



## **NASS RESOLUTION ON VOTER REGISTRATION DATABASE MAINTENANCE**

Adopted July 12, 2006

WHEREAS, the United States was founded on the principle of a democratic republic in which the right to vote is a fundamental right of the people; and

WHEREAS, the right to vote is limited to one vote per person in any given election; and

WHEREAS, the administration of elections is primarily the responsibility of state and local elections officials; and

WHEREAS, the role of the federal government in elections is defined by the Constitution as an important but limited role; and

WHEREAS, the ability of state and local governments to quickly adapt to the changing needs of their citizens and improve their processes and procedures using innovative and creative methods must be preserved; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the National Voter Registration Act ("NVRA") is to "ensure that accurate and current voter registration rolls are maintained by the states"; and

WHEREAS, maintaining accurate voter registration rolls in accordance with NVRA and the Help America Vote Act ("HAVA") is a time consuming and expensive task; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed HAVA requiring states to have centralized voter registration databases; and

WHEREAS, the existence of centralized voter registration databases allows states a unique opportunity to begin comparing data in an effort to have the most accurate and current voter registration rolls; and

WHEREAS, many regional groups of Secretaries of State and other election officials have begun efforts to examine issues surrounding voter registration in multiple states; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Secretaries of State ("NASS") is the nation's oldest professional, non-partisan organization of public officials that is charged to suggest and propose improvement in the Secretaries' respective offices thought mutually beneficial to themselves, their states, and the nation.

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NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by NASS that states are encouraged to:

- A.) Take steps to improve the accuracy of state voter registration databases while contemporaneously reducing the costs for maintaining such databases by sharing voter registration data;
- B.) Protect the confidentiality of each registrant's personally identifiable information by removing duplicate registrations;
- C.) Ensure safeguards to prevent voter fraud and disenfranchisement are maintained.

NOW THEREFORE, being mindful of the limitations of database matching, states without unique identifiers, such as full or last four digits of social security number for each voter, must consider the match criteria used to identify duplicate records.

NOW THEREFORE, be it also resolved that such actions are endorsed by this honorable body because they represent the natural succession of progressive steps to ensure accurate voter registration databases since the enactment of NVRA and HAVA.