



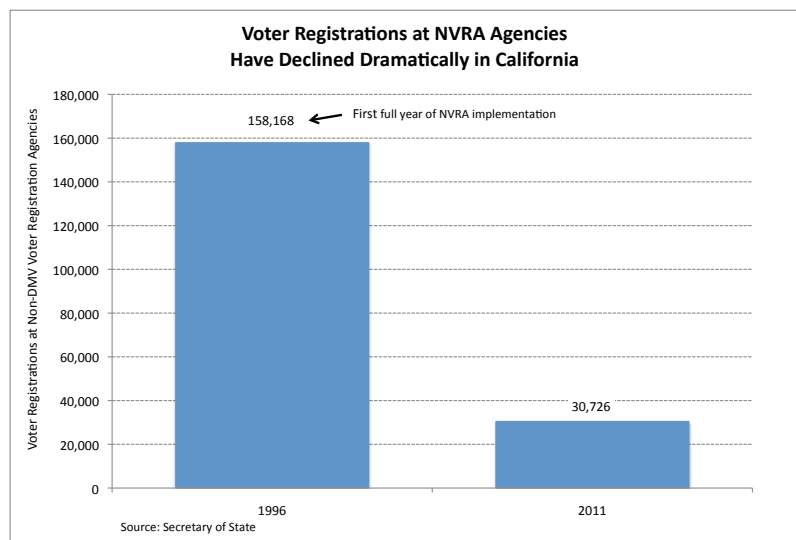
SB 35 (Padilla) California NVRA Modernization Act Fact Sheet

What is the NVRA?

- The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) was signed into law in 1993 and sought to “establish procedures that will increase the number of eligible citizens who register to vote in elections for Federal office.”
- Section 7 of the NVRA requires public assistance offices and state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities to offer voter registration services to applicants and clients at every agency and office in each state.

Why do we need to modernize implementation of the NVRA?

- In California, voter registration at public assistance agencies has steadily declined since the NVRA was passed, down 81% from 158,168 in 1996, to a mere 30,726 in 2011, despite record levels of applications at public assistance programs.
- In May 2011, 28% of eligible voters, or 6.6 million people, were not registered to vote. California’s voter registration rate ranks 45th out of 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Increased compliance will result in increased voter registrations. For example, Ohio and Missouri both increased their NVRA compliance efforts as the result of lawsuits settled in 2009, and witnessed increases in registrations of 480 and 677 percent, respectively, at state agencies.



What would SB 35 do?

- SB 35 would designate new voter registration agencies, many of which were not in existence when the NVRA was passed. These agencies serve millions of Californians every year. This would be the first voluntary expansion of voter registration agencies in 18 years.
- SB 35 would codify many best practices and recommendations from the Secretary of State’s NVRA manual to improve compliance with the Act.
- SB 35 would require that voter registration agencies incorporate the new online registration tool into their online application processes. This would improve efficiency in the registration process, and the accuracy of voting rolls.
- SB 35 would require the Secretary of State to translate online registration into all Section 203 languages that counties and voter registration agencies in the state are required to offer.