



2002 VOTER REGISTRATION REPORT

July 23, 2003

Department of Elections for New Castle County
820 N FRENCH ST
WILMINGTON DE 19801

NOTE: This report was reformatted so that it is similar to the 2005 and 2006 reports. Some of the data in the tables was corrected.

I. INTRODUCTION

This report provides information regarding Voter Registration within New Castle County for calendar year 2002. It also briefly points out trends and issues as well as making some recommendations.

II. VOTER REGISTRATION

A. This report consists of five tables that detail various aspects of the voter registration program in New Castle County.

1. The first table, *Voter Registration Transactions*, reports the total number of transactions by type and source for the year 2002.
2. The second table, *New Voter Registrations*, reports the total number of new registrations by source for the years 1991 through 2002.
3. The third table, *Change of Address Transactions*, reports the total number of changes of address by source for the years 1991 through 2002.
4. The fourth table, *Total Transactions*, reports the total number of voter registration transactions by type completed during the years 1991 through 2002.
5. The fifth table, *Voter Removal Programs*, reports the number of persons removed as registered voters by program during the years 1991 through 2002.

B. Trends.

1. The number of change of address transactions has exceeded the number of new registrations since 1998 with the difference increasing each year. There was speculation that the workload resulting from the implementation of the Agency-based Registration Act would decrease over time. That proposition has not proved true. As the number of new registrations has decreased, the number of change of address transactions has increased to where it exceeds the number of new registrants by almost 2 to 1.

2. The number of duplicate registrations received has increased dramatically beginning in 1999. The Department retains and files these documents in the event an error was made in the determination that the records were duplicates.
3. The number of persons removed as registered voters has increased in 1999 and 2000 as compared to the years 1994 through 1998. This is due to the implementation of programs permitted under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). The removals have not reached the levels of the Failure to Vote purges that were prohibited by NVRA.
4. The number of voter registration applications that must be hand entered in the State's Election Management System database increases dramatically in election years.

C. Issues.

1. The Department does not receive all the applications required through the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) portion of the Agency-based Registration program. Immediately prior to and on the day of the General Election approximately 50 registration appeals were filed with Superior Court. Most of these appeals were DMV generated registrations that were not received and processed by the Department or registrations that were never created through the DMV process when they should have been. Discussions with Election Officers suggest that many other people who claimed that they had registered at DMV but who were not listed on Poll Lists left Polling Places before the issue could be resolved. The Department initiated a study following the 2000 General Election to determine the number of registration documents that were supposed to be generated at DMV and that were not received by the Department. During the period between November 15, 2000 and May 4, 2001 the Department did not receive 191 voter registration applications that were supposed to have been generated at DMV. This is approximately 1.5 transactions per day and does not reflect the number of required transactions that were never generated! In each case of the 191 missing applications, the Department mailed printed and mailed an application to the affected people. As of May 25, 2001, 70 of those applications had been returned to the Department.
2. One of the most serious issues that arose from the Florida debacle and that will most likely be remedied in federal Election Reform legislation, is that people who should have been eligible to vote were not permitted to vote on Election Day. The proposed remedy is that in states where there is no Election Day registration that voters who believe that they are eligible to vote would be permitted to vote a "provisional ballot" on Election Day. The ballot would not be counted until their eligibility was determined following the election. Given Delaware's voting equipment, the only way this could be accomplished, without providing for Election

Day registration, is by putting paper ballots in each Polling Place or requiring those persons to go to a central location to cast such a ballot. Besides serious logistical problems, such a process would place significant additional operational and administrative burdens on our already over-burdened Election Officers. Additionally, the recovery, qualification and counting of these ballots following the election might not be able to be completed prior to the opening of the Court of Canvass.

3. Another Florida debacle issue is the perceived need to give applicants a receipt showing that they applied to register to vote and information regarding the registration and election process.

D. Recommendations

1. Reengineer the DMV process so that all required applications are generated and properly forwarded to the Department. Such a reengineering of the process could also eliminate the need to handle and process duplicate and voided applications.
2. Create the capability to electronically capture registration information at all state agencies participating in the Agency-based Registration Program, at mobile registration events and through WEB generated applications (this does not mean registering over the Internet, it means where a person prints an application from a voter registration application from a State WEB site that the person's information, if provided, be passed electronically to the State's Election Management System).
3. The State develop the capability to forward the status of a person's voter registration application and absentee ballot via e-mail if a person provides his/her e-mail address to the respective Department of Elections.
4. Develop the capability to provide each person who applies to register to vote, except by mail, a receipt showing that they had applied to register to vote. Additionally, provide each person who applies to register to vote a brochure describing the registration process, what to do if they do not receive a Polling Place card, as well as information about Delaware's electoral process.

STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY

July 23, 2003

2002 VOTER REGISTRATION TRANSACTIONS

	New Voters	Change Address	Change Name	Change Party	Duplicate	Void	Decline to Register	TOTAL
Dept. of Elections	1,117	1,704	185	859	332	43	3	4,243
Div. of Motor Vehicles	10,896	22,255	2,864	190	17,754	1,903	7,784	63,646
Dept. of Health & Social Svcs.	164	97	8	42	31	1	927	1,270
Dept. of Labor	197	76	9	21	51	4	1,410	1,768
Other Agencies (State & Federal)	81	9	1	15	82	3	9	200
Volunteer Persons & Groups	463	176	6	112	2	19	0	778
Federal Post Card Application (Military & Overseas Civilians)	12	5	1	11	0	0	0	29
Federal Mail Application	309	68	8	47	38	2	0	472
Fail Safe	116	1,283	111	227	146	28	0	1,911
Address Verification	0	146	0	0	1	1	0	148
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	290	290
TOTAL	13,355	25,819	3,193	1,524	18,437	2,004	10,423	74,755

STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY

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NEW REGISTRATIONS

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Dept. of Elections	2,063	5,396	1,920	5,801	559	1,033	760	5,185	413	1,117
Div. of Motor Vehicles	0	17,660	19,331	19,140	17,646	17,343	14,569	12,488	11,624	10,896
Dept. of Health & Social Svcs.	0	1,262	1,016	907	532	450	149	204	96	164
Dept. of Labor	0	546	353	302	285	210	154	110	64	197
Other Agencies (State & Federal)	0	8	49	116	22	33	141	203	120	81
Volunteer Persons & Groups	0	0	97	2,320	34	244	146	848	8	463
Federal Post Card Application (Military & Overseas Civilians)	0	0	3	205	1	11	3	123	0	12
Federal Mail Application	0	0	11	1,593	60	85	183	2,087	75	309
Fail Safe	0	0	0	178	2	54	0	264	4	116
Address Verification	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2,063	24,872	22,780	30,564	19,144	19,463	16,106	21,512	12,404	13,355

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Dept. of Elections	2,678	6,869	2,199	5,235	1,160	1,981	1,036	4,810	558	1,704
Div. of Motor Vehicles	0	4,788	7,643	8,410	11,512	15,938	19,940	18,799	18,804	22,255
Dept. of Health & Social Svcs.	0	171	253	254	226	258	84	133	46	97
Dept. of Labor	0	81	73	74	89	99	58	38	29	76
Other Agencies (State & Federal)	0	8	14	47	17	11	8	43	13	9
Volunteer Persons & Groups	0	0	3	837	18	135	54	373	2	176
Federal Post Card Application (Military & Overseas Civilians)	0	0	0	23	1	1	1	42	0	5
Federal Mail Application	0	0	0	185	13	25	35	504	6	68
Fail Safe	0	0	0	4,723	115	2,086	11	4,333	37	1,283
Address Verification	0	0	3	225	168	442	288	492	1,225	146
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2,678	11,917	10,188	20,013	13,319	20,976	21,515	29,567	20,720	25,819

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TOTAL TRANSACTIONS

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
New Voters	2,063	24,872	22,780	30,564	19,144	19,463	16,106	21,512	12,404	13,355
Change of Address	2,678	11,917	10,188	20,013	13,319	20,976	21,515	29,567	20,720	25,819
Change of Name	397	2,352	2,363	3,844	2,530	2,862	2,812	3,697	2,942	3,193
Change of Party	565	1,407	1,332	3,878	705	1,617	1,453	4,672	776	1,524
Duplicate	5	2,365	4,034	6,587	3,140	6,008	13,884	11,952	14,137	18,437
VOID	0	1,050	2,833	2,329	2,238	3,170	2,564	1,551	1,855	2,004
Decline to Register	0	12,776	24,150	16,036	19,240	18,728	15,226	10,191	11,034	10,423
TOTAL	5,708	56,739	67,680	83,251	60,316	72,824	73,560	83,142	63,868	74,755

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REMOVAL PROGRAMS

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Deceased	2,142	1,812	2,101	2,084	2,095	2,726	2,543	2,250	2,806	3,754
Moved from State	1,525	1,214	700	1,197	1,580	1,314	715	1,571	1,304	1,364
Board Removal	2	9	9	12	14	12	13	13	6	8
Address Verification	0	0	0	0	0	0	561	520	472	293
Department NVRA Program	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	866	0	1,216
Commissioner Verification	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,069	79	2,947	69
1706 Removal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1702 Removal	3	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failure to Vote	16,881	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	20,553	3,046	2,810	3,293	3,689	4,052	9,901	5,299	7,535	6,704