



Election Division Dispatch

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NEWS & UPDATES

Redistricting Amnesty

Last year the Indiana General Assembly passed a bill containing a “redistricting amnesty” period for those jurisdictions that failed to draw new or recertify existing election district boundaries following the 2020 Decennial Census as required by law. This special “amnesty” period ends on Oct. 31, 2025. However, a member of any redistricting authority who fails to recertify or redistrict before June 30, 2025, will not be entitled to receive a salary until the local governing redistricting authority complies with the law.

This does NOT apply to Congressional or state legislative district boundaries, as that work was completed in 2021 by the Office of Census Data and the Indiana General Assembly. This process only applies to local government redistricting authorities, such as a county or town council or school board, who failed to complete required redistricting work in 2021 or 2022.

The county clerk or county election board (CEB) is not responsible for this activity. However, there is a direct impact as you assign voters to the proper election districts and manage elections for those jurisdictions. You may want to look for paperwork filed in 2021 or 2022 to confirm a local redistricting authority filed a copy of an ordinance or resolution that either recertified existing election districts for the current 10-year period OR adopted new boundaries (and filed a copy of the maps). If you cannot find such documentation, you may wish to reach out to the appropriate redistricting authority or their attorney to confirm their intent to meet their obligations under state law. (IC 3-5-10-7; IC 3-5-10-7.1)

Reprecincting

Not to be confused with redistricting (or the drawing of election district boundaries), *reprecincting* involves changing the boundaries of precincts, the building blocks of an election district. This process is detailed in state law (IC 3-11-1.5, generally). Since 2025 is a non-election year, counties have a little more time to consider this process ahead of the 2026 election cycle.

Under state law, the county executive (that is, the county commissioners in all counties except for Marion, Lake, and Porter) is in charge of reprecincting unless they have delegated the authority to the CEB. Now is a good time to “take inventory” of your precincts and look at recent annexations or other precinct splits where adjusting the boundary or creating a new precinct might make the most sense for election administration purposes. Look for more information from IED later this year.

JANUARY WEB TRAINING

Jan 7 & 9 | Auto-Cancel Registrations

Jan 21 & 23 | New User Overview

Jan 28 & 30 | January Build Overview

2025 Calendar is posted to the INSVRS County Portal and subject to change.

Campaign Finance: Administrative Disband

As you and your county election board (CEB) become more familiar with the state’s campaign finance act (CFA), you’ve likely found committees who failed to file required reports despite best efforts to contact them about delinquent reports. Each year, not later than the last Friday of January (January 31, 2025) state law requires the CEB to review its list of open committees and determine if any committee has not 1) filed a CFA-4 report of receipts and expenditures (CFA-4) in the last 3 years; 2) has \$1000 or less cash on hand; AND 3) has no outstanding debts noted on their most recent CFA-4 filing.

If those three things are true, then the CEB can send notice of a hearing to the chair and treasurer of the committee (by certified mail) that the CEB intends to administratively disband the committee. At the hearing the CEB will make its determinations and follow the procedures found in IC 3-9-1-12 to disband the committee.

CALENDAR

January 1, 2025: IED Closed—New Year’s Day

January 1, 2025: Start of term for most newly elected officials

January 2, 2025: Deadline to send VRG 4/12 to voter’s “new” county, if applicable

January 6, 2025: Deadline to apply vote history from 11/5/24 election to voter records in SVRS, unless a recount or contest action was filed

January 6, 2025: First day of session for the Indiana General Assembly

January 13, 2025: First day of term for Governor & Lt. Governor and Attorney General

January 15, 2025 (NOON): Deadline to file Campaign Finance CFA-4 Annual Reports for 2024 for OPEN candidate committees & PACs (see related entry on March 3, 2025)

January 20, 2025: IED Closed—MLK Jr. Day

January 20, 2025 (NOON): First day of term of US President & Vice President

January 31, 2025: Deadline to determine if any campaign finance committee can be administratively dissolved (IC 3-9-1-12)

January 31, 2025: Deadline for newly elected officeholders to take AND file their oath of office

February 21, 2025 (NOON): Deadline for a political subdivision to certify to the circuit court clerk a special election for a controlled project OR for a school tax or school safety levy referendum to be held on May 6, 2025

March 3, 2025 (NOON): Deadline for Regular Party

Committees to file 2024 Annual Report (Transfers from March 1 due to deadline falling on a weekend)

March 3, 2025: State Charter Election in the Town of Vernon (Jennings County) only

IN FOCUS: VRG-6 Declination Reminders

The VRG-6 is a special voter registration form used by the BMV and other full service agencies to register individuals during specific transactions. For example, a person can register to vote when getting a driver's license at the BMV. The "declination" is part of the form and records if the person declines to register vote.

A "full service" agency is defined by state law and includes not just the BMV but also FSSA, DWD, and law enforcement agencies that handle handgun permits.

The VRG-6 form is the same across all agencies with one notable difference. The five-digit state form number (found in the upper right corner under the form title/state seal) is different and is the "NVRA code type" assigned in SVRS to each full service agency. (Note: This form is also only available through the Election Division, so if a WorkOne office asks you for the VRG-6, please have them email elections@iec.in.gov)

How your office receives the VRG-6 form is determined by state law. The BMV is required to send the VRG-6 form electroni-

cally through SVRS. The registration comes through the BMV Hopper; the declinations come through the BMV Declinations Hopper.

All other full service agencies are required to mail or hand-deliver the completed paper declination or registration to your offices not later than 5-days after the form or declination is completed. The VRG-9 is submitted with the VRG-6 forms/declinations; the county VR office provides the VRG-8 form as a receipt to the full service agency submitting paper forms.

Regardless of the delivery method (through the BMV declination hopper or on paper VRG-6 form filed with your office), counties can send a statewide address mailing confirmation (SAMC) notice generated through SVRS to a voter if the address on the declination is not the same as the residence address on their registration record.

Counties have asked what "the same" means regarding address matches. The two don't have to be an exact match. For example, maybe the declination uses the

full ZIP + four but their registration does not include the "+4". This would be a "minor variation" similar to how petition signatures are processed. Minor variations between addresses would not necessarily lead to a "match" for purposes of sending a SAMC.

Counties have also asked what to do when the voter's name on the declination does not match their registration. This is not a reason to send a SAMC and counties should refrain from sending one. Instead, the voter can update their name at any time during the voting cycle whether by filing a new registration or absentee application or by making the change when they go vote in-person.

A reminder that declinations are confidential and can only be shared with the voter. Now that BMV declinations are sent through SVRS, the declination database will continue to grow. This will be helpful in future elections if a voter believes they registered at the BMV but their registration was not updated. Using the SVRS tool allows you to confirm if a declination was recorded for the particular voter.

VR CORNER

Records Management

2025 should be a reasonably quiet year for counties, at least in terms of running elections. This is a good opportunity to do some clean-up and organization ahead of the next three-year election cycle.

For example, counties may want to use the GeoConvergence GIS tool **to ensure voters are assigned to their correct precinct**. More information about the GIS tool and how it works with SVRS can be found here: [Geoconvergence—Mapping Support Tools for Reprecincting](#)

If a voter files a paper registration form or your county prints registration records out of the SVRS OVR or BMV Hoppers, the current paper voter registration form must be kept until such a time the voter cancels their registration at the address on the form. Then, it must be retained for at least 24-months from the date of the general election immediately following the cancellation.

For example, Sally Smith's registration was cancelled on Aug. 1, 2023. The county must hold the paper record until at least Nov. 2026, which is 24-months following the most recent general election (Nov. 5, 2024). Alternatively, John Doe's registration was cancelled on Oct. 1, 2024. His cancellation occurred just before the 2024 general election, so his paper record would be eligible for destruction in Nov. 2026, too.

QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Q. Are there voter registration deadlines in 2025?

A. For most counties, no. There is at least one town in Wayne County (Cambridge City) where there may be a municipal election in November, and some counties may hold a special election if public questions are certified to the CEB by a particular deadline in February or August. If that applies to your county, then the registration deadline for those impacted precincts is 29-days before the election in May or November.

Q. Can an underage voter register to vote in 2025 ahead of the 2026 election cycle?

A. Yes. The underage voter would need to turn 18 on or before November 3, 2026, to register and be eligible to vote in 2026. However, if a jurisdiction holds a special election in 2025, an underage voter residing in an impacted precinct would need to turn 18 on or before the date of the special election in May or November 2025.

Q. Do all committees file an annual campaign finance report in January 2025?

A. All OPEN candidate and political action committees are required to file a 2024 Annual Report not later than noon, January 15, 2025. The green *Campaign Finance Manual* goes in to more detail on this subject. Regular party committees (i.e. your county, district, and state parties) have an extended deadline: noon, March 3, 2025.