



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 902-4111 • [www.governor.wa.gov](http://www.governor.wa.gov)*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 15-02**

**VOTER REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE**

**WHEREAS**, Washington began offering voter registration services through the state Department of Licensing in 1992;

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress passed the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) requiring states to, among other things, offer voter registration assistance at state offices that provide public assistance and state offices that provide state-funded programs primarily engaged in serving persons with disabilities;

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Legislature subsequently implemented the public agency designation provisions of the NVRA at RCW 29A.08.310;

**WHEREAS**, in 2007 Governor Christine O. Gregoire issued Executive Order 07-04, which designated the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) as a voter registration assistance agency;

**WHEREAS**, in encouraging the broadest possible participation in the electoral process by Washington citizens, we have an opportunity to designate additional voter registration assistance agencies. These additional agencies either provide public assistance to Washingtonians, or provide state-funded programs primarily engaged in serving persons with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the right to vote is fundamental, and it is a primary duty of government to make the opportunity to register to vote available to all eligible citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, designate DSHS, the Health Care Authority, the Department of Health, the Health Benefits Exchange, and the Department of Services for the Blind as voter registration assistance agencies as required by the NVRA and state law. I have identified these agencies because they provide public assistance to Washingtonians, or provide state-funded programs primarily engaged in serving persons with disabilities.

I further direct these agencies to coordinate voter registration assistance activities in the following manner:

1. Appoint a voter registration assistance officer who will monitor and be responsible for efficient and appropriate compliance with state and federal voter registration assistance laws;
2. Analyze how best to use technology to efficiently and effectively provide voter registration assistance, for in-person services as well as tele-centers and web portals; and

3. Cooperate with the Secretary of State's Office to ensure that these agencies deliver voter registration assistance services in a manner that allows the Secretary of State to carry out the Secretary's voter registration responsibilities efficiently.

Nothing in the implementation of this Executive Order shall be interpreted to allow a state agency, state office, or agency employee to:

1. Attempt to influence an applicant's political preference or party registration;
2. Display any such political preference or party allegiance;
3. Make any statement or take any action that would discourage an applicant from registering to vote; or
4. Make any statement or take any action that would lead an applicant to believe that a decision to register or not to register to vote has any bearing on the availability or amount of services or assistance provided.

I further strongly encourage all state agencies to:

1. Provide on their websites a link to the Secretary of State's voter registration website; and
2. Further consider and implement other means by which the agency can promote and facilitate voter registration.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately, and shall supersede Executive Order 07-04, which is hereby rescinded.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 21st day of April, 2015, at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/

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Jay Inslee  
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/

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Secretary of State