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STATE DOCUMENTS

# NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT OF 1993

An Update of the "Motor-Voter" legislation compiled by the S. C. Election Commission

Legislation must be in effect by January 1, 1995

August 1993

With the passage of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, H. R. 2, all 50 states must enact similar voter registration policies. The Federal Election Commission is the federal agency responsible for overseeing this legislation. The State Election Commission is the agency in South Carolina responsible for administering the Act locally. Throughout the next year, our office will update you with new developments involving H.R. 2.

## S.C. Goes Hollywood



Lynn McCants, the Executive Director of the State Election Commission, and Jim Hendrix, Deputy Director, have just returned from a national conference put on by The Election Center. This private organization, located in Virginia, works with all 50 states to promote voter registration and election day turnout.

The three-day meeting, held in Los Angeles, focused entirely on the implementation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. Discussions were held on all aspects of this Act, including registration at motor vehicle departments, agency-based registration, mail registration, enforcement of the Act, plus other issues.

One of the main realizations was that our state is in better shape than many other states for implementation of this law.

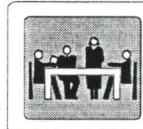
A big plus is our Central Voter Registration System with all 46 counties being "on-line." This, along with S.C. collecting Social Security numbers, helps to keep track of an indi-

vidual throughout the registration process, no matter where that person registers to vote.

Also, each state is required to have registration-by-mail. Since 1986, our state has been registering citizens using this method. We have seen a steady increase in mail-in registrations. Currently, 32 states have this type of registration.

Each state will be required to begin active voter registration at specific state and county agencies. In S.C., we will be using the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Vocational Rehabilitation Department, the Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and other assistance-type agencies.

## The Effort Has Started



Our office is putting together a task force of those going to be involved in this new registration including the five SEC commissioners, the state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the Governor's Office, county voter registration Directors, Legislative Council, the Attorney General's Office, and members of the state House and Senate.

Others include representatives from political parties, minority groups, and other state agencies, as needed. Our office is currently meeting with the DMV to begin to develop a system of voter registration at their offices.

### Voter Registration Up in States with Motor Vehicle Registration Accessibility

	1988	1992	Increase
<b>Motor Voter States</b>	<b>77.1%</b>	<b>79.9%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
Dist. of Columbia	63.5	74.3	10.8
Michigan	87.5	88.9	1.4
Minnesota	79.7	82.7	3.0
Montana	86.3	90.4	4.1
Nevada	55.3	63.0	7.7
North Carolina	70.3	73.2	2.9
Oregon	72.7	79.9	7.2
Washington	71.6	73.7	2.1
Maine	*	*	*
<b>All Other States</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>69.9</b>	<b>.54</b>
(South Carolina)	56.0	59.9	3.9

Source: 100% VOTE/ Human Serve, New York. Numbers were collected just prior to the 1992 General Election. \* Maine figures were not available.

As more is known and new developments are made, we will update you. If you have questions, contact the Federal Election Commission at 202-219-3420 or the S.C. Election Commission at 803-734-9060.