

ERIC: THE BEST DATA MONEY CAN'T BUY

How the Left Fooled States Into Boosting Democratic Turnout—and How to Stop It

WRITTEN BY

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THIS REPORT WAS MADE
POSSIBLE BY ORIGINAL
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HONEY AND VERITY VOTE

In elections, good data separates the winners from the losers.

Left-wing operatives understand this better than anyone, which is why they've built the world's most impressive machine to find, register, and turn out their preferred voters—all using tax-exempt nonprofits created to encourage charity, not politics. Activists label it "civic participation" because they're benignly registering people to vote. In reality, they're cynically helping just Democrats vote.

Conservatives have witnessed the awesome power of this election machine in states like Georgia and Arizona. But there's one component they've yet to reckon with: the Electronic Registration Information Center, better known as "ERIC." ERIC is a 501(c)(3) public charity, not a government agency; yet this privately run organization has incredible access to sensitive information on 208 million Americans—62 percent of the total population—across 31 states. [1]

ERIC claims it uses this data strictly to help its member states maintain clean voter rolls by tracking when voters



move, die, or fall off the registration list. The more states that join the compact, the theory goes, the more accurately ERIC can funnel information to them.

Yet shocking new discoveries about the compact's origins reveal ERIC's true purpose: Compiling a near-perfect picture of where America's voters—and potential voters—live nationwide, driving Democratic victories in battleground states. Amazingly, ERIC's membership agreement forces states to conduct expensive voter registration campaigns, yet does not require states to clean their voter rolls, the very reason most states enrolled in the compact. [2]

[1] <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2022/2022-national-state-population-estimates.html>

[2] https://ericstates.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ERIC_Bylaws_and_Membership_Agreement_June_2022_FINAL_FOR_PUBLICATION.pdf

This is ERIC's value to the Left, the best data money can't buy.

Of course, ERIC doesn't operate alone—and that's the point. Through its founder, partisan super-lawyer David Becker, the compact acts as an acceptable, nonpartisan face for activist groups bent on undermining America's elections. Becker heads the controversial Center for Election Innovation and Research (CEIR), which aims to expand voting-by-mail while falsely accusing conservative critics of threatening election officials and spreading "election denialism." [3] In 2020, CEIR spread nearly \$70 million in funds from liberal billionaire Mark Zuckerberg to the states, funding Maryland's get-out-the-vote effort targeting Baltimore and counties bordering Washington, D.C. [4]

Becker himself is a former senior activist for the far-left People for the American Way and ex-U.S. Justice Department litigator, where colleagues identified him as an "unethical," "hard-core leftist" who "couldn't stand conservatives." [5]

Yet Becker remains a non-voting board member for ERIC, which funnels valuable voter data to CEIR, and acts as an informal spokesman for the ostensibly neutral group. In some ways, Becker didn't so much leave the organization he founded a decade ago as rolled it into his growing activist network.

What's clear is that ERIC needs to go—and fast. The alternative is electoral suicide for the Republican Party.



David Becker, ERIC founder and partisan elections lawyer

Expanding the Electorate

While ERIC was created in 2012, its roots begin with the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* in 2010.

Many on the Left feared that the decision protecting money as free speech under the First Amendment to the Constitution would seal the Democratic Party's fate unless radical steps were taken to bolster turnout. As the Brennan Center, a source of many proposed left-wing election "reforms," put it in an April 2010 report: [6]

"Citizens United shook all who care about American democracy. But even before the U.S. Supreme Court's radical ruling handed vast new power to corporations and their allies, it was plain: **our political system is broken**. The forces of the status quo are greater than anyone could have imagined. Congress is dysfunctional. Special interests have generated gridlock and blocked change. This past year showed that **unless we repair our democracy, the progressive agenda will stall.**"

[3] <https://capitalresearch.org/article/exposing-marylands-partisan-zuckerberg-funded-2020-turnout-operation/>

[4] <https://legalnewsline.com/stories/555822683-mark-zuckerberg-beneficiaries-promoting-fair-elections-not-exactly-non-partisan-as-advertised>

[5] <https://electioninnovation.org/2023/03/01/webinar-election-denialism-in-america/>

[6] Susan M. Liss, Michael Waldman. "Renewing Democracy After *Citizens United*." Brennan Center for Justice. April 2010. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/renewing-democracy-after-citizens-united>

The Brennan Center's solution was to bring "millions of new voters onto the rolls through a modernized registration system—starting in 2010." [7]

Amazingly, these organizations began using the phrase "voter registration modernization" simultaneously whenever they discussed the now-pressing need for a central data warehouse to "fix" state voter rolls, a sure sign of close coordination. [8] The left-leaning Bipartisan Policy Center, for instance, bragged in 2016 about Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe's new "voter registration modernization" system allowing residents to register online, an early Pew proposal. [9] The litigation group Common Cause still lists under the banner "voter registration modernization" its suggestions of automatic voter registration, Election Day registration, and even pre-registration for high school students. [10]

In short, Democratic strategists had come to believe that they could not reliably win majorities with America's current electorate, so they proposed creating a new one. Their weapon of choice: Mass nonprofit voter registration campaigns.

Microtargeting

By 2010 sophisticated microtargeting techniques allowed campaigns to identify and reach highly specific demographics in targeted areas—every single white female college graduate under 30 in a given congressional district, for instance.

This thesis—mining data for new voters instead of winning over existing voters—drove the Left's election strategy for the past decade. With up-to-date data, campaigns need not waste resources on voters who won't support their agenda. David Plouffe, President Obama's campaign manager, put it this way: "The perfect list is the aspiration of all political campaigns . . . We must . . . ensure that our lists are as close to perfect as possible . . . This is the only way we can win." [11]

Building those lists was likely one of the reasons billionaire mega-donor George Soros helped found and remains a beneficial owner of Catalist LLC (formerly Data Warehouse), which provides: [12]

"innovative, consolidated voter data services in the progressive political marketplace...that will allow progressives to realize the advantages of data-driven campaigns that increase the precision and power of fundraising and outreach efforts."

But Catalist's formidable "enhanced national voting-age person database" would only work with registered voters. What about low-propensity, left-leaning people not on the voter rolls?

Statistics suggest that nearly 80 percent of newly registered voters will vote in the election cycle in which they register. One 501(c)(3) group estimates that it costs them between \$44 and \$52 to register a new voter; but once that individual votes he'll typically vote in the next two to three election cycles on his own initiative. [13]

Full Name (Last name first, if individual)
Soros, George
Business or Residence Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)
c/o Catalist L.L.C., 1101 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20005
Check Box(es) that Apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Promoter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beneficial Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> General and/or Managing Partner

Source: Catalist LLC Filing with Securities Exchange Commission

[7] Susan M. Liss, Michael Waldman. "Renewing Democracy After Citizens United." Brennan Center for Justice. April 2010. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/renewing-democracy-after-citizens-united>

[8] <https://www.restorationofamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/brennan-center-voter-registration-modernization-polcny-summary-2009.pdf>

[9] <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/blog/virginia-voter-registration-dmv/>

[10] <https://www.commoncause.org/our-work/voting-and-elections/voter-registration-modernization/>

[11] David Plouffe. A Citizen's Guide to Beating Donald Trump. Penguin Audio, 2020.

[12] https://www.restorationofamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Soros_BeneficialOwner_Catalist.pdf

[13] <https://capitalresearch.org/article/charity-or-billions-for-the-lefts-voter-pipeline-part-1/>

The Brennan Center estimated in 2010 that there were perhaps 65 million eligible-but-unregistered individuals nationwide, many of whom fit the Democrats' traditional constituencies (young, unmarried, LGBTQ, non-white, college-educated, etc.). [14] Operatives labeled these "underrepresented groups" the "New American Majority" or "Rising American Electorate," pinning all hope for a permanent Democratic majority on their engagement. [15] The Democracy Alliance, which represents the Left's top donors and foundations, considered their turnout so "central to progressive long-term success" that it dedicated multiple pooled funds to "build[ing] political power [and] organizational capacity" among New American Majority voters. [16]

A secret 2015 strategy memo developed for these mega-donors boasted that "large-scale, multi-year voter registration programs" could "fundamentally reshape the electorate in as many as 13 states" by 2020, exclusively by registering "non-white" residents and ignoring unregistered voters who lean right. The budget: \$105-\$210 million, much or most of it paid for by tax-exempt foundations.

The trick is to use 501(c)(3) nonprofits, not party committees (PACs). A 2019 donor memo from the partisan turnout group Mind the Gap explains:[17]

"The most effective tactic in a Presidential year by a wide margin is **nonpartisan voter registration focused on underrepresented groups...** Provided that such efforts are well-designed and executed, on a pre-tax basis they are **2 to 5 times more cost-effective at netting additional Democratic votes than the tactics that campaigns will invest in** (chiefly, broadcast media and digital buys).

Because **90 percent of the contributions** we are recommending for voter registration and GOTV [get-out-the-vote] efforts **will go to 501(c)(3) organizations** and hence are tax-deductible, on after after-tax basis **such programs are closer to 4x to 10x more cost-effective** than the next best alternative. They are also eligible recipients of donations from donor-advised funds and private foundations."

The IRS only permits 501(c)(3)s to conduct nonpartisan registration and GOTV drives (all nonprofits are officially "nonpartisan"), meaning they cannot be biased in favor of one candidate or party or even have the effect of favoring just one side. [18] [19]

Leftist groups cleverly use demographics—think the New American Majority—to circumvent this restriction. One such group is the 501(c)(3) Voter Participation Center, which mailed 85.5 million voter registration applications to potential voters ahead of the 2022 midterms explicitly targeting "people of color, young people, and unmarried women," all likely Democratic voters. [20] [21] If that's not evidence enough of bias, in his 2012 book *The Victory Lab: The Secret Science of Winning Campaigns* liberal journalist Sasha Issenberg described the center's activities as an end-run around the IRS prohibition: [22]

"Even though the [Voter Participation Center] was officially nonpartisan, for tax purposes, there was no secret that the **goal of all its efforts was to generate new votes for Democrats.**"

ERIC's Data-Driven Origins

Yet all this microtargeting machinery is only as good as the voter files that inform it. Critically, while Catalist and others could purchase those voter files, no such list of unregistered people exists.

[14] <https://www.restorationofamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/RenewingDemocracy.pdf>

[15] <https://www.influencewatch.org/app/uploads/2022/06/voter-participation-center-demographics-2018.pdf>

[16] <https://www.scribd.com/doc/290885467/Democracy-Alliance-State-Funds-Fall-2015#>

[17] <https://capitalresearch.org/app/uploads/Mind-The-Gap-Internal-memo.pdf>

[18] [https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-ban-on-political-campaign-intervention-by-501c3-organizations-get-out-the-vote-activities#:~:text=Can%20a%20section%20501\(c,any%20candidate%20or%20political%20party.](https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-ban-on-political-campaign-intervention-by-501c3-organizations-get-out-the-vote-activities#:~:text=Can%20a%20section%20501(c,any%20candidate%20or%20political%20party.)

[19] <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/the-restriction-of-political-campaign-intervention-by-section-501c3-tax-exempt-organizations>

[20] <https://watchdoglab.substack.com/p/did-855-million-mailings-from-one>

[21] <https://www.voterparticipation.org/red-box/>

[22] <https://www.amazon.com/Victory-Lab-Science-Winning-Campaigns/dp/0307954803>

Source: Verity Vote, 2022

Goals	Lead Grantees	2010 Accomplishments and Program-Development Activities
Assure broad and equal access to the ballot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Brennan CenterPew Center on the StatesAdvancement Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">High-level Committee to Modernize Voter Registration launched to make modernization centerpiece of reform dialogue.Public education about military voter registration spurred passage of federal legislation.Some states eliminated paper-based registration and allowed online registration.Hosted expert discussions.

The Case for Voter Registration Modernization
BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

VOTER REGISTRATION MODERNIZATION AND THE NVRA:
How Paperless Information Technologies Can Help States Better Implement The National Voter Registration Act

UPGRADING DEMOCRACY
Improving America's Elections by Modernizing States' Voter Registration Systems

VERITY VOTE
<https://web.archive.org/web/20170410040029/http://soros.dleaks.com/view?id=ivmus>

State motor vehicle departments and other agencies collect vital information on potential voters, but that data is inaccessible to companies under federal privacy laws. Worse, the most desirable demographic—young people—typically have no credit history or utilities in their name, making them virtually invisible to political data vendors. What was needed to reach this electoral goldmine was a central database on all 65 million eligible-but-unregistered individuals, but that was impossible with traditional data-collecting methods.

Enter ERIC

ERIC began life in 2012 as a project of the Pew Center on the States (an arm of the liberal funder Pew Charitable Trusts) under David Becker, Pew's director of election initiatives. If the goal was to get states to share valuable voter data with a private organization, ERIC needed a powerful selling point and the guise of political neutrality. So for the next four years Becker led the push to lobby nearly two-thirds of the states into joining ERIC—always marketing it as an opportunity to improve their voter rolls more effectively and affordably than they could do themselves.

Early ERIC funding came from George Soros's Foundation to Promote Open Society, which granted \$725,000 in 2011 "to support the Pew Center on the States' voter registration modernization initiative" and "expand [its] scope and scale."

The idea for ERIC may even have originated with Soros, who after all had previously helped found the Democrats' premier data firm, Catalist. In 2010, Soros' Open Society Foundations (OSF) revealed its goal of using voter registration "modernization" programs as cover to convince states they needed outside help to maintain their voter rolls. OSF termed it "reform dialogue."

OSF rallied two more left-wing organizations to the cause: the Brennan Center and Advancement Project, both of which oppose voter ID laws and lobby for the Left's usual raft of election "reforms" such as same-day registration and felon re-enfranchisement. (Recall that the Brennan Center had already called for mass voter registration campaigns "through a modernized registration system" to advance the "progressive agenda" beginning in 2010.

Hidden Intentions

A Pew Center on the States report in 2010 couched ERIC's true goal of gathering voter data this way: [23]

"The private sector consistently draws upon a much wider array of data sources to verify an individual's information than is currently used by election offices. Bringing this same approach to voter rolls—**specifically, comparing registration records against data from multiple sources and multiple states**—would enable election officials to ensure that their files reflect the most up-to-date and accurate information on eligible voters in their jurisdiction."

[23] <https://www.restorationofamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/pew-center-on-the-states-upgrading-democracy-2010-report.pdf>

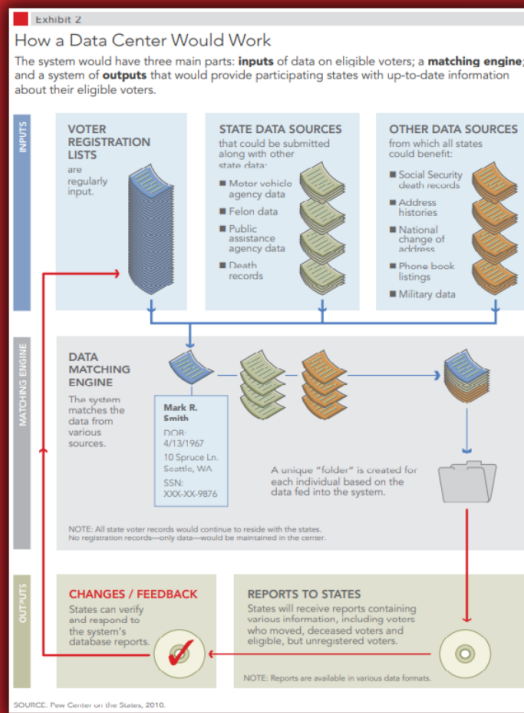
Pew proposed a “common data exchange” in which member states would “submit their current lists and motor vehicle data” to a “data center,” which would “standardize, collate, and match” it with “data such as U.S. Postal Service National Change of Address information, Social Security death index data,” “felon data,” citizenship status for naturalized Americans, “public assistance agency data,” “individual address history,” “military data . . . for military members and their families,” “state tax data,” and “university data [on] student names, ages and addresses.” [24]

ERIC uses sophisticated data-matching software developed by Jeff Jonas, a data scientist who developed the product for supermarket chains and casinos to reveal complex consumer relationship information. [25][26] Becker has called Jonas the “mastermind behind the software and architecture that powers ERIC.” [27][28] Jonas also sits on the group’s advisory board and is a board member for Becker’s other organization, the Center for Election Innovation and Research (CEIR). [29][30]

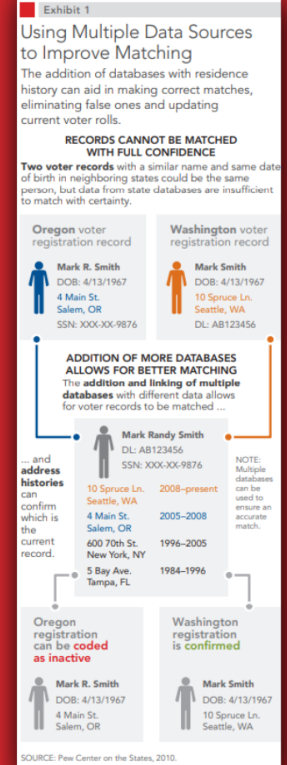
Pew’s proposed data center would supposedly be “controlled by the states.” [31] By 2012, seven had joined. But these states did not conceive of ERIC nor draft the membership agreement. In fact, Pew’s blueprint for ERIC and the technology that powered it were published two years before the first state submitted its membership agreement.

ERIC membership requires that states transmit all inactive and active voter files in their registration databases and “all licensing or identification records contained in” their DMVs “at least every sixty (60) days.”

[24] <https://www.restorationofamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/pew-center-on-the-states-upgrading-democracy-2010-report.pdf>
 [25] <https://verityvote.us/eric-sharing-data-with-zuckerburg-funded-ngo/>
 [26] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBVaTqN_Wj4
 [27] <https://electioninnovation.org/2017/03/02/a-plan-for-2017-and-beyond/>
 [28] <https://web.archive.org/web/20221209120932/https://electioninnovation.org/2017/03/02/a-plan-for-2017-and-beyond/>
 [29] <https://ericstates.org/who-we-are/>
 [30] <https://web.archive.org/web/20221209120932/https://electioninnovation.org/2017/03/02/a-plan-for-2017-and-beyond/>
 [31] <https://www.restorationofamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/pew-center-on-the-states-upgrading-democracy-2010-report.pdf>
 [32] <https://capitalresearch.org/article/the-lefts-taxpayer-funded-voter-registration-machine-part-2/>



Source: Pew Center on the States, 2010



These files must include a given individual’s name, address, date-of-birth, driver’s license or state ID number, Social Security Number (last four digits), phone number, and email address—private information no data vendor in America has access to.

In a single stroke, ERIC had succeeded in building the most comprehensive, widespread, and valuable voter file the country had ever seen—updated practically in real-time. With it, a campaign could become unbeatable. Amazingly, this feat had been achieved with a tremendous lie, yet Republican lawmakers were only too happy to play along.

Feeding the Left’s Election Machine

Given ERIC’s shady origins, it’s no surprise that its riches ended up in the clutches of Becker’s newest group, the Center for Election Innovation and Research (CEIR), which he established in 2016.

It’s important to point out that, unlike ERIC, CEIR does not pretend to political neutrality. The group has received six-figure grants from the Democracy Fund, a major funder to left-wing causes bankrolled by eBay founder and Democratic donor Pierre Omidyar. [32]

From: Jenny Lovell <jlovel[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 3:28 PM
To: Alligood, Mak; Phifer, Brandon; Hill, Brian; Matthews, Jason; Evans, Blake; Gabriel Sterling; Harvey, Chris
Cc: Erica Frazier; Jacob Kipp; Haas, Ericka
Subject: EBU Randomization Complete

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there!

I've just finished randomizing your EBU list. I will be giving you a handful of files which I will describe below. To get them to you, we'll simply reverse the transfer process: I'll send the files to ERIC and they'll get them to you. Your list has been divided into two groups: the treatment group and the control group. Mailers will go out to the treatment group first. Mailers should be sent to the control group at least *two weeks after* the initial mailing.

Source: Verity Vote, 2022

In 2020, 99 percent of the \$12 million CEIR granted in Michigan to a virtually inactive nonprofit ultimately ended up in the coffers of two Democratic consulting firms, which conducted “nonpartisan voter registration” using ads urging Michiganders to vote. (It's very likely the firms aimed their messages at likely Democrats.) [33]

CEIR is a creature of the Left, which makes its close relationship with ERIC alarming.

A September 2020 email from CEIR researcher Jenny Lovell to Georgia elections officials describes a complex process: ERIC data is transferred to CEIR, which generates a list of eligible-but-unregistered individuals to target with registration mailers (paid for by states); that list is then transmitted from CEIR back to ERIC, and finally on to the states. [34]

Put another way, a partisan third party is directing taxpayer-funded registration drives using sensitive voter data acquired from ERIC, with no public oversight or accountability. It's difficult to imagine the Left tolerating such a unique scheme if CEIR was a conservative organization, yet ERIC would have the public believe this is perfectly acceptable.

More concerning still is that we don't know with whom CEIR shares this voter data. Catalyst? Left-wing voter registration nonprofits? That lawmakers cannot answer these questions draws ERIC's trustworthiness into serious doubt.

Forced Registration

Hidden in ERIC's membership agreement is a provision requiring states to attempt to register the eligible-but-unregistered individuals uncovered by the data it accumulates, or else risk being booted from the compact—hence the list generated by CEIR.

For obvious reasons, ERIC downplays this requirement in public—its 2020 IRS Form 990 disclosure merely notes that it helps members “educate eligible citizens on how to register to vote”—but the ERIC-friendly Advancement Project puts it very differently: [35] [36]

“ERIC states are also required to contact eligible, but unregistered people and “educate them on the most efficient means to register to vote.” Registering the unregistered is mandatory. Indeed, ERIC states are required to initiate contact with at least 95 percent of people identified by ERIC who are **eligible or potentially eligible to vote**. Failure to comply results in *automatic removal* of the state from ERIC membership.”

[33] <https://thestarnewsnetwork.com/2021/08/05/zuckerberg-funded-nonprofit-paid-11-8-million-to-democrat-political-consulting-firms-for-nonpartisan-voter-education-in-michigan-2020-election/>

[34] <https://www.restorationofamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Jenny-Lovell-Email.jpg>

[35] <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/455389681/202210269349300901/IRS990>

[36] <https://capitalresearch.org/app/uploads/advancement-project-eric-qa-2015.pdf>

It's unclear what "potentially eligible to vote"—as opposed to merely "eligible to vote"—means. The document also asks, "Does the program [ERIC] result in the reduction of unlawful double voting?" The answer given: "ERIC's purpose is not to reduce the number of alleged double voters." [37]

Mass registration drives are not inexpensive. The Virginia Department of Elections estimated in 2020 that the total cost of its ERIC membership and "associated mailing costs" average \$300,000 per year, just \$39,000 of which accounts for dues. [38]

To offset the added expense, Pew Charitable Trusts offered grants from 2014 to 2017 to help states "in making the initial outreach to eligible citizens who are not registered to vote"—provided they join ERIC by a deadline set by the foundation. [39] (Pew also subsidized ERIC itself through 2019.) In exchange, Pew demanded information on: [40]

- States' total voting-eligible population and population transfers with other ERIC states
- States' total voting-eligible population and population transfers with other ERIC states
- Their "commitment to partnering [with Pew] on research regarding the most effective contact and outreach strategies"
- The "percentage of mailing costs that the state is willing to contribute"
- And the "availability of online voter registration currently or in the near future" in said states.

The Red State Exodus

Fortunately, Republicans are fighting back in force.

In January 2022, Louisiana became the first state to exit ERIC after Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin announced that "possibly partisan actors" may be using "ERIC network data for political purposes, potentially undermining voter confidence." Louisiana was one of the first states to join ERIC, beginning in 2014, a major blow to the organization's credibility. [41]

Later that year Alabama's newly elected secretary of state, Wes Allen, announced he would withdraw the state from ERIC as his first act in office, a pledge he made good on in early 2023. [42] Amazingly, Allen campaigned in part on exiting ERIC thanks to the work of grassroots election integrity groups active in Alabama. In February 2023 he visited ERIC's headquarters in Washington, D.C., only to discover "that the location was actually the home of a virtual shared workspace and that no ERIC headquarters existed at the location." From Allen: [43]

"What I found was that there was no ERIC headquarters at that address. There were no employees. There were no servers. There was no ERIC presence of any kind. Instead, I found a virtual office that is rentable by the day. What it was missing was people, servers and any sign of the ERIC team."

The turning point came on March 6, 2023, when Florida, West Virginia, and Missouri announced they were departing ERIC and would immediately cease to send data to the compact. [44]

Their reasons were devastating. Missouri pointed out that ERIC failed to address issues of multi-state voters and required "unnecessary mailings."

West Virginia criticized ERIC's "partisanship in voter registration and list maintenance, much less in the administration of our nation's elections."

[37] <https://capitalresearch.org/app/uploads/advancement-project-eric-qa-2015.pdf>

[38] <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formswarehouse/maintenance-reports/2020-List-Maintenance-Report-Final.pdf>

[39] <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2015/02/24/mailling-assistance-grants-now-available-for-new-eric-participants>

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2015/02/24/mailling-assistance-grants-now-available-for-new-eric-participants>

<https://capitalresearch.org/app/uploads/Pew-Charitable-Trusts-ERIC-State-Financial-Assistance-Voter-Registration-2016.pdf>

<https://capitalresearch.org/app/uploads/pew-charitable-trusts-eric-grant-application-2017.pdf>

[40] <https://studylib.net/doc/8422043/electronic-registration-information-center-mailling-assist...>

[41] <https://www.wdsu.com/article/louisiana-to-suspend-participation-in-electronic-voter-registration-service/38916773>

[42] <https://www.sos.alabama.gov/index.php/newsroom/secretary-state-wes-allen-officially-withdraws-eric-organization>

[43] <https://www.sos.alabama.gov/index.php/newsroom/wes-allen-finds-vacant-virtual-office-eric-address>

[44] <https://dos.myflorida.com/communications/press-releases/2023/press-release-florida-withdraws-from-electronic-registration-information-center-eric-amid-concerns-about-data-privacy-and-blattant-partisanship/>

https://www.wvnews.com/news/wvnews/west-virginia-resigns-from-electronic-registration-information-center/article_f68b2bc4-bc50-11ed-b356-5b309dab29c3.html

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/default.aspx?PageId=10296>

Florida expressed frustrations over its year-long efforts “to reform ERIC through attempts to secure data and eliminate ERIC’s partisan tendencies, all of which were rejected.” “We have lost confidence in ERIC,” Secretary of State Cord Byrd explained.

A few days later elections officials in Alaska and Texas announced they were considering withdrawing her state from the compact, with distraught leftists calling it a “conspiracy theory whirlwind” by “right-wing voting fraud activists.” [45][46] Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose threatened to pull his state out of ERIC if the compact didn’t drop its registration requirements. [47]

State officials suggested that they were considering building another version focused on cleaning voter rolls without ERIC’s troublesome requirements. Regardless, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 already requires states to maintain accurate voter lists, something they’re already equipped to do without a vulnerable third-party data warehouse. [48]

It’s time for the rest of ERIC’s members to follow suit, starting with Republican-led states: Alaska, Georgia, Iowa, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Virginia. Toss in Kentucky, a conservative

state with a Democratic governor, and no shortage of ERIC skeptics, and an exodus of red states would cripple ERIC’s ability to gather effective data and render it practically worthless to the Left. A voter file limited to Democratic strongholds would be far less valuable, though still dangerous.

Remember that the “problem” of voter roll maintenance was contrived to enable the “solution”—ERIC—to send valuable voter data to third-party organizations such as CEIR, with little-to-no accountability.

Many of ERIC’s claims ring hollow. Interstate sharing of private information on individuals who aren’t registered to vote does nothing to enhance voter roll quality. Voters receive no benefit from states sharing this personally identifiable information, only partisans looking for an election edge.

Republicans must understand that they can maintain clean, accurate voter rolls without resorting to a private third-party organization like ERIC. Interstate agreements are already common—in fact, they’re mandated by the 2002 Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The Social Security Administration shares death records with states through the Help America Vote Verification (HAVV) system. State voter rolls are updated when a registered voter submits his change-of-address form to the local DMV.

U.S. Postal Service partners submit those change-of-address records to state agencies. And many states mandate the use of other agency data for voter list maintenance.

Here’s the bottom line: It’s time the states get serious about exiting ERIC. The future of our elections is at stake.

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[45] <https://www.adn.com/politics/alaska-legislature/2023/03/09/election-chief-says-she-is-evaluating-alaskas-membership-in-voter-fraud-system/>

[46] <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/03/09/texas-voting-eric/>

[47] <https://www.cleveland.com/news/2023/03/secretary-of-state-frank-larose-threatens-to-pull-ohio-out-of-anti-voter-fraud-group-targeted-by-conservatives.html>

[48] <https://www.justice.gov/crt/national-voter-registration-act-1993-nvra>