

Jennifer Curtis, Election Specialist
Secretary of State
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Cc: Rachelle.Delucchi@sos.ca.gov

April 24, 2017

Re: **Citizen Concerns About Changes to the New Motor Voter Law Regulations**

Dear Ms. Curtis,

As a California voter for 42 years, I am concerned about recent changes made to the text of the proposed regulations in California's "New Motor Voter" program. I respectfully submit the following written requests prior to your May 1, 2017 deadline:

1. Section 20063. Cancellation Request Form.

As the original regulation was proposed on 2/24/17, the Cancellation Request Form should be written so that it can be identified as a request to cancel an inadvertent registration under the New Motor Voter program. The current proposed modification to a generic "cancel my registration" should be stricken, and the form should revert back to the original (2/24/17) "inadvertently registered" language. Otherwise, we will never know that the cancellation request was due to a mistake in administering the new law, so we can improve upon it in future.

2. Section 20063. Cancellation Request Form.

In addition to stating that it is a request to cancel an inadvertent registration under the New Motor Voter program, the Cancellation Request Form should also include-- for the purposes of record keeping-- the reason for the requested cancellation. I request that this form be modified to include check boxes for the cancellation reason, including Non-citizen, Underage, Ineligible felon, Eligible person declining to register, and Other (specify). Only then will the Secretary be able to identify and correct weaknesses in the administration of this new law.

3. (Previous) Section 20064. Record of Inadvertent Cancellation Retained; Notification

I strongly urge the Secretary of State to reinstate the previous section 20064, published on 2/24/17, which is currently proposed to be stricken. The original regulations were correct: cancellations related to the new Motor Voter program "shall be treated similarly to all registration cancellations", as per EC section 17000. Why would the state require record retention for all cancellations except those related to the New Motor Voter law?

Section 20067 of the New Motor Voter law provides for an annual, published review of the effectiveness of the law. It's important that Californians understand the results of the New Motor Voter program, including how many ineligible persons were registered, sought relief through cancellation, and for what reasons. These numbers (by county) need to be retained for the public—not swept under the rug—so that we the voters can learn if this new law is being properly enforced and whether it needs improvement.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Swensen