



SVRS Project Newsletter

Office of Secretary of State Todd Rokita

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County Action Items

Immediate:

- ◆ Complete "County Focus Group Session Survey" by 10/29 to schedule a focus group session for your County

Month of November:

- ◆ Complete "SVRS County Survey" by 11/4. Note that this survey will be distributed by 10/29
- ◆ Prepare for County Focus Group Session by reviewing information packet
- ◆ Attend County Focus Group Session. Sessions will be taking place from 11/5 – 11/26

Welcome

The Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) Project Team is pleased to present this inaugural issue of our "SVRS Project Newsletter" to Indiana election administrators and other interested parties wanting to stay abreast of the project's progress. This newsletter is intended to provide SVRS project information, updates on project status, and information about upcoming events. We hope that you will find this newsletter interesting and informative. Also, please note the "County Action Items" section to the left. In the next few months, I will need each county's input and participation as listed in these action items. Thanks for your assistance with this important project.

Todd Rokita, Indiana Secretary of State

What is a SVRS?

The Statewide Voter Registration System will be a system for storing and managing the name and registration information of every legally registered voter in Indiana. The SVRS will be interactive between the Secretary of State's office and each county and will be coordinated with other State agency databases. All voter registration information obtained by an Indiana county election official will be electronically entered into the SVRS on an expedited basis. The Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office will maintain the system and serve as the custodian of the records.

Why is the State Developing an SVRS?

On October 29, 2002 President Bush signed the *Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA)*. The Act establishes certain election requirements for all states regarding the conduct of federal elections. One of the requirements mandates that each state must establish a computerized statewide voter registration list no later than January 1, 2006. For additional information on HAVA and to review Indiana's State Plan, please see our website at: www.sos.IN.gov.

How will Indiana counties be involved?

It is vital that each county actively contributes to the statewide voter registration system development effort. In the next few weeks, the SVRS Project Team will be engaging each county to provide input into the design process. The SVRS Project Team recognizes that each county may have limited time and resources for these activities. We will strive to conduct all data gathering exercises in a manner that is most convenient for each county. Some upcoming activities will include the following:

- "SVRS County Survey": In late October, each county will be asked to complete an on-line survey. The purpose of this survey will be to help the team understand each county's current voter registration system(s) and processes, as well as the unique environment of each county.

