



Missouri Secretary of State Denny Hoskins'

FIRST 60 DAYS

Through these reviewed initiatives and more, Missouri Secretary of State Denny Hoskins, CPA, has demonstrated a focus on election security, support for small businesses, public engagement, and the protection of minors in digital spaces during his first 60 days.

Secretary Hoskins was inaugurated as Missouri's 41st Secretary of State on January 13, 2025. Prior to this role, he served as a state senator and state representative, bringing extensive legislative experience to his new position.

In his first 60 days as Missouri's Secretary of State, Hoskins emphasized efficient government services, election integrity, business support, and public record accessibility. While these actions align with his stated priorities, many initiatives are in early stages and will continue to develop.

Hoskins has initiated several key actions across various sectors of operations.

Business Advocacy

- Opposition to the Corporate Transparency Act: On February 19, 2025, Secretary Hoskins, along with 19 other Secretaries of State, called for the repeal of the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA). He argued that the CTA imposes burdensome reporting requirements on small businesses, diverting resources from growth and innovation.
- After the signing of this letter, the U.S. Treasury Department announced it will not enforce the CTA.

Public Engagement and Education

- Official Manual Photo Contests: Announced on March 3, 2025, these contests invite Missourians to submit photographs celebrating the state's heritage and natural beauty. Themes include "Man's Best Friend," "Rooted Recipes," and "Missouri Sunrises," with winning entries to be featured in the 2025-26 Missouri Official Manual.
- "Don't Fall for the Call" Campaign: Launched on March 4, 2025, this public awareness initiative aims to educate residents about the dangers of investment fraud and phone scams, particularly those targeting the elderly. The campaign emphasizes vigilance against unsolicited investment opportunities and provides resources to verify legitimacy.

Library and Content Concerns

- Suspension of Funding to OverDrive: On March 10, 2025, Secretary Hoskins suspended funding to OverDrive, a digital content vendor, due to allegations of inappropriate materials being accessible to minors. The Secretary has called for the vendor to review and demonstrate its policies to ensure proper safeguards are in place.
- "Our priority is protecting Missouri's children while holding taxpayer-funded vendors accountable," said Secretary of State Denny Hoskins, CPA. "We expect Overdrive to clarify its policies and demonstrate how it is ensuring appropriate access to content."
- This suspension affects a \$30,000 line item in the whole of the MOREnet budget allocated from the Missouri Secretary of State. No interruption to services is expected.
- Libraries are funded by a variety of sources and do not rely solely on state or Secretary of State funding.

Election Integrity

- Voting Equipment Demonstration: On February 18, 2025, Secretary Hoskins hosted Missouri's first public demonstration of voting machine equipment at the state Capitol. This event allowed attendees, including election professionals and the public, to observe and engage with the technology used in state elections, underscoring a commitment to transparency and election integrity.
- Advocacy for SAVE Act Reforms: On February 27, 2025, Secretary Hoskins joined other state election officials in urging the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to implement reforms



to the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program. The proposed enhancements aim to improve the efficiency and accuracy of verifying voter eligibility, thereby strengthening the integrity of elections.

- Presidential Election Year Voter Roll Clean Up: Under Missouri Revised Statutes Section 115.193, counties were required to remove inactive voters who did not vote in both the November 2022 midterm and November 2024 presidential elections after the November 19, 2024 certification deadline. This was completed and numbers released from the Secretary of State's Office Election Division on March 12, 2025.

Voter Roll Clean Up Quick Facts

Voter List Maintenance and category of registrations, after Local Election Authorities (LEAs) performed federal and state required roll (post-presidential election year) maintenance, from January 13, 2025–March 12, 2025.

- Total number of voters registered in Missouri: 4,286,822
- Deceased registrations removed: 18,637
- Duplicate registrations removed: 75
- Disqualified (felon, adjudged incapacitated) registrations removed : 1,864
- NVRA (federal and state law “inactive” voter records for 4 years with no voting activity) registrations removed: 133,520
- Voters who moved: 2,583
- Address Verification letter returned for first time registered voters: 706
- Request from voter to be removed: 282

These notes underscore the importance of proactive, direct communication and structured training to ensure timely compliance with voter removal mandates.

These numbers are also consistent with past voter roll maintenance and management efforts performed by local election authorities (LEAs).

What is an inactive voter?

An inactive voter refers to a registered voter who has not participated in recent elections and has failed to update their voter registration or confirm their residency when prompted by election



officials. The designation and removal process for inactive voters is governed by both federal and state laws to maintain accurate and up-to-date voter rolls.

Summary of Compliance

1. Notification: Voters must be notified before being classified as inactive.
2. Opportunity to Reactivate: Voters must have the opportunity to update their registration and become active again before any removal from the rolls.
3. Voter Rolls Maintenance: Inactive voters shall be removed after two consecutive federal elections if they have not responded to the notice and did not vote.

For further details, refer to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. § 20507) and Missouri Revised Statutes (RSMo) § 115.133.

Key Takeaways

- Inactive voters are not immediately removed but are flagged after missing elections and failing to update their records.
- Federal law (NVRA) prevents immediate removal but allows it after two general election cycles.
- States like Missouri implement their own voter roll maintenance rules within the NVRA framework.
- The goal is election integrity, accuracy, and legal compliance, not voter suppression.

Federal Guidelines: National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)

The (National Voter Registration Act) NVRA of 1993 (also known as the "Motor Voter Act") sets out the rules for maintaining voter rolls while ensuring voter protections:

1. Definition of an Inactive Voter
 - A voter may be marked as "inactive" if they fail to respond to an address confirmation notice sent by election officials.
 - This usually happens when official election mail (e.g., a voter registration card) is returned as undeliverable.
2. Process Before Removal
 - The law prohibits removing voters solely for inactivity.



- However, if a voter remains inactive for two federal election cycles (usually four years) without voting or updating their registration, they can be removed from voter rolls.
- Voters who respond or show up to vote within that time remain active.

Missouri State Laws on Inactive Voters

Each state has its own procedures based on the NVRA. In Missouri, for example:

- If a voter does not update their registration or vote for two federal elections, they may be removed from the rolls.
- Election officials must attempt to notify voters before removal, giving them a chance to confirm their eligibility.
- Inactive voters can still vote but may need to update their information at the polling place.

Why Should Inactive Voters Be Removed During Required Roll Maintenance?

1. **Preventing Voter Fraud** – Keeping outdated voter lists increases the risk of errors, such as deceased individuals or people who moved remaining on the rolls.
2. **Maintaining Election Accuracy** – Ensuring that only eligible voters remain on the list improves election security and efficiency.
3. **Reducing Administrative Costs** – Election offices spend significant resources maintaining accurate voter lists, and removing outdated registrations reduces costs.
4. **Compliance with Federal and State Laws** – Regular list maintenance helps election officials follow legal requirements to keep voter rolls up to date.

Here are some examples of why a voter might be considered "inactive":

- **Relocation:**
A voter who has moved—whether within the state or to another state—and hasn't updated their registration, making them appear inactive.



- **College Students:**

Many college students are registered at their home address but live on campus or in another area during the school year. This disconnect can result in lower participation in local elections.

- **Temporary Absences:**

Voters temporarily away due to work assignments, extended travel, or study abroad might miss elections if they don't utilize absentee ballots or update their registration.

Each of these scenarios can contribute to a voter being flagged as inactive, particularly when the system tracks participation over consecutive elections.

Voter Roll Compliance

Proactively Maintain and Manage

Maintaining accurate voter rolls is fundamental for ensuring the integrity, fairness, and efficiency of the electoral system, while also promoting voter trust and participation. It helps election authorities allocate resources wisely, minimize errors, and uphold democratic values.

Compliance with Legal Requirements

Federal and state laws, such as the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and Missouri state law, mandate that voter rolls be kept accurate and up-to-date. Regularly managing inactive or outdated voter information is part of maintaining compliance with these laws. Failing to maintain accurate rolls can result in legal challenges, fines, or loss of federal funding.

Ensuring Fair Elections

Accurate voter rolls help ensure that only eligible voters participate in elections, and that each person is only able to vote once. This prevents voter fraud, which can undermine the integrity of the electoral process.

Facilitating Voter Participation



By maintaining current and accurate voter information, election authorities can ensure that voters are sent the correct election materials, such as ballots and voter registration cards, and that they are assigned to the proper polling place. This helps reduce confusion on election day, ensuring that eligible voters can cast their votes without unnecessary delays or complications.

Reducing Administrative Errors

Keeping accurate records helps election officials avoid mistakes, such as sending ballots to the wrong address, unintentionally disenfranchising voters, or misallocating resources (like polling locations and election workers) based on outdated information.

Enhancing Confidence in the Electoral Process

Voters are more likely to trust the electoral system if they know the rolls are accurate and their votes are counted properly. Ensuring voter eligibility and minimizing the possibility of errors or fraud strengthens public confidence in democracy and electoral outcomes.

Reducing Resource Waste

Accurate voter rolls help in allocating resources effectively. If voter rolls contain outdated or duplicate records, this can result in over-provisioning or under-provisioning, causing logistical problems and unnecessary costs during elections.

Improving Voter Access

Accurate records enable election authorities to ensure voters who move or change their names are still able to vote without disruption. Voter roll maintenance ensures that individuals aren't mistakenly removed or left off the rolls, which can disproportionately affect certain groups, such as those who move frequently or have recently changed their name.

Preventing Disenfranchisement

An up-to-date voter roll prevents eligible voters from being wrongly flagged as ineligible or inactive. If voters are improperly removed or not updated after they move, they may be



unable to vote in upcoming elections, potentially disenfranchising individuals who are still eligible.

Election Integrity FAQs

How do I know deceased people aren't "voting"?

The Election Authority receives regular reports from Missouri Health and Senior Services regarding individuals who have passed away and updates the voter registration records accordingly. The statewide voter registration database (MCVR) is also linked to the Social Security Administration, allowing for verification that names and social security numbers match. When a person is reported deceased, their name is promptly removed from the voter rolls.

How do I know that registered voters can only vote once?

The Election Authority ensures that when a voter requests an absentee ballot—whether by mail or in person—official records are updated to reflect this request. If the voter attempts to request another ballot on Election Day, the poll book will indicate accordingly, notifying election judges to deny a second ballot. When a voter checks in at a polling location, the check-in data is uploaded to all other poll pads. If a voter tries to check in a second time, the system alerts election judges that the voter has already voted, and they are not issued another ballot.

If a voter moves to another county and re-registers, their previous registration is automatically updated by the MCVR, ensuring they cannot vote in their former county.

How do I know that registered voters who move are voting in the right place?

Voters are required to confirm their address to the election judge before receiving a ballot. If the address on their voter registration does not match what the voter provides, an affidavit is completed with the correct address, and their registration is updated. If a voter is at the wrong polling location, they will be redirected to the correct one. Voters can only vote at their designated polling location or at the Election Authority office on Election Day. Each ballot is address-specific, ensuring proper voting location.



How do I know people aren't casting a ballot for a friend, family member, or stranger?

Missouri enforces a photo ID law, which requires election judges to verify each voter's identity before issuing a ballot. If a voter's photo ID does not match the individual, they are not issued a ballot. Absentee voters must also provide a photo ID when requesting a ballot, either when registering or in previous elections. If a voter has never shown a photo ID, they will not be sent an absentee ballot. Absentee ballot applications must be signed, and signatures on the return envelope must match those on the application. Unless the voter is permanently disabled, mailed absentee ballots must also be notarized.

How do I know that ballots cannot be stolen?

Ballots are securely stored in locked ballot boxes at polling locations, with the boxes visible to election judges. Any unauthorized attempt to access the ballot box would be immediately stopped, and law enforcement would be called. Stealing ballots is a criminal offense. Sealed ballot boxes are transported to the Election Authority by bipartisan teams and stored in a secure location within the office. Access to this room is only granted when a bipartisan team is present.

How do I know that fake ballots weren't added or that extra ballots weren't filled out by a registered legitimate voter?

Election judges monitor the ballot boxes throughout Election Day. If a person attempts to insert multiple ballots into the tabulator, election judges will stop them, and law enforcement will be alerted - a tabulator would reject a ballot that was not printed on poll-specific secure paper. On election morning, a bipartisan team of election judges ensures that the ballot boxes are empty before voting begins, with the vote count starting at zero. Election judges also record how many voters checked in and how many ballots were cast, ensuring the numbers match before certifying the election results.

How do I know that the tabulating machines count the ballots correctly?

Before each election, the Election Authority conducts a thorough test on each vote tabulator to verify that every vote is counted accurately. These tests are open to the public to observe. After each election, a public hand count audit is conducted on a minimum of 5% of precincts selected



randomly. A bipartisan team audits the votes manually, and the results are compared to the election day report to ensure they match. If any discrepancies arise, the issue is resolved, and the ballot boxes are resealed.

Is there a paper trail to prove the machine counted correctly?

Yes, paper ballots are securely sealed by election judges at the polling location and transported in sealed boxes to the Election Authority office. These boxes are only opened with a court order. If necessary, ballots can be re-run through the tabulators or hand-counted to verify the election results, following the judge's instructions. Additionally, a printed summary of each race in the precinct is generated before the tabulators are locked up, and this summary is checked against the final totals to ensure consistency.

How do I know that nobody, including an election official, is changing the results between the original count and the official certification?

The vote count is printed on paper receipts while the tabulators are still present at polling places. These receipts are used by the bipartisan verification board to certify the election results. The verification board, composed of members from county central committees, ensures that the vote count matches the paper receipts and that no additional ballots were counted. Once the verification board is satisfied, they certify the results, which are then sent to the Secretary of State as the official results.

What is the process for requesting and obtaining a recount?

Recounts in Missouri are court-ordered for local elections. Recounts for state candidates or ballot measures can be requested. The Director of Elections does not have the authority to initiate a recount independently. Candidates who lose a local primary election by less than 1% can petition the Circuit Court for an automatic recount. In contested elections, the court may require the petitioner to post a bond to cover the costs of the recount, which may be awarded to the prevailing party. Recounts are conducted in compliance with state law, and all related records and materials are prepared for review by the court. The court supervises the recount of both paper ballots and votes cast on machines, ensuring transparency throughout the process.

