

cancelling Inactive Voters

Elections Clearinghouse Notice

Issue #24-05

March 5, 2024

During the 2023 Legislative Session, [RCW 29A.08.630\(3\)](#) was modified by [Senate Bill 5112](#) to read:

RCW 29A.08.630

(3) The county auditor must cancel an inactive voter registration when receiving information indicating that the inactive voter has moved out of state or died.

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) states that no voter can be removed based on a change of address unless the registrant meets one of two requirements: either the voter confirms in writing they have moved or does not respond to the notice required by [52 U.S.C. § 20507\(d\)\(2\)](#) for two consecutive federal general elections.

The NVRA does not specifically address what to do when the voter registers to vote in another state. [RCW 29A.08.135\(2\)](#) states that a county auditor shall immediately cancel that voter's registration after receiving official information that a voter has registered to vote in another state.

Cancellation of Inactive Voters

Under [RCW 29A.08.135\(2\)](#) and newly revised [RCW 29A.08.630\(3\)](#), the county auditor must cancel a voter registration of an inactive voter immediately upon receipt of one of the following official notifications:

- Official information from another state shows that the voter has registered to vote in their state.
- Notification from the Office of the Secretary of State that the voter has registered to vote in another state through a dual registration program, such as ERIC. ([RCW 29A.08.610](#))
- A signed confirmation notice from the voter confirming the out-of-state address change. (RCWs [29A.08.635](#), [29A.08.640](#); [WAC 434-324-087](#))
- An email from the email address on file with the voter's registration record, if any, that they have moved out-of-state. If the voter does not have an email address on file, or the email is sent from a different email address than the one on file, the emailed request to cancel their voter registration record cannot be accepted.
- An electronic image of a hand-signed cancellation request, such as a .PDF or .JPG.

Verbal confirmation from the voter is insufficient. The county auditor must advise the voter to complete one of the above notifications. Other inactive voters must continue to be cancelled after voter confirmation or two consecutive federal general elections, as directed by the NVRA.

An informational publication of the Certification and Training Program, Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of State.