Election Division Dispatch

NEWS & UPDATES

Paper Supply & Upcoming Elections in 2023, 2024

IED has learned that paper supply may again be in short order for this fall's election as well as next year's election. CISA (Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency) is working with their printer partners on the Sector Coordinating Council to understand the supply chain issues and competition for resources. Please make sure you are engaging with your voting system and other paper-related vendors to place orders for November and start estimating for 2024.

Statewide VLM Post Card Mailer Updates

Voter Response Cards (or card 2) will start being mailed on or around June 23, 2023, to those voters where card 1 was returned as undeliverable. The postage pre-paid card allows the voter to confirm their registration address, update their registration within the county, or cancel their Indiana registration.

Voters receiving a card 2 will have at least 30-days' notice to respond before their registration record status will be moved **to inactive status**. All VRCs must be received by August 31, 2023, in order for the state's vendor to sort and organize the returns into SVRS hoppers for county officials to review and accept or reject. Expect to see data populating in the VLM Hoppers in late June through the beginning of Sept. It is important to stay on top of all your hoppers, especially the inactive hopper, because the "freeze" period begins on Oct. 11.

May Primary Election Recounts

After the May primary, several counties reported to IED that a recount lawsuit was filed. Since this is a legal proceeding, the CEB and clerk play no significant role. However, someone is generally are on-hand to pull records or other materials the three-member local Recount Commission and the parties may need to review.

The local Recount Commission will bring back their findings to the judge, who has until the final Friday in June (or June 30, 2023) to finalize the recount. The judge may extend this deadline if there is good cause to do so. (IC 3-12-6-21.9) If the recount certificate changes the certified results, then the clerk will need to make a correction. This will require a CAF to be filed in SVRS to unlock the reporting module to make those updates. Additionally, a revised copy of the election results will need to be filed with the CEB minutes at a future meeting. (IC 3-12-6-30; IC 3-6-12-31)

CALENDAR

June 23, 2023: First week for VLM card 2 to be mailed, if card 1 was returned as undeliverable

June 30, 2023: Deadline for Independent/minor party candidates to file petitions for review & certification with county VR official

July 3, 2023 (NOON): Deadline for D/R/L parties to fill a ballot vacancy where no one ran in the primary election OR L convention <u>AND</u> file paperwork with county clerk

July 3, 2023 (NOON): Deadline for declared write-in candidates to file CAN-51

July 14, 2023: Last day for state to mail VLM Card 2

July 17, 2023 (NOON): Deadline for candidate to withdraw for any reason from the November ballot (CAN-46)

July 17, 2023 (NOON): Deadline for Independent/minor party candidate to file certified petitions & consent

August 1, 2023 (NOON): Deadline for candidates running for "small" town office (pop. less than 3,500) to file CAN-16 & CAN-12 with county clerk

August 1, 2023 (NOON): Deadline for candidates running for "small" town office (pop. less than 3,500) to file CAN-46 with county clerk to withdraw from Nov. ballot

August 8, 2023: Deadline for a town council of a "small" town to adopt a resolution for a town election board to conduct their Nov. election (If no resolution is adopted, then CEB runs the Nov. election & town reimburses)

August 11, 2023 (NOON): Deadline to file a CAN-1 challenge against a declared write-in candidate

August 21, 2023: Deadline to hold D/R/L nominating convention in a "small" town that does not hold a primary election, if one or more offices within the party are contested

August 21, 2023 (NOON): Deadline for town council to file resolution to conduct their own Nov election with the CEB

August 24, 2023 (NOON): Deadline for a D/R/L candidate <u>nominated</u> at convention to withdraw (see Aug. 1 deadline for uncontested "small town" candidate withdrawal)

August 25, 2023 (NOON): Deadline to file CAN-1 to challenge candidate who filled a ballot vacancy
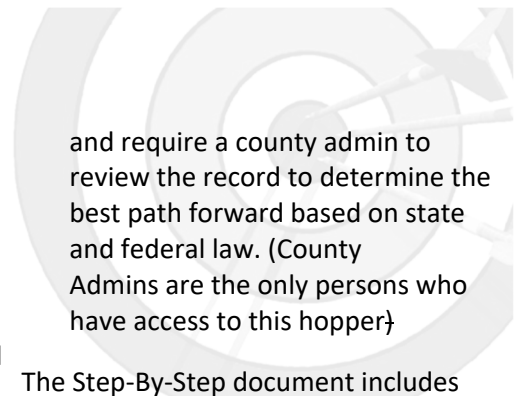
JUNE WEB TRAINING

June 6 & 8 | Office, Election, Candidate Setup
June 13 & 15 | Processing VR Records Overview
June 27 & 29 | How to Access the County Portal

2023 Calendar posted to INSVRS County Portal. Dates/times subject to change. Please verify training dates against the training calendar.

IN FOCUS: VLM Project SVRS Hoppers

Now that the first VLM postcard has been mailed to more than 4.2 million active Hoosier voters, a few hundred thousand of those "card 1's" are being returned to the state as USPS undeliverable. This return requires IED to mail a Card 2, which includes a detachable, postage-paid voter response card (VRC).

The VRC allows the voter to confirm their registration is correct (oval 1), authorize cancellation due to a move out of county (oval 2), or update their registration within the county (oval 3). When the VRC is received by IED on or before August 31, 2023, it is reviewed and placed in the proper data "silo" so that the information can be made available to counties in one of the following four hoppers:

1) **CANCEL HOPPER**: if a voter has marked oval 2 to authorize cancellation of their registration record and signed the VRC, the person's name will appear in the cancel hopper. Records in the cancel hopper may be reviewed individually or processed in a batch.

2) **INACTIVE HOPPER:** If a voter does not respond to the second mailing by August 31, 2023, OR Card 2 is returned as undeliverable, OR the voter fails to sign the VRC to make their changes effective, the record will appear in the inactive hoper. This hopper will have records early in the process, but expect the bulk to come on or after Sept. 1, 2023, as the "no response" individuals will be loaded in bulk. Records in the inactive hopper can be reviewed individual or processed in batch.

3) **UPDATE HOPPER**: If a voter marked oval 3 to update their registration address within the county, answered the age & citizenship question, and signed the VRC, then the record is placed in the update hopper. Records in the update hopper must be reviewed individually by a county user. Special attention should be made to review the card for a name change, which was a new addition to the VRC card for the 2019 mailing.

4) **EXCEPTION HOPPER:** Sometimes a VRC will be returned with conflicting information, like ovals 2 & 3 marked, or oval 3 marked for an update and signed, but the voter failed to answer the age & citizenship questions. Records like these go to the VLM exception hopper and require a county admin to review the record to determine the best path forward based on state and federal law. (County Admins are the only persons who have access to this hopper)

The Step-By-Step document includes the business rules adopted by the state to direct how a response on a VRC should be categorized in the data "silos" and may be helpful to a county user to better understand why a specific record ended up in a specific hopper.

So what happens to a voter who marks oval 1 (address confirmation) and signs the VRC? No action is taken on their record, which will not be directed to any hopper for county review. However, you can view the VRC in the Image Viewer and an image of the VRC will be attached to the voter's documents in SVRS.

In fact, you can search the image viewer for scanned images of the VRC or cards returned as undeliverable and those images will be attached to the individual's voter record in SVRS. However, there will be a message stating that no image is available when a person does not respond to the second mailing.

VR CORNER

GIS Tool & Voter Assignments

Summer is a good time for VR officials to evaluate whether voters are assigned to the proper precinct and split to prep for future elections. This is particularly important since the state and local governments have completed redistricting after the 2020 Census. The state has partnered with GeoConvergence to offer a GIS module that allows counties to take data from SVRS and plot individual voter coordinates onto the state's official precinct shapefile. Those voter "points" that are in the wrong precinct can then be reassigned to the correct precinct, or those with wrong coordinates can be assigned the correct coordinates. When all corrections are complete, the county can download a file from the GIS module and upload to SVRS to make those corrections on the voter records.

If your county needs access to the GIS module, please email support@sess.cloud. Training materials can be found on the INSVRS County Portal.

QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Q. When a caucus is called to fill a ballot vacancy, does a CAN-12 (statement of economic interests) need to be filed at the same time as the CAN-48 (declaration of candidacy) to fill a ballot vacancy?
A. No. The CAN-12 does not need to be filed with the CAN-48 when a candidate comes to file their declaration with the clerk's office 72-hours before the caucus. Instead, the CAN-12 is filed with the CAN-49 (certificate of candidate selection to fill ballot vacancy).

Q. Our office received undeliverable card 1s (or card 2 or voter response card). What should we do with those?
A. Please mail them back to the state's PO Box listed on the specific card. You should be able to write "Return to Sender" for those to be directed back to the PO Box. It's important that the info on those cards be properly documented.