also required to perform Eligible but Unregistered outreach prior to October 1 of every General Election year. Member states must initiate contact with individuals who meet eligibility requirements and are not yet registered. The WEC meets this requirement by sending out postcards to prospective voters. Approximately 178,493 postcards were scheduled to be sent in mid-July.

The postcard design has previously been approved by the Commission and is attached. It has been updated with fall 2022 election dates and registration deadlines.

### C. 2020 General Election Voter Participation Process

After every General Election, and when all ERIC member states have their elections reconciled and participation entered, ERIC provides data on potential in-state and cross-state duplicate participation (potentially an individual who has voted in more than one state).

In-State Research and Referrals

The in-state files provided 225 potential matches and were received on July 27, 2021. Staff initially contacted clerks by July 30, 2021, and some have been contacted additional times to research the participation records and identify any possible data entry errors. Of the 225 potential in-state matches, the status as of June 27, 2022:

- 213 have been resolved
- 12 were referred to the appropriate DA's office by the clerks

Cross-State Research and Referrals

The cross-state file provided 155 potential matches with 18 other states and was provided to staff on August 6, 2021. Clerk outreach was completed by August 10, 2021, and additional contact has been made in cases where documentation has yet to be provided.

In-state clerk outreach is the first step of the cross-state research and referral process. Other ERIC states participating in this process also did their own in-state triage and outreach with the initial file. WEC staff completed the triage work in early September 2021 and returned their results to ERIC. Participating states then received a second cross-state file at the end of September. As of November 11, 2021, WEC staff conducted outreach to all states that had potential matches and are awaiting documentation and replies. Of the 155 potential cross-state matches, the status as of June 27, 2022:

- 81 have been closed or referred (2 pending referrals from 1/22 meeting are awaiting reply)
- 30 potential referrals are being made to Commission (3 of which are re-referrals, as more documentation was originally requested)
- 46 are pending other state's replies

The 30 potential referrals are included in the packet of closed session materials for the Commission to review.

# Attachment: EBU postcard



Wisconsin Elections Commission 201 W. Washington Ave. 2nd Fl. Madison, WI 53703-2855



Go to myvote.wi.gov and click Register to Vote to start a new registration, or to update your name or address. You must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age on Election Day and not serving a felony sentence or otherwise disqualified from voting.

En Español: myvote.wi.gov/es-es/

Or, register to vote before the election at your municipal clerk's office or at your polling place on Election Day. If this card has your current name and address, you may bring it with you as proof of residence. You will also need a photo ID to vote.

See other side for election dates and registration deadlines.

Already Registered? Verify your voter information at <a href="mailto:myvote.wi.gov">myvote.wi.gov</a> by clicking My Voter Info

Questions/Preguntas? 1-866-868-3947