

National Voter Registration Act

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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.

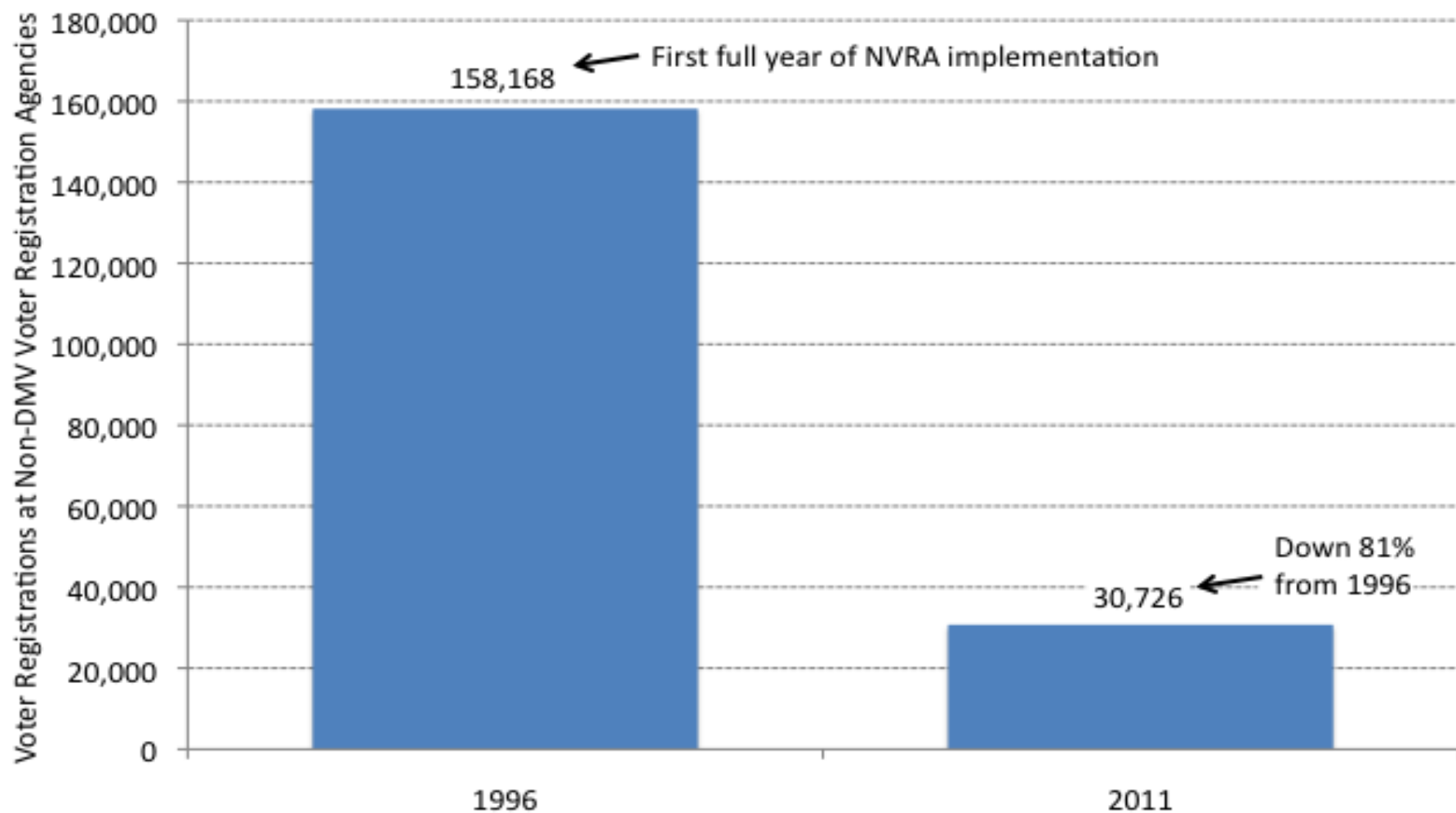
NVRA Background

- The NVRA seeks to:
 - 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 **6.8 million unregistered** eligible voters.
- Ranked **45th in the country**
- There are over **600,000** unregistered eligible voters in San Diego County
- Agencies like yours are uniquely situated to empower individuals via Voter Registration

Voter Registrations at NVRA Agencies Have Declined Dramatically in California



Source: Secretary of State

NVRA Requirements

TWO FORMS
at
THREE TIMES

NVRA Requirements

- Offering voter registration includes:
 - **(1) Offering a voter preference form**
 - **(2) Offering a voter registration card**
 - Assisting with filling out the voter registration card.
 - Mailing completed voter registration forms to county elections office.
 - Postage paid & pre-addressed. Just drop it in the mail.

NVRA Requirements

- 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 ROV.
- **Voter preference forms** are available from the Secretary of State's website.
 - <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/nvra/training/voter-preference-forms.htm>

REQUIREMENTS

- Maintain the Voter Preference Forms for two years
 - Client file
 - Chron file
 - You can develop the process that works for you

Exemptions

- Some agencies are exempt
 - but not many
- Receive no public funding
- Do not provide any kind of intake process

Details of Legal Compliance

- **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.

Language Requirements

- 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**

Best Practices

- 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.

Best Practices

- **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. In the absence of official court directive, register.
- You do not need to offer voter registration in a **moment of crisis**.

Voter Eligibility

- 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.
- 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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VOTER MATERIALS/FORMS

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QUESTIONS??