

Address Changes

How does the State Election Commission (SEC) update a voter's status in SC voter registration system?

There is no state or federal database that maintains an accurate list of the domicile of all individuals at all times, partly due to individuals having multiple addresses or no addresses in their name (e.g., vacation homes, college housing, etc.).

Method to obtain updated address	Change that may occur ⁷ (i.e. Change SEC may make to voter's status in the voter registration system depending on the result of the address confirmation) <i>See attachments 2 for information on inactive categories</i>	Frequency method is utilized	Situations in which method applies ⁴ (Note: *U.S. citizens in other countries, including military and dependents, are treated like in-state residents at their last known address within the U.S.)			
			U.S. Citizen moves from SC County 1, Address A to SC County 1, Address B	U.S. Citizen moves from SC County 1 to SC County 2	U.S. Citizen moves from SC County to Out-of-state	U.S. Citizen in another state who was active in the SC system at some time is now inactive moves back to SC County
Current Methods						
Voter Submits Voter Registration Application: Voters can go to any voter registration location to provide notification of a change of address. They may either submit online through the SEC website, mail/fax/email registration form to county election office, hand deliver form to county election office, or return National Voter Registration Act application either in person or by mail.	Varies	Ad Hoc	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Voter makes Request in Writing to SEC for Removal	Active to Inactive (IW)	Ad Hoc	No	No	Yes	No
Precinct and Polling Place Change Mailing: County election office sends updated voter registration card voters classified as ACTIVE who are impacted by a change in the precinct or polling places and the card is returned by USPS as undeliverable. ³	Active to Inactive (IL or IM)	When there is change to the precinct or polling place	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Jury Notice Mailing: SEC produce jury lists from voter registration file merged with DMV list of driver license and ID for federal, state, summary courts; courts pay SEC for the list. Clerk of court uses the list to send jury summons to citizens. Clerk of court receives return card and then forwards hard copy version of it to SEC. Some courts do not do this. SEC checks if return card is voter or if just someone with an ID.	Active to Inactive (IL or IM)	Ad Hoc	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
DMV Notification/Automatic Update: Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) notifies SEC when SC driver surrenders drivers license. (If you get a drivers license in another state, DMV gets noticed and deactivates your SC drivers license). SEC receives this information from DMV once a month via secure SFTP6 server and it automatically updates the records of voters classified as ACTIVE. Each month, SEC staff double check file was received and program ran to automatically update State Election Commission's Voter Registration and Election Management System (VREMS). <i>See attachment 1 for more information on this process.</i>	Active to Inactive (IL)	Monthly	No	No	Yes	No
Inactivity Confirmation Card Mailing¹: Every 2 years, SEC sends postcards with postage paid return card to voters classified as ACTIVE who have (1) not voted in last 2 general elections, and (2) have not updated their address. In 2021 (between spring and fall), SEC sent postcards to those who didn't vote in 2020 and 2018 elections. (75,796) Process must be completed 90 days before general election primary. ²	Active to Inactive (IL, IM, IW or IF)	2 years	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Future Methods						
Duplicate Registration in Another State Confirmation Card Mailing (Tentative December 2021)¹: In December 2021, SEC will send out its first set of confirmation card mailings based on information through which it has access from its membership in ERIC ³ about individuals that may be registered to vote in S.C. and another state. Process must be completed 90 days before general election primary. ² SEC has not set an exact schedule for the frequency of performing these mailings moving forward, but anticipates every 2 years on odd numbered years.	Active to Inactive (IO or another unique code SEC may create)	2 years	No	No	Yes	No
National Change of Address Confirmation Card Mailing (Tentative December 2022):¹ SEC, because of its membership in ERIC, has access to information in the National Change of Address directory from the U.S. Postal Service and is striving to utilize it to send confirmation card mailings to voters the directory indicates have moved out of county (or state) to keep voter records updated. SEC has tentative plans to implement by end of 2022. SEC must create a program to conduct the list maintenance through this source and, therefore, has not finalized whether it will only apply to out of county and state, or also to moves within a county. Process must be completed 90 days before general election primary. ² SEC has not set an exact schedule for the frequency of performing these mailings moving forward, but anticipates every 2 years on odd numbered years.	Active to Inactive (IL or IM)	2 years	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Endnotes:

¹ Others to whom the postcards were sent may have their status changed for another reason not related to the postcard (e.g., die, move and voluntarily tell election personnel, etc.). Each voter record has an "activity" date. In situations where voter status changed for another reason after postcard was sent, SEC would be able to see that the status was changed after the time the postcard was sent, so the lack of response to the postcard will not apply

² Means the following must have occurred: post cards mailed out, time to receive responses elapsed (90 days), and made updates based on responses received or not received.

³ Precinct is a geographical boundary, while polling place is the location where an individual casts their vote. Precinct changes require legislation. Polling places can be changed by county delegations.

⁴ Situations that involve a U.S. Citizen that was not already in the SC voter system are not applicable in these methods.

⁵ Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) is a nonprofit organization assisting states to improve accuracy of voter rolls. South Carolina is one of the 32 member states (includes DC).

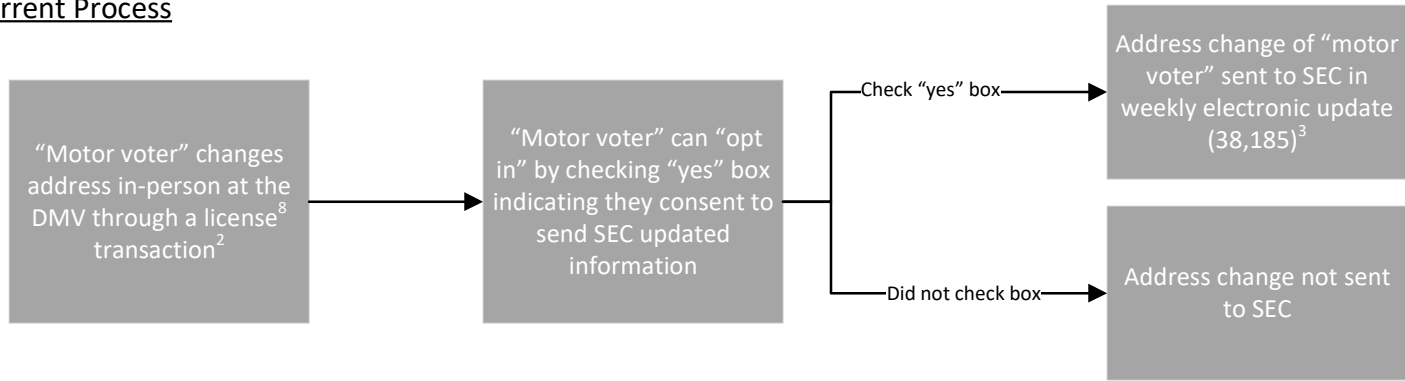
⁶ Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) allows for secure data transfer.

⁷ SC has permanent registration (i.e., Once you register to vote, you remain on the list, even if you move to a different state or die.)

DMV Process for Address Changes

Key Note: Someone registers to vote at the DMV while doing an in-person license transaction.¹ Person is now classified as a “motor voter.”

Current Process



Type of DMV Transactions

License Transactions⁸:

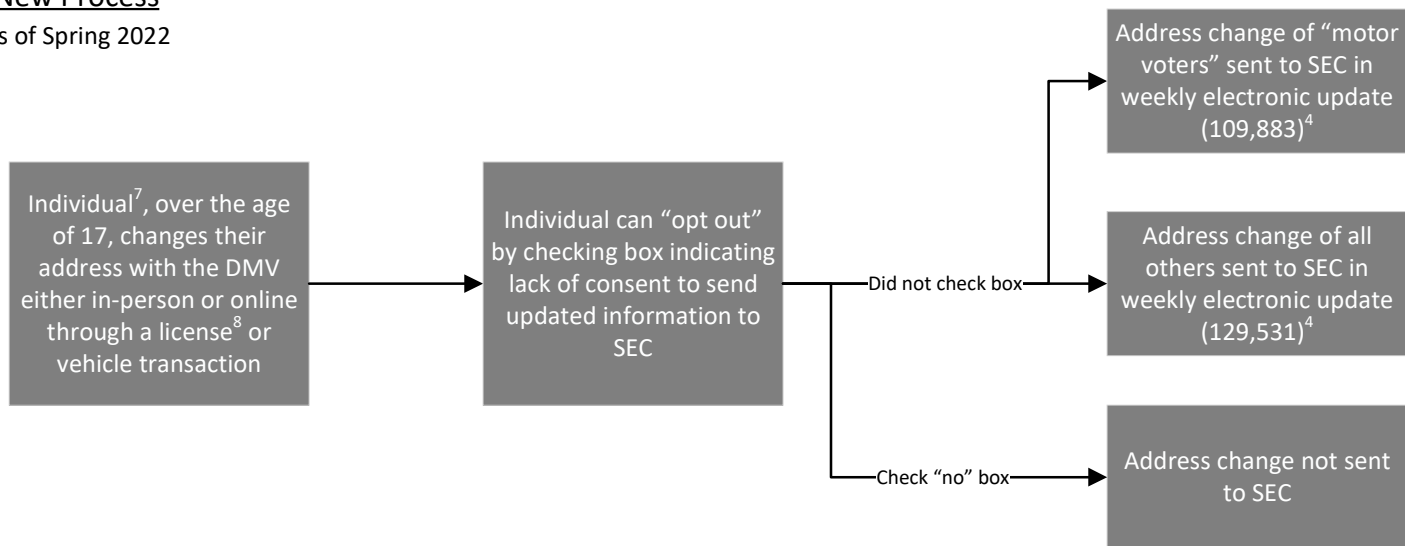
- Obtain license type/permit/ID for first time and turn 18 before the next general election (e.g., first time obtaining regular license, first time obtaining commercial license [even if already had a regular license])
- Renew license
- Modify license (e.g., change address, change name to married name, adding restrictions or classes)⁵
- Duplicate license (e.g., lose license)⁶

Vehicle Transactions:

- Register vehicle
- Title
- Duplicate
- New license plate
- Exchange license plate
- Replace license plate

New Process

As of Spring 2022



Endnotes:

¹ Someone can register to vote anytime they do a “license transaction” in-person with the DMV but not with a “vehicle transaction.” This is pursuant to federal law (i.e. NVRA)

² It was DMV understanding an electronic signature was necessary in order to send information to the SEC and that was captured only when an individual came in person.

³ Under the current process, during a six month period (January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021) the DMV sent this many address changes to the SEC.

⁴ Under the new process, during a six month period (January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021) the DMV would have sent the above numbers to the SEC assuming no one opted out.

⁵ DMV form 4057 – Change or Address, Name, Date of Birth, and/or Social Security Number

⁶ DMV form 447NC – Application for Beginners Permit, Driver’s License, or Identification Card or 447CDL – Application for a Commercial Driver’s License or Commercial Learner’s Permit

⁷ Only the individual who is filling out the application can make an address change, even if there is more than one name on the vehicle title.

⁸ NVRA requires DMV to ask individuals if they would like to register to vote on all license transactions, but not on vehicle transactions.

Attachment 2

Categories in Voter Registration System		
Category	Explanation of Category	Where name appears when person appears to vote in person
Individuals with these codes appear on precinct records and if individual states they still live in the precinct, they are allowed to vote		
A	Active	Hard copy and Electronic Poll Book at precinct*
Inactive - IF	Fail to respond to confirmation card mailing. A mailing from SEC is not returned (nor was there an undeliverable or forwarding address returned)	Hard copy and Electronic Poll Book at precinct through next two general elections after being made IF, afterward only on computer system at SEC*
Inactive - IM	Moved from the address of registration. A mailing from the county election office or SEC is returned as undeliverable. There is confirmation the individual has moved, but no confirmation of whether the individual moved within the county, within the state, or within the country.	Hard copy and Electronic Poll Book at precinct through next general election after being made IM, afterward only on computer system at SEC*
Individuals with these codes do not appear on records at the precinct, someone from the County must call SEC to determine if the individual is in the system and other information individual must provide for individual's vote to count.		
Inactive - IC	Convicted of felony or other disqualifying offense.	Only on computer system at SEC
Inactive - ID	Deceased. (See Deceased flow chart for how the SEC makes these determinations.)	Only on computer system at SEC
Inactive - IE	Pending a district assignment. There is some issue or uncertainty from the county as to the district in which the voter should be assigned. Usually arises during re-districting and is a temporary status. All issues should be resolved by SEC prior to election day.	Only on computer system at SEC
Inactive - IH	Hold status (e.g., new voter registration card was issued and returned; or incomplete voter registration application)	Only on computer system at SEC
Inactive - IL	Left the county of registration. A mailing from the county election office or SEC is returned with a forwarding address outside the county in which the individual is registered to vote. This is different than mailing be returned as undeliverable. DMV notifies SEC voter surrendered license in another state.	Only on computer system at SEC
Inactive - IO	Covers any other issue not specifically outlined by another inactive status. (e.g. a court orders an individual mentally incompetent. Voter registration challenge, board decided against them, they appealed to Supreme Court and Supreme Court decided against voter and voter has not re-registered.)	Only on computer system at SEC
Inactive - IW	Individual sends written request to be removed from voter roll (can individual can only request to remove themselves)	Only on computer system at SEC
SEC has not used the codes below since 2010, but there are still in the system because an individual's record is never removed from the system		
Inactive - IS	In the system used before 2010, if a voter moved to another county, a new entry had to be made for them and the old entry was moved to an IS status. Individuals with this code will also have another code for the related entry that was created in the new system. The other code will either be an active code or an inactive code, depending on the individual's current status. Both codes are needed to keep historical records. This code has not been utilized since 2010. Now, an individual's voter record follows them from county to county.	Only on computer system at SEC
Inactive - IT	In the system used before 2010, the voter accidentally had two registrations created. When this was discovered, SEC had to make one registration inactive. This code was used to make it inactive. Technically this could still happen (i.e., accidentally registrations). SEC could not simply delete the duplicate registration because SC requires all entries in the system remain permanently.	Only on computer system at SEC

*as of 2021 elections. Both were not available in every county in past years