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Automatic Voter Registration

No updates required since September 20, 2023

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Background

Automatic voter registration is a policy that modernizes the voter registration process by automatically registering eligible voters through their interactions with state agencies, most commonly when people apply for or renew their driver's licenses. Automatic voter registration helps to make sure that every eligible voter has access to vote, as well as strengthening the security and accuracy of our election systems. Our scoring distinguishes between front-end and back-end AVR; in front-end AVR systems the voter is given an opportunity to opt-out of being registered at the time of the relevant agency transaction, while in back-end systems designated agencies such as state DMVS systematically send information from relevant transactions to state election authorities. The voter is then automatically registered (or registered in pending status) before being given an opportunity to opt-out at a later time, usually through the mail.

Scoring

- If state has back-end automatic voter registration, +1 point
- If state has front-end automatic voter registration, +1/2 point
- If state does not have automatic voter registration, 0 points



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Summary Table

Category	Number	List
State has front-end AVR system	16 states & D.C.	California Connecticut D.C. Georgia Hawaii Illinois Maine Maryland Michigan New Jersey New Mexico New York Pennsylvania Rhode Island Vermont Virginia West Virginia
State has back-end AVR system	8 states	Alaska Colorado Delaware Massachusetts Minnesota Nevada Oregon Washington
State does not have AVR	26 states	Alabama Arizona Arkansas Florida Idaho Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska New Hampshire



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		North Carolina North Dakota (state does not require voter registration) Ohio Oklahoma South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Wisconsin Wyoming
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Chronology

- January 2016: Oregon becomes the first state to implement AVR
- 2016: Georgia implements AVR
- 2017: Alaska, Colorado and Vermont implement AVR
- 2018: California, D.C., Illinois, New Jersey and Rhode Island implement AVR
- 2019: Maryland, Michigan and Washington implement AVR
- 2020: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Nevada and Virginia implement AVR
- 2021: Hawaii and West Virginia implement AVR
- 2022: Maine implements AVR
- 2023: Delaware and New York in process of implementing AVR. Minnesota passes legislation to enact AVR. Nevada and Washington pass legislation to update AVR systems to back-end. Pennsylvania implements front-end AVR administratively.

State-by-State Sources and More Detail

Alabama (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Alaska (1)

- State has back-end automatic voter registration.
- In 2016, Alaska voters approved [Ballot Measure 1](#). This law automatically registers eligible applicants to vote or updates voter registration information of voters who are currently registered to vote using the information provided when applying for a Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) unless the applicant opts-out. The law was implemented in 2017. (AS 15.07.070)



Arizona (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Arkansas (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

California (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- California [AB 1461](#) established automatic voter registration in the state in 2015. The law was implemented in 2018. The Department of Motor Vehicles provides information resulting from interactions with their agency to the Secretary of State; these records constitute a completed affidavit of registration unless the voter affirmatively declines to register, or is ineligible. (Ca. Elec. Code § 2263-2265)

Colorado (1)

- State has back-end automatic voter registration.
- Colorado implemented automatic voter registration through an administrative process in 2017 and was initially conducted through the DMV. Additional agencies have since been incorporated into the process.

Connecticut (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- Connecticut enacted automatic voter registration in 2016 through an [agreement](#) between the Secretary of State and the DMV. It was implemented in 2020.

Delaware (1)

- State has back-end automatic voter registration (DE SB 5 (2021)).

D.C. (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- D.C. enacted automatic voter registration in 2016 ([B21-0194](#)). The law was implemented in 2018. (D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.07)

Florida (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Georgia (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- Georgia implemented automatic voter registration administratively through the Department of Driver Services and the Office of the Attorney General in 2016.



Hawaii (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration (HI SB 159 (2021)).

Idaho (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Illinois (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- Illinois enacted automatic voter registration in 2017 ([SB 1933](#)). The law was implemented over the period of 2017-2019. (10 ILCS 5/1A-16.1)

Indiana (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration

Iowa (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Kansas (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Kentucky (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Louisiana (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Maine (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- Maine enacted automatic voter registration in 2019 (HB 1070).

Maryland (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- Maryland enacted automatic voter registration in 2018 ([SB 1048](#)). The law was implemented in 2019 (Md. Code, EL § 3-203).

Massachusetts (1)

- State has back-end automatic voter registration.
- Massachusetts enacted automatic voter registration in 2018 ([HB 4834](#)). The law was implemented in 2020 (Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 51, § 42G).

Michigan (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.



- Michigan voters approved automatic voter registration in 2018 as part of [Proposal 3](#). The law was implemented in 2019 (MCL 168.493a)

Minnesota (1)

- State has back-end automatic voter registration.
- Minnesota enacted automatic voter registration in 2023 (MN HB 3 (2023)).

Mississippi (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Missouri (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Montana (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Nebraska (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Nevada (1)

- State has back-end automatic voter registration.
- Nevada voters approved automatic voter registration in 2018 through [Ballot Question 5](#). The law was implemented in 2020 (NRS 293.5732)

New Hampshire (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

New Jersey (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- New Jersey enacted automatic voter registration in 2018 ([AB 2014](#)). The law was implemented in 2018 (N.J.S. § 19:31-6.14).

New Mexico (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- New Mexico implemented automatic voter registration administratively in 2018.

New York (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- New York enacted automatic voter registration in 2020 ([SB 8806](#)). The law will be implemented beginning in 2023.

North Carolina (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.



North Dakota (0)

- Does not require voter registration.

Ohio (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Oklahoma (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Oregon (1)

- State has back-end automatic voter registration.
- Oregon enacted automatic voter registration in 2015 ([HB 2177](#)). The law was implemented in 2016 (ORS 247.017).

Pennsylvania (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- Pennsylvania implemented automatic voter registration administratively in 2023.

Rhode Island (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- Rhode Island enacted automatic voter registration in 2017 ([HB 5702](#)). The law was implemented in 2018 (R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-9.1-7).

South Carolina (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

South Dakota (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Tennessee (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Texas (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Utah (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Vermont (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- Vermont enacted automatic voter registration in 2016 ([HB 458](#)). The law was implemented in 2017 (17 V.S.A. § 2145a).



Virginia (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- Virginia enacted automatic voter registration in 2020 ([HB 235](#)).

Washington (1)

- State has back-end automatic voter registration.
- Washington first enacted front-end automatic voter registration in 2018 ([HB 2595](#)). The law was implemented in 2019 (RCW 29A.08.355).
- Washington updated their AVR law to implement a back-end system in 2023 (SB 5112).

West Virginia (1/2)

- State has front-end automatic voter registration.
- West Virginia enacted automatic voter registration in 2016 ([HB 4013](#)). The law is currently being implemented.

Wisconsin (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Wyoming (0)

- State does not have automatic voter registration.

Democracy Map & Additional Resources

- See our Democracy Map: [Automatic Voter Registration](#), which is updated in real time.
- See our report, “[Automatic Voter Registration Best Practices in the States](#)” (published June 2022)