Automatic Voter Registration

Introducer: Senator Tony Vargas   Bill Number: LB 290

Talking Point #1 – Integrity of Data

Statement: Automatic registration will make our voter rolls more accurate by more frequently update records when people move and by eliminating duplicate records.

Supporting Statements:
- Automative registration will make out voter rolls more accurate by eliminating much of the human error that comes with paper forms.
- On average, about 25% of all licensed Nebraskans (driver's license and state ID) affirmed or updated their address at the DMV
- Nebraskans receiving public assistance are required to update with their change of address and renew their application annually – AVR would ensure that these updates make it to the voter rolls
- The process of verifying eligibility occurs twice: first by the agency, and then by the election official, providing an extra layer of security

Talking Point #2 – Government Efficiency and Accuracy

Statement: Technology has dramatically changed the way we live. An electronic automatic voter registration system would use a secure database to register more eligible voters with much great accuracy and efficiency

Supporting Statements:
- By requiring the data be electronically transferred, AVR will prompt state agencies to collect and share data more efficiently and in the most cost-effective manner

- It takes less staff time and costs less money to process an electronic voter registration application, AVR would increase the number of electronic voter registrations – savings counties about $.80 per registration.
- In a survey of 70 election officials the Brennen Center found "Election officials in almost every state interviewed reported that both electronic and online registration made their systems more accurate"

Talking Point #4 – Election modernization is solution

Statement: The solution to maintaining the integrity and public confidence of our elections in Nebraska is modernization of our election systems, software, and administration.

- Updating the software and technology used by county election officials would make it easier for data to be transferred between counties and between other government agencies
- Replacing Nebraska's antiquated Automark machines would give confidence to those individuals who use them, ensuring that their right to vote privately and independently will be protected
- There can be no confidence in our elections when eligible voters are turned away. That's why modernizes our election administration to allow for county-to-county portability and online vote-by-mail requests is the solution – not voter ID
- Automatic registration will frequently update voters' records and eliminate duplicates, making the voting system even less susceptible to the very rare occurrence of registration fraud than it is now