



Election Division Dispatch

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NEWS & UPDATES

July 1, 2024 Deadline for DRE Units to Have VVPAT

Beginning July 1, 2024, all counties using the MicroVote Direct Record Electronic (DRE) voting unit must have a voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) unit tied to it pursuant to state law. (IC 3-11-15-13.3(c)) If the county does not have a VVPAT unit for each DRE component, then the county cannot use the voting equipment in future elections. This requirement means that any DRE unit deployed for Election Day, in-person early voting, or if authorized by the CEB, travel board, must have a VVPAT unit attached to it.

MicroVote is the only DRE voting system IEC-certified for use in Indiana. Some counties use optical scan voting systems exclusively that may have a ballot marking device (BMD) unit to allow voters with disabilities to vote privately and independently, though any voter can use it. A blank ballot card is inserted into the unit BMD, the voter's choices printed upon it, and then the voter casts it on a separate optical scan tabulator. Optical scan voting systems are already "VVPAT compliant" because the ballot card, whether hand-marked or produced by the BMD, is paper documentation of the voter's choices and can be used in a risk-limiting audit or recount. The VVPAT unit on the DRE machine now serves that same purpose - to document the voter's choices on paper - and why it is necessary for each DRE unit to have a VVPAT attachment.

June Build

Several enhancements were made to SVRS at the end of last month. If you weren't able to attend the June 27 webinar to review those changes, Civix is hosting another session on July 2 at 1PM ET.

A few changes include being able to print a voter acknowledgement card to send to voters who had corrections made to their registration rather than a full update; identifying those voters who may have a temporary credential issued by the BMV on the registration and absentee modules; updating the date of birth report (those aged 115 and over) to reflect changes in state law; and ensuring the voter ID number hierarchy is followed when adding numbers to a voter's record (that is, IN DLN number first; SSN4 second; and SVRS-issued ID number third). Training materials are available to county users on the INSVRS County Portal.

Federal Agency Updates

CISA, FBI, DHS Intelligence and Analysis, and the EAC released [a resource on insider threats](#), including recommendations for mitigating the risk.

CISA and the EAC released a [public communications guide](#) entitled "Enhancing Election Security through Public Communications" to assist locals with creating a public communications plan.

The US Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) – the law enforcement agency affiliated with USPS responsible for investigating crimes committed by mail – shared an updated list of Election Crimes Coordinators. These are your primary POCs in the event of criminal issue involving the mail. The updated list is posted in the "Shared Documents" folder on the INSVRS County Portal.

USPIS also [shared this poster](#) that will be posted in about 32,000 post offices nationwide.

CALENDAR

- July 1, 2024 (NOON):** Deadline for CAN-19 or CAN-21 petition of nomination to be filed with county VR official for review & certification (CAN-12 for local offices filed at the same time, unless county has separate VR Board)
- July 3, 2024 (NOON):** Deadline to fill ballot vacancy where no candidate ran in the D or R primary election OR no candidate was nominated at the L Party convention, AND deadline to file applicable paperwork
- July 3, 2024 (NOON):** Deadline for CAN-3 & statement of economic interests to be filed for declared write-in candidate for local office
- July 4, 2024:** IED Closed (Independence Day)
- July 8, 2024:** Deadline to add vote history from the May 7, 2024 primary election, unless a recount is being conducted
- July 15, 2024 (NOON):** Deadline for D/R state parties to file with IED their nominees for Lt. Gov & Attorney General
- July 15, 2024 (NOON):** Deadline for a candidate nominated at the primary election to withdraw for any reason; candidates can still withdraw after this deadline but only for limited reasons (CAN-24)
- July 15, 2024 (NOON):** Deadline for candidate nominated by petition to file CAN-20
- August 1, 2024 (NOON):** Deadline for local public question to be certified to CEB
- August 1, 2024 (NOON):** Deadline for a D, R, and L candidate in a "small" town (less than 3500 pop) to file CAN-16 & CAN-12, if no primary election was held to nominate candidates for town council
- August 8, 2024:** "Freeze" period begins; counties cannot move a voter's registration to inactive status until after the November election
- August 20, 2024:** Deadline for counties to file VRG-21 affidavit concerning completion of VLM activities with IED
- August 23, 2024 (NOON):** Deadline for CAN-1 challenge to be filed against a candidate: filling a ballot vacancy, nominated at a convention, filing as a minor party or independent candidate (petition or write-in), filing as a school board candidate using the CAN-34 petition, or for a candidate to dispute the rejection of petition signatures
- August 23, 2024 (NOON):** Deadline to file as a write-in candidate for school board (CAN-26, CAN-12)

JULY WEB TRAINING

June 27 & July 2 | June Build

July 9 | GIS Geocode—Voter Cleanup

July 11 | GIS Geocode—Annexations

July 16 & 18 | JUser Account Management in SVRS

July 23 & 25 | New User Overview

July 30 & August 1 | Hopper Overview

2024 Calendar is posted to the INSVRS County Portal but is subject to revision.

IN FOCUS: Special Ballot Vacancy Campaign Finance Reports

As noted in last month's Dispatch, candidates filling a ballot vacancy may have a special ballot vacancy CFA-4 report due in your office. (IC 3-9-5-8.5) To make this determination, the first part of this analysis hinges on whether the office pays more than \$5,000 in a calendar year.

If the answer to the salary question is "no" (or, the person is running for school board), then the candidate does not need to open a campaign finance committee until the individual raises or spends more than \$500 toward running for office and will not have a special ballot vacancy report.

If the answer to the salary question is "yes," then you will have to first determine whether the candidate has opened their campaign finance committee (CFA-1) or not. Candidates in this scenario who have not yet opened a committee must file their CFA-1 not later than noon, ten days after the CAN-29 (certificate of candidate selection) was filed or by noon,

seven days after the filing deadline.

The next step is determining the reporting period for the ballot vacancy report. The start of the reporting period is either the date the candidate filed the CFA-1, which is one way a person becomes a candidate for campaign finance purposes, or, the date the CAN-29 was filed. (Note: If a candidate opened their committee before 2024, then the start of their reporting period is January 1, 2024.)

The end of the reporting period is two weeks after the nomination date (that is, the date the CAN-29 is filed) and the special ballot vacancy CFA-4 report due not later than noon, seven days after the end of the reporting period.

For example, Josh fills a ballot vacancy for an office paying more than \$5,000 in a calendar year. He has not filed a CFA-1 and the CAN-29 was filed on July 3, 2024.

This is the most straightforward example. Josh has to file a CFA-1 not later than

noon, July 10, 2024, and has a CFA-4 ballot vacancy report due not later than noon, July 24, 2024, with a reporting period of July 3 through July 17, 2024.

On the other hand, Laurie fills a ballot vacancy for an office paying more than \$5,000 in a calendar year. She filed her CFA-1 on June 1, 2024, and the CAN-29 was filed on June 21, 2024.

Her CFA-4 ballot vacancy report will cover the period of June 1, 2024 (the date she filed her CFA-1), through July 5, 2024 (or two weeks from her June 21, 2024, nomination date). This report must be filed not later than noon, July 12, 2024, or one week after the end of the reporting.

Similar requirements for a "special" CFA-4 report exist for those filing as a write-in candidate (IC 3-9-5-8.4) or as a minor party or independent candidate filing a petition for ballot access (IC 3-9-5-8.2), assuming the office pays more than \$5,000.

VR CORNER

VRG-6 & First Time Voter Changes

Changes in state law now require a first-time voter who registers to vote using a VRG-6 from a full-service agency such as FSSA, DWD, ISDH, BMV for specific types transactions or when applying for a handgun license with local law enforcement to provide proof of residency, if the voter does not provide an Indiana driver's license or state ID card number or the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the voter ID section of the form OR the number provided cannot be validated.

As a result, IED updated the VRG-6 forms and shared them with their respective full-service agency. The revised versions are to be used after June 30, 2024. However, it is possible county VR officials will receive the older versions of the VRG-6 form during this transition period from full-service agencies.

Because federal and state law consider a full-service a "voter registration agency" counties are advised to accept the older version of the VRG-6 form, if it was received by the full-service agency on or before June 30, 2024, and transmitted to your office not later than 5-days after the agency received the form. It will be important for staff to review the date on the VRG-9 transmittal cover sheet to confirm if the VRG-6 was submitted on or before June 30, 2024.

A reminder that the VRG-6 is NOT a public-facing form since it was developed specifically for full-service agencies for use with specific types of transactions. The state's point of contact with each agency received the new form types; however, if you learn of a local full-service agency office that does not have the new forms, please email elections@iec.in.gov and IED will coordinate delivery.

QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Q. Our county has a school corporation where the boundaries extends into a neighboring county. How do we manage the election?

A. The county with the largest percentage of population of the school corporation handles candidate filing, whether the candidate uses the CAN-34 petition (deadline has passed) or the CAN-26 form to be a write-in candidate (deadline is noon, Aug. 23, 2024). The "larger" county will need to share the candidate filings with their "smaller" county so that the county can enter the candidate name information into SVRS and build their ballot. Each county manages their voters within the election district and enters results into SVRS. SVRS is now designed to share the election results data from the "smaller" county to the "larger" county, as the "larger" county's election board will certify the winner.

Q. Can a candidate on the November ballot withdraw from the election after noon, July 15, 2024?

A. Yes, but for limited reasons such as death, felony conviction, move out of the election district, or disqualified by a judge. The party then has 30-days to fill the ballot vacancy under IC 3-13-1 (early ballot vacancies up to the final 30-days before the election) or IC 3-13-2 (late ballot vacancies in the final 30-days before the election).

Q. Can candidates filling a ballot vacancy or a school board candidate be challenged?

A. Yes. A voter of the election district or a county chair within the election district can file a CAN-1 challenge not later than noon, Aug. 23, 2024. (Note: the deadline to challenge a write-in candidate for school board is noon, Aug. 30, 2024). The CEB has until noon, Sept. 6, 2024, to hold the hearing and decide the matter.

Q. Will there be a statewide public question on the ballot?

A. Yes. Official language will be certified to the counties by August 23, 2024. The question asks whether Superintendent of Public Instruction should be removed from the order of succession to the Governor's office in our state's constitution.