



# NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT

## SENATE BILL 35

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# VOTER HISTORY & WHAT IS NVRA?



- The **National Voter Registration Act** mandates certain government agencies offer voter registration to clients.
- Signed into law in 1993
- The Act specifically mandates NVRA implementation at all state and county agencies (and their contracted providers) that provide services to disabled.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar7r5aG\\_B0Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar7r5aG_B0Y)



The NVRA seeks to:

- Enhance voting opportunities
- Undo a **legacy of unequal voting practices** that have left certain groups under-represented in our democracy.
- Increase power of individuals who use and need the benefits and services you provide.

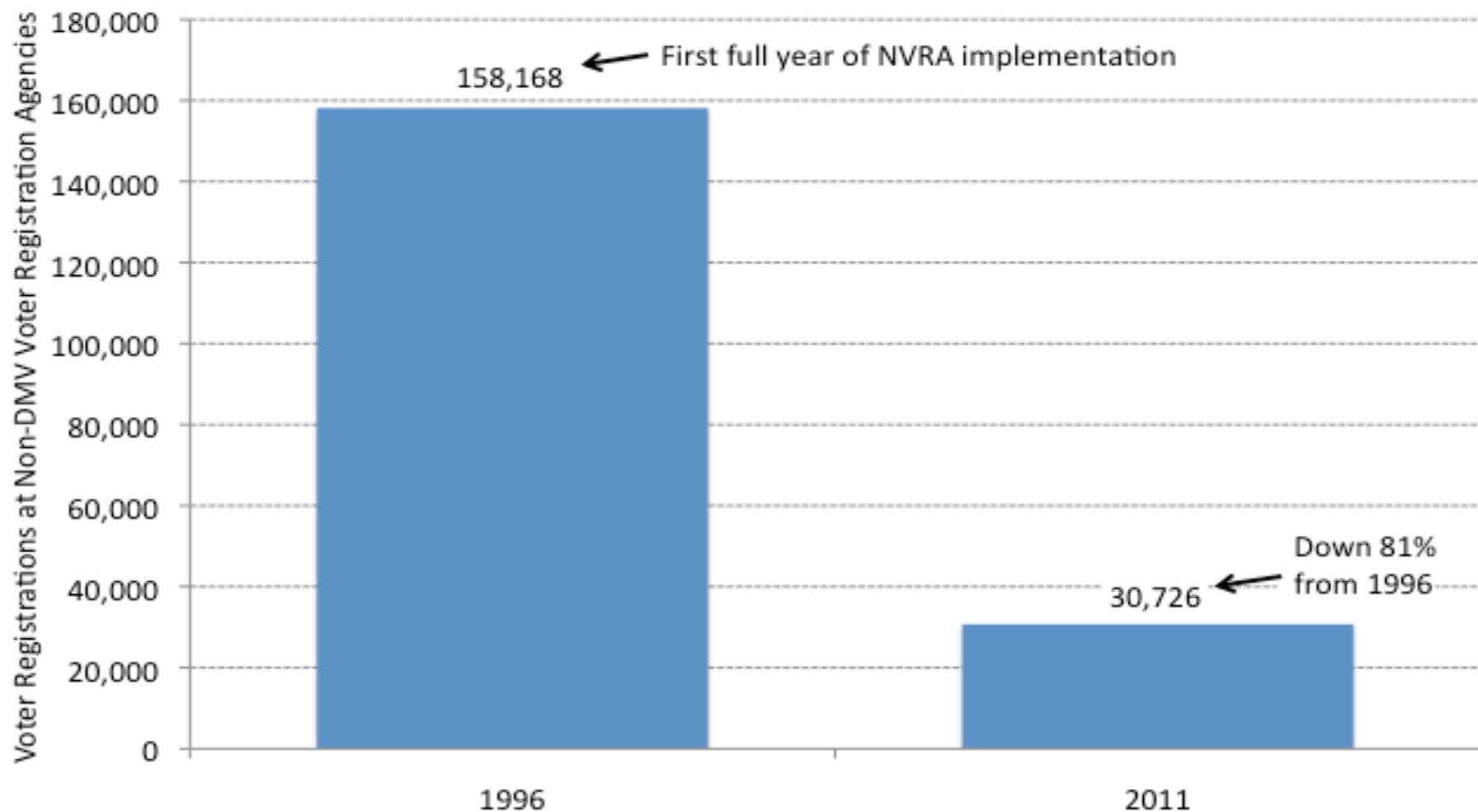
# WHY DOES THE NVRA MATTER?



- California has **6.6 million unregistered** eligible voters out of **24.3 million** eligible to vote.
- Ranked **45th in the country**
- There are over **600,000** unregistered eligible voters in San Diego County out of **2.1 million** eligible to vote.
- Agencies like yours are uniquely situated to empower individuals via Voter Registration

Stats: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/voter-registration-statistics/>

## Voter Registrations at NVRA Agencies Have Declined Dramatically in California



Source: Secretary of State



# TWO FORMS at THREE TIMES



Offering voter registration includes:

- **(1) Offering a voter preference form**
- **(2) Offering a voter registration card**
- Assisting with filling out the voter registration card (treat in the same way as other required paperwork)
- Mail completed voter registration forms to county elections office daily (Postage paid & pre-addressed. Just drop it in the mail).



Your agency must offer voter registration at three times:

(1) At the time of **initial application** for services

- Clients in crisis exempt until stabilized

(2) At the time of **renewal or recertification**

(3) Upon notification of **change of address**

# WHERE DO WE GET THESE FORMS?



**Voter registration cards** are available for free from the Registrar of Voters.

**Voter preference forms** are available from the Secretary of State's website.

- <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/nvra/training/voter-preference-forms/>



Maintain the Voter Preference Forms for two years

- Client file
- Chron file
- You can develop the process that works for you



## Some agencies are exempt (but not many)

- Do not provide services to clients
- No public funding



- **Voter registration must be provided to adults applying on behalf of children.**
- Voter registration agencies must not:
  - Discourage an applicant from registering to vote.  
**(But you can ENCOURAGE!)**
  - Influence an applicant's party registration.



Must have both forms in ALL ROV required languages.

- At ALL sites. But how many is up to you.

ROV language requirements in San Diego County:

- **Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino/Tagalog**



- Explain to clients that they must **re-register when they move** or change their name to avoid problems on Election Day.
- Explain to clients that there is no penalty for being registered twice. **When in doubt, re-register.**
- Hand out VPF and VRC together. Let clients take VRC home if they decline to register.



- **The decision to register is the client's alone** --Not a conservator's, caseworker's, parent's, etc.
- **Only a court** can revoke right to vote.
- You do not need to offer voter registration in a **moment of crisis** but you will need to follow up with them when they are stabilized.



## You do not screen for voter eligibility.

- It is not your role or responsibility to screen for voter eligibility. (You wouldn't want that job anyway!)
- Rules around age and citizenship are simple, but the rules around past criminal convictions, are not. (But don't worry...)

County elections office will screen and reject applications from ineligible individuals

You can say, “You must be an American citizen 18 years old or older to vote.”

# CONTACT INFO



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(619) 563-2780

## VOTER MATERIALS/FORMS

Daniel Boyd, Registrar of Voters

[Daniel.boyd@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Daniel.boyd@sdcounty.ca.gov)

<http://www.sdvote.com/>

(858) 505-7320



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SAN DIEGO

# QUESTIONS?