



## Information Regarding Automatic Voter Registration in PA

The Shapiro administration has announced its intent to implement [Automatic Voter Registration](#) (AVR). This makes Pennsylvania the 24th state to implement this system. Residents of the commonwealth will now be automatically taken through the registration process when visiting Department of Transportation (PennDot) centers for drivers license or ID renewal or retrieval services. The process to register to vote is now fully integrated within PennDot license applications. While PennDot's applications already included an option to register to vote, it was not automatically a part of the process. Now, eligible voters simply "opt out" if they choose not to register or update their voter information. The new application is a total of 13 screens compared to the 19 screens previously.

AVR not only increases voter participation and accessibility, but also increases [election security](#) for the state. Eligible voters who choose to register through AVR after the registration deadline will be put into a pool of applicants for the next election cycle, be registered and eligible to vote then. This new system does not affect the current workflow for teenage voters. Minors who come to PennDot to complete a driver's license/ID application will not be able to "pre-register" to vote, instead once they come of age and come to renew their driver's license/ID, they will be automatically registered to vote. In addition to the several minor changes, the new system has expanded the list of available languages on the voter registration application for a total of 31 languages.

Pennsylvania still operates as a closed primary state, however all major and non major parties are options on the Party affiliation screen. Eligible voters may choose to update their party affiliation and the system gives warning if there is a primary election to those registered under non major parties.