For Immediate Release
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National Voter Registration Month Fact Sheet: State Voter Registration Resources

Voter Registration in the U.S.

- Eligible citizens who are 18 years of age or older may register to vote. Every state except North Dakota has a voter registration requirement for voting.

- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 71 percent of the eligible voting population was registered to vote in 2008. Of the 146 million voters who did register in 2008, nearly one out of every four did so at a county government or designated registration office. Meanwhile, sixty million eligible voters went unregistered—and didn't vote—in 2008. Fourteen percent reported missing their state's voter registration deadline in citing a reason for why they did not vote.

- According to 2008 NASS figures, California had the highest number of registered voters at 17.3 million. Texas was second with 13.5 million, followed by New York (12 million) and Florida (11.2 million).

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) & Voter Registration Improvements

- Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 and provided federal funding—for the first time in U.S. history—to help states improve the administration of elections. One key result is a more streamlined voter registration process that leverages the use of technology to remove some of the hurdles that existed in the past.

- According to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, states have used much of the $2.96 billion of the HAVA funding they have received (through 2008) to enhance all aspects of the voter registration process, including: establishing and maintaining statewide voter registration databases ($355 million through 2008); informing and educating citizens about the voter registration process ($77.1 million through 2008); and developing online voter registration tools and resources (no figures available).

Online Voter Registration Look-Up Tools

- Forty states plus the District of Columbia have look-up tools that allow voters to verify their registration status online. Additionally, voters in 45 states can use an online polling place locator to find out where to vote. Many statewide voter registration databases allow states to provide voters with online access to other personalized election data as well, including the content of election ballots, the status of provisional and absentee ballots, as well as lists of elected officials.

- One state, Arkansas, offers a mobile voter registration application that allows residents to verify their voter registration information using a smartphone, such as a Blackberry, iPhone or Google Android.

Online Voter Registration

- Nine states offer online voter registration: Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Indiana, Nevada (Clark County), Oregon, Utah and Washington. Voters in most of these states can also update their voter information online.

Election Day Registration

- Eight states plus the District of Columbia have some form of Election Day registration: District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Wisconsin and Wyoming (Connecticut and Rhode Island also have Election Day registration, but only for presidential elections). North Carolina and Ohio also offer same-day registration during their early voting period.

State-by-State Overview of Voter Registration Resources for 2010

State	Registration Status	Polling Place Locator	Online Voter Registration	Election Day Registration
Alabama	X	X		
Alaska	X	X		
Arizona	X	X	X	
Arkansas	X	X		
California				
Colorado	X	X	X	
Connecticut	X	X		
Delaware	X	X		
District of Columbia	X	X		X
Florida	X	X		
Georgia	X	X		
Hawaii				
Idaho	X	X		X
Illinois	X	X		
Indiana	X	X	X	
Iowa	X	X		X
Kansas	X	X	X	
Kentucky	X	X		
Louisiana	X	X	X	
Maine		X		X
Maryland	X	X		
Massachusetts		X		
Michigan	X	X		
Minnesota		X		X
Mississippi		X		
Missouri	X	X		
Montana	X	X		X
Nebraska	X	X		
Nevada	X	X	X	
New Hampshire				X
New Jersey	X	X		
New Mexico	X			
New York	X	X		
North Carolina	X	X		
North Dakota	N/A	X	N/A	N/A
Ohio	X	X		
Oklahoma	X	X		
Oregon	X	X	X	
Pennsylvania	X	X		
Rhode Island	X	X		
South Carolina	X	X		
South Dakota	X	X		
Tennessee	X			
Texas	X	X		
Utah	X	X	X	
Vermont				
Virginia	X	X		
Washington	X	X	X	
West Virginia	X	X		
Wisconsin	X	X		X
Wyoming		X		X
TOTAL	**41**	**45**	**8**	**9**

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