



2023 LIST MAINTENANCE FAQ

Why do we remove registrations at all?

We do this because we want our voter rolls to be as accurate as possible, and we want our elections to be honest and accountable. This is about election integrity. The law does not allow for voter registration records to immediately and automatically update when a voter moves to a new address. We need to have a process that allows us to remove these inactive registrations when a voter fails to do so. Keep in mind, these are provably INACTIVE AND UNRESPONSIVE registrations over a four-year period of time.

What's the potential for dishonesty here?

What often happens when we move to a new address is we register to vote at that new location but forget to cancel the registration at the old one. That doesn't happen automatically. The voter has to either cancel the registration on their own, or we have to through the four-year process of waiting to see whether they engage in voter activity at that location. This means duplicate registrations can often exist for the same voter, which while rare creates the potential for duplicate or fraudulent voting.

How do we ensure an active voter isn't accidentally removed?

As you've seen through the timeline of facts, we make every effort to engage a voter at the registered address. They can either (1) confirm they've moved through a pre-paid response card or (2) engage in some form of voter activity. At that point, the registration either gets updated or remains active. It's that simple. We've even made Ohio a leader in being the first state to publish this list online for complete transparency, scrutiny and accountability.

Is Ohio the only state that does this?

No, every Secretary of State in the nation is required to have a process to ensure accurate voter rolls. In Ohio, this process has been carried out by Republican and Democrat administrations for the past 30 years, under transparent, bipartisan oversight by the county boards of elections.

Why not wait until after the General Election and remove these records on November 8 or later?

The September removal deadline was the best option under the law. It already reflected an extension from the original deadline in July, and the county boards of elections have limited capacity to handle this work between November and the end of the year, due to election certification activity, the holidays, and the December 20 candidate filing deadline.

Again, it's important to remember that these are inactive registrations that have shown no response at this point for well beyond four years. We should make every effort to ensure these duplicate registrations can't be used improperly in any upcoming election.