

Oregon Motor Voter (OMV)

Category – Cross-Boundary Collaboration and Partnerships

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Election Offices
All Oregon Counties (36)

Dates

Project Initiation: July 1, 2015
Project Completion: July 10, 2016

Learn more at:

<http://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/motor-voter-faq.aspx>

Executive Summary

Oregon was the first state in the U.S. to implement an automatic fully integrated motor voter registration system. The Oregon Motor Voter (OMV) project is now an ongoing program based on automatically registering residents to vote when they get or renew a driver's license or ID card. Part of the vision was to assure that Oregonians, who established themselves as eligible for voter registration at DMV in the two year window prior to 2016, could be registered. The OMV project found 145,000 voters from existing DMV data in this category, who then received a voter registration letter confirming their registered status. Overall, new voter registration statewide from September 2015 to September 2016 was approximately 300,000 voters. Of these, more than 75 percent or 225,000 were registered through the Oregon Motor Voter program. OMV registrations accounted for a 14 percent increase in registered voters and about 11% of total registered voters.

National Motor Voter Law

This project supports national law. In 1993, Congress passed the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) with the goal of expanding participation in the democratic process, by making it easier for citizens to register to vote. Under Section 5 of the NVRA, the "motor voter" provision gave the Act its name. Eligible citizens can register to vote or update voter registrations when they apply for or renew a driver's license. This government service process is also known as Automatic Voter Registration (AVR).



Gov. Brown signs Motor Voter Act, March 15, 2015.

This project supports state law. During the 2015 Legislative Session, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 2177, also known as the **Oregon Motor Voter Act**, which was signed into law on March 15, 2015. The new system shifted the process of voter registration through the Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV), from an "opt-in" to an "opt-out" process.

Oregon DMV now shares information about qualified voters with the Secretary of State's Office, and in turn all 36 county election offices in Oregon, for purposes of registering those people to vote or updating their registration. This project is an excellent example of Cross-Boundary Collaboration and Partnerships. The boundaries crossed between agencies and county governments, and the partnerships established by inter-agency agreements are ongoing. DMV transfers data to the Oregon Secretary of State's Office on an ongoing basis. Oregon county government election offices complete the process by receiving the registered voter data from the Secretary of State's office, and managing the actual elections. This new systematic approach is a three way collaborative effort and partnership between 2 Oregon State Agencies, and 36 Oregon County governments.

Project Narrative

Business Problem. Under the old system, most Oregonians needed to take a separate step to register to vote at the DMV, or another government office, by filling out a paper voter registration card or by going online to register to vote. The information requested, name, address, and proof of citizenship was duplicative of the same information used for ID cards and drivers licenses. Many citizens did not register to vote for various reasons, including inconvenience, time constraints, and lack of knowledge about the process. The “default” in the old system was that a citizen is not registered to vote unless they take steps to register to vote. The process was to “opt-in” to vote, otherwise the default of doing nothing, was to “opt-out.”

Voter Registration Application
Before completing this form, review the General, Application, and State specific instructions.

Are you a citizen of the United States of America?
Will you be 18 years old on or before election day?
If you checked "No" in response to either of these questions, do not complete form.
(Please see state-specific instructions for rules regarding eligibility to register prior to age 18.)

This space for office use only.

1 Last Name First Name Middle Name(s) State

2 Home Address Apt. or Lot # City/Town State

3 Address: Where You Get Your Mail If Different From Above

4 Date of Birth (Month Day Year) Telephone Number (optional) ID # (See item 6 in the instructions)

5 Race or Ethnic Group (see item 8 in the instructions for your State)

6

7 Choice of Party (see item 7 in the instructions for your State)

8

...tions and I swear/affirm that: Please sign fu

Business Solution. This new Oregon Motor Voter (OMV) program and process assists in changing the Oregon voter registration business model and IT systems, shifting from an opt-in process to an opt-out process. The new program eliminates the need to fill out the voter registration card for those qualifying at the DMV. Instead, eligible Oregonians will receive a post card mailing from the Secretary of State, Oregon Elections Division explaining that they are registered to vote unless they opt-out, and that they may choose to affiliate with a political party or not, by returning the post card provided.

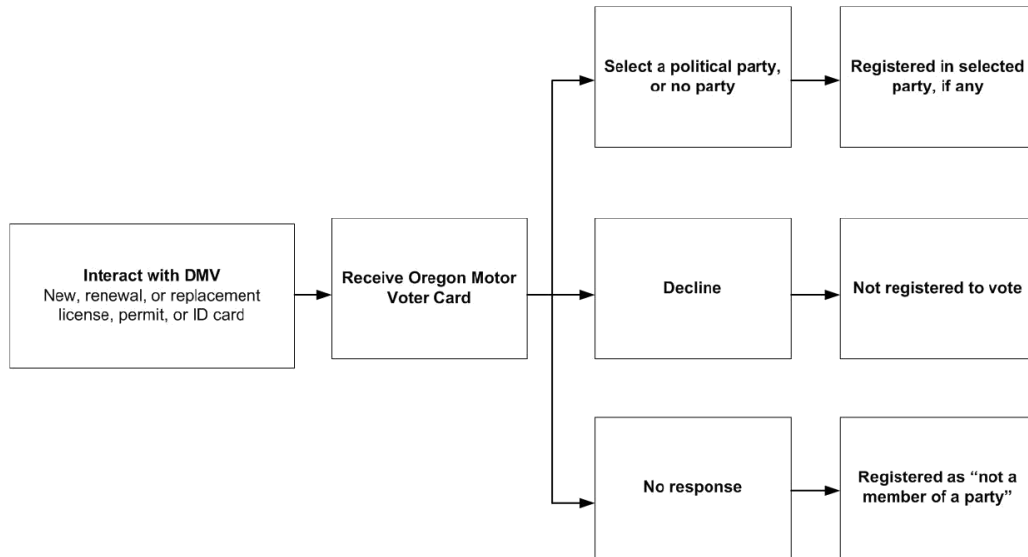
NASCIO Priorities. The Oregon Motor Voter is an example of “government to government to citizen” (G2G2C) collaborative efforts resulting in a convenient and effective service to citizens. The data management aspects of this project support the 2017 NASCIO Priorities of Data Management and Analytics, and the collaborative inter-governmental aspects support the NASCIO Priority of Consolidation/Optimization.

Voter Qualifications. Individuals who meet the following criteria are qualified for registration through the Oregon Motor Voter process:

- 1) United States Citizen;
- 2) At least 17 years old; and
- 3) An Oregon resident.

Motor Voter Registration Process. The OMV process is outlined in the following diagram and described in detail below. The Oregon Motor Voter (OMV) registration process begins when a qualified individual takes one of the following steps at the DMV:

1. Applies for an original driver license, permit, or identification (ID) card;
2. Renews a driver license, permit, or an ID card; or
3. Applies for a replacement driver license, permit, or an ID card.



Once the Secretary of State Elections Division has identified individuals for whom Oregon Motor Voter registration is appropriate, the Elections Division will send each of them an OMV mailing. This mailing will include an informational letter, an OMV card, and a pre-addressed postage-paid envelope. Within the Oregon Motor Voter Card process, citizens with Motor Voter registrations have three options:

1. Do nothing. You will be registered to vote as a nonaffiliated voter (not a member of a political party).
2. Choose a political party by returning the card. Joining a political party will allow you to vote in its primary elections.
3. Use the card to opt-out and decline to register to vote.

The right not to register or to “Opt-Out” is supported. However the default is to “Opt-In” to be registered to vote in Oregon. Any individual who does not decline – will be registered to vote automatically. Those who do not return a Motor Voter card selecting a political party will be registered as “not affiliated” with any political party. Citizens may also go online at any time to make changes. A field was added to the ODOT DMV Customer Information System (CIS) “maintain person / address info” screen to capture the “address change opt out” option. With this additional field, the information entered can now be transferred electronically to the Secretary of State. An “opt out” checkbox was also added to DMV’s online address change application, to capture an “opt out” request.

Project Management Approach. The DMV IT Application Development section is responsible for governance, planning, design, construction, maintenance, and the operation of Information Technology solutions for the DMV Division, and DMV's business partners. The DMV Application Development team collaborates with many external-to-ODOT agencies, in this case the Oregon Secretary of State. The OMV project budget including implementation team, personnel services, programming, and training was about \$110 k, and also included 1009 hours of programming time. Many IT staff members participated in an agile, integrated, ongoing operations plan during this collaborative development effort. The management and review processes involved in this effort included scores of project and development staff, and 13 DMV managerial and review team members. This project began July 1, 2015 and ended June 10, 2016.

Data Management. This project required new and/or modified datasets. These data files would need to support the transfer to 36 county clerk's offices, of data in a usable format. A system that could support the volume of data transfer for a statewide citizen facing system was also required. DMV IT created new programs or modified existing web and data processes to complete the final solution architecture. Examples of data files created include the following:

- An "**Issuance File**" to transmit data from DMV to the Secretary of State (SOS) system that meets the specified criteria.
- Modification of the "**Address Change File**" to transmit each address change.
- The "**Motor Voter Signature File**" to transmit signatures to SOS.

DMV discontinued the printing of manual pen and paper voter registration cards. In addition, DMV IT also modified the online address change site to support the transfer of all changes to SOS.

Information Security. Oregon citizen's data is protected and transferred by secure methods. The security practices for the Oregon Motor Voter (OMV) system follow established statewide agency and county, laws, policies, and standards. The citizen's data is protected by ODOT DMV, Oregon Secretary of State, and County election office officials. Security policy protections include, but are not limited to: secure state VPN network data transfer; an acceptable use policy; database staff credentials; and server storage standards and requirements. The information being shared between governments includes only name, address, and age. Governmental entities do not or will not, share information such as social security numbers or credit card information.

Data Transfer Operations. Data is transferred to the Secretary of State as follows:

- Oregon Motor Voter Issuance-Related Data File (nightly Monday through Friday)
- Oregon Motor Voter Address Change Data file (nightly - seven days a week)
- Oregon Motor Voter Signature File (upon request, typically Monday-Friday)

Significance of the Project

Cross Boundary Collaboration. Oregon was the first U.S. state to approve and implement motor voter registration. Citizen information already provided to the

government is used to verify and register eligible voters, without making individuals contact other government offices. The services and process connections created between the Oregon DMV, Oregon Secretary of State, and the County election offices, connect election systems with the electronic systems of state and county government. Now, agencies can seamlessly interact and share accurate voter data. This is a “government to government to citizen” (G2G2C) effort, resulting in better public services due to government collaboration. “Government to government” (G2G) includes two state agencies and county governments. The G2C – “government to citizen” effort includes actions by the citizen on their new voter registration.

Cross Boundary Partnerships. The OMV automates the electronic transfer of voter registration application data from the DMV to the Oregon Secretary of State, and then on to the 36 county election offices. This includes the transfer of the voter’s signature, name, address, and verification of citizenship, per interagency partnership agreements. DMV and the Oregon Secretary of State’s office entered into an Interagency Agreement to document the shared risks and responsibilities between the two agencies. This agreement serves as official ongoing documentation of the parameters for data transfer between the two agencies.

- State Agency: Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Driver and Motor Vehicle Division (DMV), in partnership with SOS, compiles data file(s) of individuals who are eligible to vote and securely transfers the information.
- State Agency: Oregon Secretary of State (SOS), Elections Division as a partner with ODOT DMV is managing and tracking data obtained from DMV, sending mailers and registration information to 36 county clerks.
- County Governments: 36 County Government Election Departments, partner with the Oregon Secretary of State to manage elections.

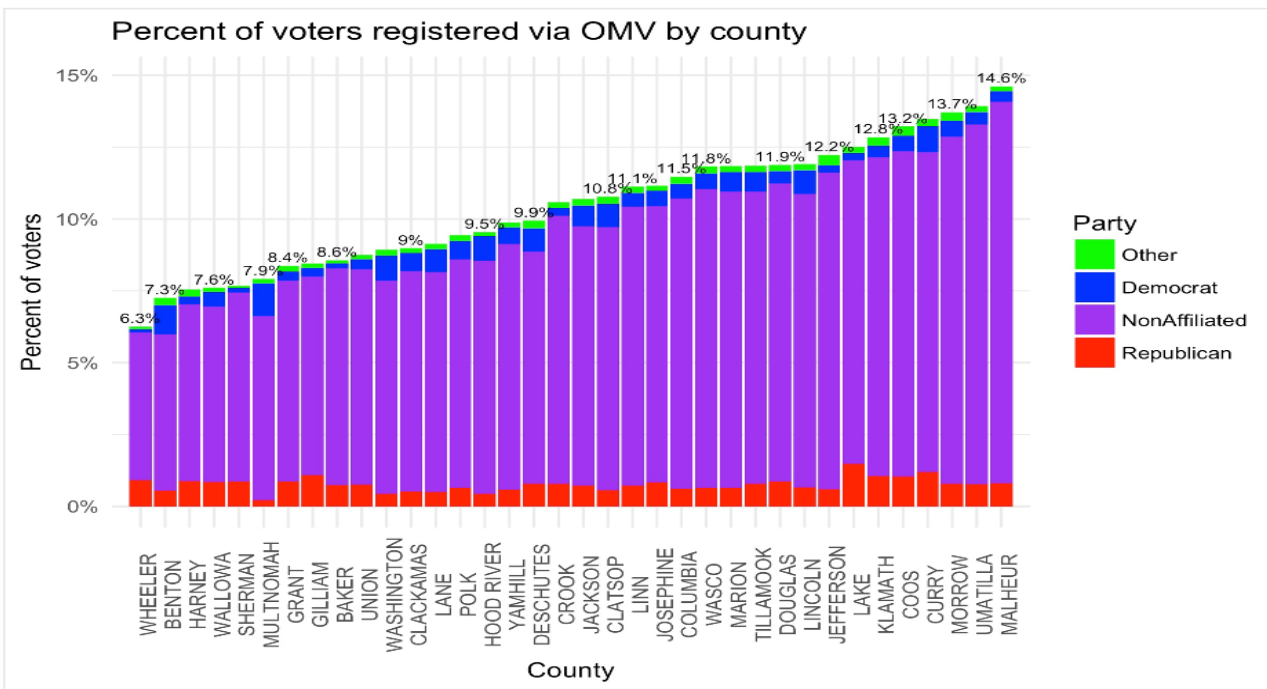
Expanded Use and Interest in Motor Voter. Other US states including California, Nevada, Vermont, and West Virginia have implemented or are in process of implementing an automated Motor Voter process. In 2015, a US senator proposed federal legislation to mandate automatic registration at the federal level. Similar measures in the US House of Representatives have had as many as 86 co-sponsors.

Project Impact

Total Registered Voters Impact. This project has impacted the State of Oregon by increasing voter registrations. “Since the Motor Voter program went into full effect ... in 2016 Oregon has added 291,938 new voters. Of those, 36,204 returned the post card and selected a political party and 255,734 were auto registered by default as Non-Affiliated. In a state with 2,577,778 total voters, the Motor Voter population makes up just over 11% of the total registered voters.” – *Oregon Catalyst March 2017*

County Level Registration Impact. The chart below shows the actual impact of the increased percentage of voters by Oregon County, registered with OMV. For example Wheeler County experienced a 6.3% increase in voter registrations after OMV went into

effect. Malheur County experienced a 14.6% increase in registrations. The largest counties by population, Multnomah and Washington Counties, had about an 8-9% increase in registered voters.



Service to Citizens Impact. Before the OMV project, no automatic integrated system existed to identify qualified voters and offer citizens automatic voter registration. Now, the Oregon citizen receives a cost effective service through a card in the mail. This is a public service provided by collaboration and partnership among government agencies.



Conclusion

Oregon Secretary of State Jeanne P. Atkins released the following statement on the new voter turnout record, of more than 2 million ballots in the 2016 general election:

“This has been a historic election year for many reasons, and we should celebrate that over 2 million Oregonians made their voices heard on Tuesday. A variety of factors can influence the level of participation in an election, but I am proud of the work of our state and county leaders to continually lower barriers to voting — most recently with the Oregon Motor Voter program, which registered 230,000 voters for this general election.”