



DIRECTIVE 2018-21-02

September 11, 2018

To: All County Boards of Elections
Directors, Deputy Directors and Board Members

Re: Automatic Confirmation of Address Safeguard Lookback

BACKGROUND

In July, the Secretary of State's office issued [Directive 2018-21](#) and implemented the Automatic Confirmation of Address Safeguard initiative. Under the Confirmation Safeguard initiative, county boards of elections are provided with a monthly list of voters (and their identifying information) who have appeared at the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) during the previous month to apply for, update, or renew a driver's license or state identification card and did not change his/her residential address with the BMV. If any voter appears on the list and is in "active-confirmation" status pursuant to any previous year's general voter records maintenance program, the board must reset that voter to "active-active" status. The fact that the voter appeared at the BMV and did not change his/her address serves as automatic confirmation that this voter still resides at the same address.¹

In an effort to provide the same safeguard to a voter who appeared at the BMV and did not change his/her residential address prior to the launch of the Confirmation Safeguard, the Secretary of State's office has conducted an Automatic Confirmation of Address Safeguard Lookback. To conduct this lookback, the Secretary of State's office compared information in the Statewide Voter Registration Database (SWVRD) with information in the BMV's database and compiled a list of voters who are in confirmation status and who have appeared at the BMV after January 1, 2011 to apply for, update, or renew a driver's license or state identification card and did not change his/her residential address with the BMV. If any voter appears on the list generated by the lookback and is in "active-confirmation" status pursuant to any previous year's general voter records maintenance program, the board of elections must reset that voter to "active-active" status.

¹ 52 U.S.C.A. §20507(c)(2)(A); Though not addressed by the NVRA, if an elector's interaction with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) can serve to *update* automatically his/her voter registration address, it follows that an elector's interaction with the BMV also can serve to *confirm* automatically the elector's registration address.

INSTRUCTIONS**Confirmation of Address Lookback File**

Each county board of elections will receive a list of voters (and their identifying information) who have appeared at the BMV after January 1, 2011 to apply for, update, or renew a driver's license or state identification card and did not change their residential address with the BMV. Each board will be assigned a window to logon to SharePoint to access, retrieve, and review its county's list of voters. At the expiration of the window, the list will be deleted.

If any voter appears on the board's list and is in "active-confirmation" status pursuant to any previous year's general voter records maintenance program, the board must reset that voter to "active-active" status. The board must compare and verify the information provided on the list for each voter with the information for that voter in the county voter registration system before making any updates to the voter's record.

The date of voter activity for the voter's record is the date that appears on the list with the voter's information under either "BMV_PERSON_RECORD_CHANGE_DATE" or "BMV_DRIVER_RECORD_CHANGE_DATE" – whichever date is later. The fact that the voter appeared at the BMV on this date and did not change his/her address serves as automatic confirmation that this voter still resides at the same address.

Additional instructions for accessing the list on SharePoint will be provided to boards of elections under a separate cover.

If you have any questions regarding this Directive, please contact the Secretary of State's elections counsel assigned to your county at (614) 466-2585

Sincerely,



Jon Husted