

# Nevada Association of County Clerks & Election Officials

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## Implementing Same Day Registration with a Decentralized Voter Registration System

### Overview of current decentralized voter registration process.

Currently in Nevada, each of the state's 17 counties control, maintain and secure their own local voter registration databases, many of which are supported by different vendors. The Nevada Secretary of State maintains another voter registration database that consists of all records compiled from each of the counties throughout the state. In any Nevada County, when a person registers to vote, their voter registration information, which includes their name, residential and mailing address, and political party preference, is manually entered into a local voter registration database.

Access to local county voter registration databases is limited to each county, so the Secretary of State's office and other county elections offices must actively share registration information. Information sharing between counties and the state is critical to keeping voter registration databases up-to-date. Currently, information sharing is performed via nightly electronic file transfers. The Secretary of State's office compares all of the data and provides each county with file maintenance reports that require follow-up. Reports include, but are not limited to, potential duplicate voters, vital statistics matches, and non-matched DMV voters. Counties process each report and update voter records accordingly. As a result of the current data sharing structure, it may take several days before a voter's registration record is updated.

### What will it take to implement a centralized voter registration system?

Changing from a decentralized to centralized voter registration system will take several years. According to the Program Assessment for the Colorado Department of State,<sup>1</sup> the implementation of their centralized statewide voter registration system took over 20 months, had an initial price tag of \$9,330,228.70 and required an additional 13.5 full time employees. The Clerks and Registrars of Nevada support the implementation of a centralized system but emphatically agree that it will be impossible to implement a centralized system before the 2020 election cycle.

### How can same day registration be administered without a centralized system?

We propose the implementation of a centralized system after the 2020 election cycle. In the interim, given the current decentralized environment, we propose that same day registrants are registered at the polls and provided a full provisional ballot. As soon as is practicable, Counties will provide the Secretary of State's office a data file, in a format prescribed by the Secretary of State's office, which includes all same day registrants, and a separate data file, in a format prescribed by the Secretary of State's office, which includes all voters that have voted, in-person or by mail. After the election, the Secretary of State's office will verify the eligibility of all same day registrants and confirm that they have not voted in any other county, in the same election, and then report back to the Counties. Upon confirmation of eligibility and single vote status, Counties will accept provisional ballots and complete the canvass of votes.

### What needs to change to allow for the proposed solution to work?

1. NRS 293.3082 (2)(c ) must be changed to allow election board officers to issue a provisional ballot which contains all candidates and measures the voter is entitled to vote on.
2. NRS 293.387 (1) must be changed to allow Clerks and Registrars more than 6 working days to prepare for the Canvass of Votes.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/SCORE/files/SCOREAssessmentReport121908.pdf>