



NASS Resolution Calling for Federal Agency Assistance in Maintaining Accurate and Comprehensive State Voter Registration Lists

WHEREAS, current federal law requires that only US citizens are allowed to vote in federal elections; and,

WHEREAS, the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) require most states to affirmatively register to vote those citizens who interact with certain government agencies, keep voter registration lists accurate and current, and require the creation of list maintenance programs; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security, through its various agencies, has data that may assist states in keeping their voter registration lists accurate and current and ensuring eligible voters, and only eligible voters, are registered to vote; and

WHEREAS, other federal agencies, such as the Social Security Administration and Department of Health and Human Services, may also have data useful for the maintenance of accurate voter rolls; and,

WHEREAS, federal statute—specifically 8 U.S.C. § 1373(c)—states that the federal government “shall respond to an inquiry by a Federal, State, or local government agency, seeking to verify or ascertain the citizenship or immigration status of any individual within the jurisdiction of the agency for any purpose authorized by law, by providing the requested verification or status information”; and,

WHEREAS, access to federal data, including information concerning citizenship, could assist states in determining which individuals are eligible to vote under state and federal law; and,

WHEREAS, this same data could be used to help ensure that all voters who are eligible to vote are registered to vote;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the members of NASS believe that the United States Government should provide this data in accordance with all applicable federal laws and regulations to assist them in maintaining the most accurate and comprehensive voter registration list possible; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the members of NASS further believe that each state should only use this information in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner to assist in determining if individuals are eligible to vote in accordance with the United States Constitution, as well as state and federal law, and to take all steps necessary to protect the voting rights of all eligible voters.

Adopted the 17th day of July 2012
in San Juan, Puerto Rico

EXPIRES: Summer 2017