Question 5: The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative

Executive Summary

Question 5: The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative is a statewide statutory ballot initiative that will be placed before Nevada's registered voters at the November 6, 2018, General Election that proposes to amend State law from an "opt-in" voter registration system to an "opt-out" system. When completing a transaction through the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), such as an application for a new driver's license or a Nevada Identification Card, a renewal, or an address change, individuals would be registered to vote automatically unless they affirmatively decline in writing their intent to opt out of voter registration.

A "YES" vote means that when processing certain transactions at the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), including applications for new driver's licenses or Nevada Identification Cards, renewals, or address changes, individuals would be registered to vote automatically unless they affirmatively decline in writing their intent to opt out of voter registration.

A "NO" vote means that State law would not be amended to establish automatic voter registration (AVR). The current "opt-in" voter registration at the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) would remain in place.

Our intent, in the pages that follow, is to summarize the primary arguments for and against the measure and to answer questions voters may have. The following are the questions this Voter Guide addresses:

- 1. What is Question 5: The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative?
- 2. Why is it coming before the voters?
- 3. What happens if it passes?
- 4. What happens if it fails to pass?
- 5. What are the primary arguments for Question 5: The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative?
- 6. What are the primary arguments against Question 5: The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative?
- 7. What is the expected financial impact to the State and local governments if this initiative passes?
- 8. Have other states implemented automatic voter registration (AVR)?

The Guinn Center will not take a position on Question 5.

Question 5: The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative

1. What is Question 5: The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative?

The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA; "motor voter") of 1993 requires states to "offer voter registration opportunities at State motor vehicle agencies." Amongst other provisions, NVRA mandates that certain state agencies be designated for the registration of voters and specifically provides for the simultaneous application for voter registration and motor vehicle driver's license. In the 68th (1995) Legislative Session, Assembly Bill (AB) 619 was enacted, which set forth Nevada's conforming procedures with NVRA, including the designation of voter registration agencies. Accordingly, the legislation designated the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) as one of the State's voter registration agencies.

Current Nevada law requires individuals "who [apply] for the issuance or renewal of a driver's license or identification card issued by the DMV...opt in in order to register to vote." This means that, upon application for a new driver's license or a Nevada Identification Card, as well as a renewal or address change, individuals must affirmatively declare their intent to be registered to vote through the completion of a voter registration application. This is referred to as an "opt-in" system.

Question 5: The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative is a statewide statutory ballot initiative that will be placed before Nevada's registered voters at the November 6, 2018, General Election that proposes to amend State law from an "opt-in" voter registration system to an "opt-out" system.⁶ When completing a transaction through the DMV, individuals would be registered to vote automatically unless they affirmatively decline in writing their intent to opt out of voter registration.⁷ Thus, automatic voter registration (AVR) is considered an "opt-out" system. Under both current and proposed law, the DMV, the Nevada Secretary of State, and county election officials would cooperate with one another in coordinating functions related to the voter registration process.⁸

Question 5 reads:

Shall Chapter 293 of the Nevada Revised Statutes be amended to establish a system that will automatically register an eligible person to vote, or update that person's existing Nevada voter registration information, at the time the person applies to the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles for the issuance or renewal of any type of driver's license or identification card, or makes a request to change the address on such a license or identification card, unless the person affirmatively declines in writing?⁹

If the ballot measure passes in November 2018, it would become State law, effective on passage and approval. Specific AVR procedures, as proposed for Nevada, are detailed in Appendix A (see page 10).

^a Motor voter applies to personal identification documents issued by State motor vehicle authorities, driver's license renewals, and changes of address. *Source*: U.S.C. §§ 20501–20511, Public Law No. 103-31, 107 Stat. 77 (1993). Available: http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title52/subtitle2/chapter205&edition=prelim.

2. Why is it coming before the voters?

Question 5: The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative is a statutory initiative petition that seeks to amend State law. "Qualified statutory initiative petitions go to the Nevada Legislature prior to appearing on the ballot. If the Legislature approves the initiative, it becomes law. However, if the Legislature rejects the initiative or fails to take action on the initiative within 40 days, the initiative is presented to the voters at the next general election." The *Nevada Constitution* establishes these timeline and procedures. 11

The Nevadans for Modern and Secure Elections Political Action Committee (PAC) circulated a petition and filed it with the Nevada Secretary of State's Office. The Nevada Legislature received Initiative Petition (IP) 1 from the Nevada Secretary of State on February 6, 2017. IP1 was passed by the Nevada Legislature but was vetoed by Governor Brian Sandoval on March 21, 2017. The governor's Veto Message expressed support for the goal of "encouraging more eligible Nevadans to register to vote." However, Governor Sandoval's veto turned on the claim that initiation of voter registration is the responsibility of the individual, rather than the State, and that the "opt-out" system associated with automatic voter registration (AVR) abrogates this "core freedom." By virtue of the governor's veto, pursuant to procedural requirements for statutory initiative petitions, IP1 must be presented to the voters at the subsequent General Election, that is, November 2018. It is designated as Question 5.

3. What happens if it passes?

If Question 5 passes in November 2018, State law would be amended to change Nevada's voter registration system from "opt-in" to "opt-out." When processing certain transactions at the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), including applications for new driver's licenses or Nevada Identification Cards, renewals, or address changes, individuals would be registered to vote automatically unless they affirmatively decline in writing their intent to opt out of voter registration.

4. What happens if it fails to pass?

Failure to pass in the November 2018 General Election would mean that State law would not be amended to establish automatic voter registration (AVR). The current "opt-in" voter registration at the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) would remain in place.

5. What are the primary arguments for The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative?

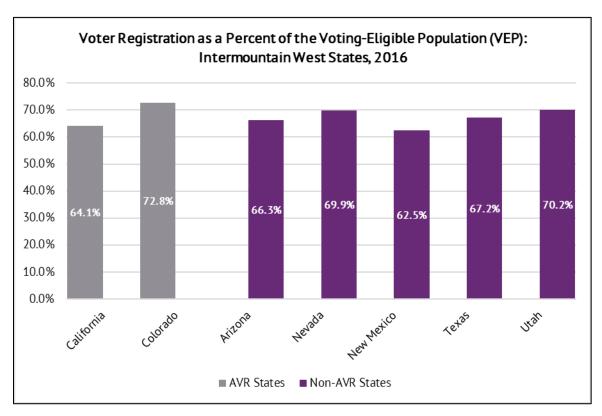
This section addresses two primary arguments in favor of Question 5: The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative: (1) elimination of a voting barrier; and (2) accuracy of voter rolls and election security.

Elimination of a Voting Barrier

Figure 1 displays data on voter registration as a percent of the voting-eligible population (VEP) for the Intermountain West states in 2016; it also indicates whether or not the state has automatic voter

registration (AVR).^b (For data on total registered voters, VEP, and voter registration as a percent of VEP for all 50 states and the District of Columbia, see Appendix B [page 11]; the question "Have other states implemented automatic voter registration (AVR)?" [page 9] includes a map of states, by AVR status, as of July 2018.)

Figure 1. Voter Registration as a Percent of the Voting-Eligible Population (VEP): Intermountain West States, 2016^{18}



In Nevada, voter registration as a percent of VEP is 69.9 percent, which ranks it third highest in the Intermountain West, after Colorado (72.8 percent) and Utah (70.2 percent). Its registration rate is 1.7 percentage points higher than the U.S. average of 68.2 percent (see Appendix B; page 11). Voter registration is not distributed evenly across all groups in Nevada, however. For example, in 2016, older individuals were registered to vote at disproportionately higher rates than their younger counterparts. Those aged 65 and over had a voter registration rate of 78.1 percent, whereas those in the 18-24 cohort had a voter registration rate of 47.3 percent, for a gap of 30.8 percentage points.¹⁹

Proponents of AVR contend that structural barriers to voting persist throughout the American political system, creating gaps and potential inequities. The American Bar Association, a legal society, identifies the following as present-day voting obstacles: photo ID requirements at the polls; limits on early voting; proof of citizenship; disenfranchisement of those with felony convictions; voter roll purges; and voter registration restrictions.²⁰

3

^b The voting-eligible population (VEP) is the number of people of voting age, or the voting-age population (VAP), that are eligible to vote.

As recently as 2014:

Ten states passed laws making it harder for citizens to register. These include laws curbing voter registration drives (in Florida, Illinois, Texas, and Virginia); rules requiring voters to provide documentary proof of citizenship when registering (in Alabama, Kansas, Tennessee, and previously in Arizona); laws eliminating the highly popular same-day registration (in Nebraska and North Carolina); and a law making it harder for people who move to stay registered (in Wisconsin). Voter registration problems, which tend to pass under the radar, have long been the single greatest barrier to voting, causing millions of lost votes per year. Unless your state has same-day registration, if you are not registered, you cannot vote. One in four eligible Americans is not registered, and millions more have outdated registrations.²¹

Voter registration is a prerequisite for voting. That is, an individual cannot vote unless he or she is registered first. As one study notes, "registration is the only thing that all otherwise eligible voters are required to do before they vote. Thus, registration is the critical step forward, the one thing that we must necessarily improve if we want more people to vote, even if many other factors ultimately determine whether people vote."²² The report finds that 3 to 4 million Americans missed state voter registration deadlines and thus were prohibited from voting.²³ As such, it posits that AVR would have allowed these individuals to vote, as automatic voter registration would have mitigated the deadline-inducing barrier.²⁴

Therefore, proponents of AVR argue that it closes voter registration gaps and increases the number of individuals on the voter rolls by eliminating one of the obstacles to voting: "a properly designed AVR system will directly empower eligible citizens to vote by eliminating the procedural hurdles that suppress voter registration." The basic premise is what might be termed "automatic enfranchisement," whereby routine transactions at motor vehicle departments, such as driver's license renewals and address changes, amongst others, reduces—if not eliminates—cognizance of registration deadlines and/or application submissions. ²⁶

Evidence from states that have enacted AVR provisions suggests that this policy can increase voter registration. Oregon was the first state to implement AVR in 2016; after the first 47 business days, it added 34,410 new voters to the rolls.²⁷ This represents a quadrupling of rates at Oregon's motor vehicles offices.²⁸ Vermont implemented AVR on January 1, 2017, and the first six months of data showed an increase of 62 percent when compared to the same time frame in 2016.²⁹ California implemented AVR in April 2018, and one estimate indicates that the Golden State's rolls could be expanded by 2 million people, which is about one-third of the eligible but unregistered population in that state.³⁰ In Nevada's Clark County, a projected 120,000 voters could be enrolled in the first year following implementation.³¹

Accuracy of Voter Rolls and Election Security

Supporters of AVR contend that it enhances the accuracy of voter rolls and promotes election security. The Brennan Center for Justice, a nonpartisan law and policy institute at the New York University School of Law, states, "The policy keeps voter rolls more accurate by creating a constant stream of updates between registration agencies and election officials and by reducing the odds of mistakes caused by processing paper registration forms by hand. Cleaner rolls reduce errors that cause delays on Election Day and prevent eligible voters from casting regular ballots."³²

One difficulty confronting election officials in the maintenance of clean voter rolls is address changes under the current "opt-in" system. While individuals may visit the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) annually to renew their car registrations, they need only update their driver's licenses or Nevada Identification Cards every four or eight years.³³ The two systems are not connected, so typically, it is only when processing a driver's license or state ID renewal that addresses are changed, despite many people having moved in the interim.³⁴ This suggests that if individuals are not likely to change their addresses after having moved, they may be equally unlikely to process paperwork to update their voter registration.³⁵

The online DMV portal that permits address changes has mitigated some of these problems, at least with regard to driver's license and state ID updates.³⁶ Thus, the "opt-out" system established through AVR would permit a simultaneous transaction, bringing address changes and voter registration into alignment. Thus, proponents argue that, "Automatic registration also will lead to cleaner voter registration rolls because the process updates existing registrations with current addresses."³⁷ In fact, the estimate of 120,000 new voter registrations per year for Clark County, discussed above, accounts for those individuals who are currently inactive but who otherwise may be eligible to vote if their records were updated.³⁸

Proponents also note that AVR would require new software in Nevada to transmit voter registration information securely from the DMV to the Secretary of State and county clerks. This could help strengthen the election security infrastructure in the State. In its statement of support for Question 5, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) asserted, "Streamlined systems and upgraded software will lead to cleaner, more secure voter rolls while eliminating common voter registration errors." ³⁹

6. What are the primary arguments against The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative?

This section addresses two primary arguments against Question 5: The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative: (1) state infringement on an individual right; and (2) insufficiency of measure for voter turnout.

State Infringement on an Individual Right

As noted previously in the question "Why is it coming before the voters?" (page 2), Governor Brian Sandoval vetoed automatic voter registration (AVR) after its having passed both chambers of the Nevada Legislature in the 79th (2017) Legislative Session as Initiative Petition (IP) 1. The text of his Veto Message articulates the argument that AVR represents the state infringement of an individual right. It states:

IP1 advances a worthy goal by encouraging more eligible Nevadans to register to vote. However, such a result must partner with sound policy. IP1 fails this test because it extinguishes a fundamental, individual choice—the right of eligible voters to decide for themselves whether they desire to apply to register to vote—forfeiting this basic decision to state government. Supporters of IP1 argue that the government's provision of an "opt-out" from the automatic application process substitutes for the decision by the individual to apply to register to vote. However, the core freedom of deciding whether one wishes to initiate voter registration belongs to the individual, not the government.⁴⁰

Opponents thus claim that "replacing the opt-in system with an opt-out would remove agency from individuals who otherwise would have had the choice to decide to register themselves." They argue that it is not within the government's purview to foist voter registration on individuals and that AVR may

constitute a violation of a person's First Amendment rights.⁴² As such, some opponents view AVR as a threat to civil liberties. One opponent stated, "Automatically registering individuals to vote without their permission would also violate their basic right to choose whether they wish to participate in the U.S. political process. Indeed, this new scheme threatens one of American's most cherished liberties: the freedom to be left alone by the government."⁴³

Some data exists to support the idea that not all Americans wish to vote or even be registered to do so. The Pew Charitable Trusts conducted a nationally representative survey in 2016, and the sample contained "a large population of unregistered individuals." Forty-four (44) percent of respondents cited "I don't want to vote, so I don't need to register" as the reason for their declining to be registered. In Oregon, where AVR was implemented in 2016, 34,410 individuals were added to the voter rolls in the first 47 business days, but 2,417 individuals chose to opt out. Hous, the data suggests that AVR, even with the "opt-out" mechanism, may infringe upon individuals' wishes not to become voters.

Insufficiency of Measure for Voter Turnout

Proponents of AVR do not support the policy as voter registration for registration's sake. Rather, the objective is to increase voter turnout and/or expand the electorate. Opponents argue, however, that voter registration does not lead to increased turnout. They argue, "Just because a voter is registered does not mean he or she will vote on Election Day." Accordingly, the connection between AVR and electoral participation is "up for debate": "Just because you're registered to vote, of course, doesn't mean you will. In fact, this program will likely end up decreasing the percentage of registered voters who turn out, given it is registering voters who never bothered to register before—and, thus, are less likely to take the time to vote." All will be a vote of the program will be a vote of the percentage of registered voters who turn out, given it is registering voters who never bothered to register before—and, thus, are less likely to take the time to vote.

The argument presupposes that internal motivations drive vote decisions. As one study observes, "...recent research has shown that the motivation to vote is especially internal: people register because they *plan* to vote. Therefore people who are registered are very likely to vote. However, people who have no interest in voting do not register to vote." Although this report does not address AVR, specifically, it suggests that the policy is moot insofar as voter registration may be an insufficient vote mobilizer. Put another way, lack of voter registration is not as much an impediment as its supporters would claim:

One detailed study of nonvoters concluded that it is "[a]nother misconception about nonvoters...that they would vote if only the [registration] process was easier." The study concluded that the reason people do not vote is because for many of them, "voting is neither duty nor ritual." They are not interested in politics, or are cynical about its outcomes, or do not believe their votes will make a difference (public choice scholarship confirms that such cynicism is often well-founded).⁵⁰

There is evidence that supports both the idea that voter registration and turnout are not equivalent and that voter registration is not the most salient barrier to voting.

Conventional wisdom holds that certain elections garner more interest than others. There is greater enthusiasm for presidential contests over midterms and all general elections, relative to primaries. The 2016 General Election is the most recent such contest, and the data suggests that gaps between registration and turnout persist. Nationwide, 64.2 percent of the citizen voting-age population (VAP) was registered to vote, while only 56.0 percent of those reported voting. In Nevada, 61.4 percent of individuals were registered, but just 53.5 percent of people indicated that they had voted. The 7.9

percentage-point gap between voter registration and turnout was lower than the national 8.2 percentage points. The gap is slightly smaller for one of the states that implemented AVR prior to the 2016 General Election, Oregon, though not substantially so: its voter registration rate was 67.4 percent, and its turnout rate was 61.0 percent, for a 6.4 percentage-point gap.⁵³

With respect to voter registration as a potential barrier to voting, Figure 2 presents the distribution of reasons for not voting in the 2016 General Election for the national electorate.

As the pie chart shows, just 4.4 percent of those surveyed cited registration problems as a reason for not voting. Of the 11 possible reasons, this ranks it fifth from the bottom, that is, as a greater barrier than "Forgot to Vote" (3.0 percent) but a lesser barrier than "Out of Town" (7.9 percent). The most significant reason for not having voted in the 2016 General Election was "Did Not Like Candidates or Campaign Issues" at 24.8 percent.

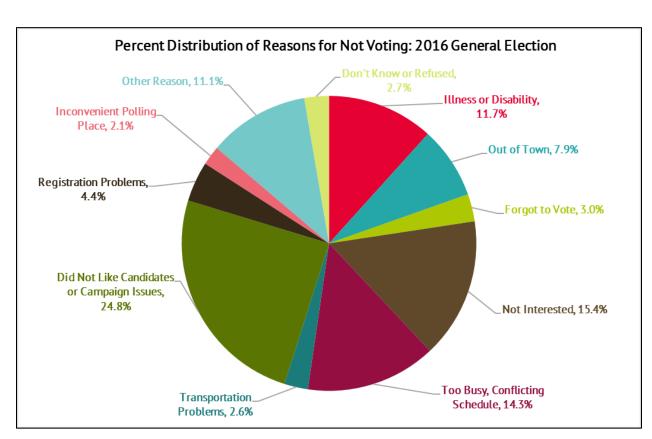


Figure 2. Percent Distribution of Reasons for Not Voting: 2016 General Election⁵⁴

^c The basis for this figure is the U.S. Census Bureau's Voting and Registration Supplement to the Current Population Survey, which is fielded every two years. *Source*: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 2017. "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2016." Available: https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/voting-and-registration/p20-580.html.

7. What is the expected financial impact to the State and local governments if this initiative passes?

The Fiscal Analysis Division of the Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau prepared a financial impact statement for Question 5: The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative; this Fiscal Note accompanies the ballot measure in the Nevada Secretary of State's informational booklet on the 2018 statewide ballot questions. The Fiscal Analysis Division stated, "Although it is clear that implementing Question 5 will have some financial impact on state agencies and local governments, the costs incurred will depend on the nature of the system that is cooperatively established by the Secretary of State, the DMV and the county clerks as required by Question 5."55

Tables 1A and 1B contain compilations of the financial impact to the State, based on the Fiscal Note, and for the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Nevada Secretary of State, respectively. Table 1C outlines estimated implementation costs for Nevada's counties.

Table 1A. Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV): Estimated Compliance Costs⁵⁶

Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV): Estimated Compliance Costs			
<u>Provisions</u>	Estimated Amount		
1,000 hours of computer system programming	\$60,000		
Revision of current applications for driver's licenses and state identification cards; issuance of postcards to notify applicants that their voter information has been transmitted to the Secretary of State's Office	\$56,000 (per fiscal year)		

Table 1B: Nevada Secretary of State: Possible Scenarios⁵⁷

Nevada Secretary of State: Possible Scenarios				
<u>Provisions</u>	Estimated Amount			
The DMV would be required to work directly with the county clerks and registrars to develop a system to electronically transfer voter registration information collected by the DMV. No data would pass through any systems operated by the Secretary of State; however, the Secretary of State's Office may be required to provide advice and assistance to the DMV and the county clerks and registrars using existing staff. This scenario assumes that data transfers between the county clerks and registrars and the Secretary of State to update the current Statewide Voter Registration List would continue under the current processes.	\$0			
The Secretary of State's office would act as a conduit and pass voter registration information collected by the DMV to the county clerks and registrars using existing applications, connections, software, and systems maintained by both the DMV and the counties. Under this scenario, the bulk of the project responsibilities regarding the secure automated download programs required under Question 5 would lie with the DMV and/or the county clerks and recorders.	\$110,000			
The Secretary of State's Office would be required to enhance existing applications, connections, software, and systems to automatically integrate voter registration information collected by the DMV into the local voter registration systems operated by the county clerks and registrars.	\$221 000			



The Secretary of State's Office, in concert with the DMV and the county clerks and registrars, would be required to develop a statewide voter registration database compliant with the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). To maintain compliance with HAVA, the statewide database would be required to be a single, uniform, official, centralized, interactive computerized statewide voter registration list defined, maintained, and administered at the state level. In addition, the statewide database would be required to be coordinated with other agency databases within the state.

\$4.8 million

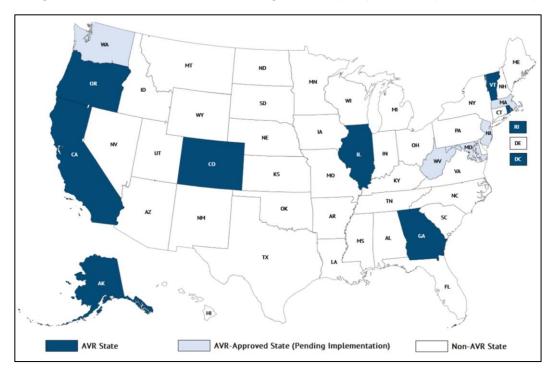
Table 1C: Counties: Estimated Implementation Costs⁵⁸

Counties: Estimated Implementation Costs			
<u>Provisions</u>	Estimated Amount		
Systems programming	\$0 - \$200,000		
One-time and ongoing expenses for additional personnel, voter machines, voter registration cards, sample ballots, and absentee ballots that may result from a potential increase in the number of registered voters	\$1,000 per year – \$500,000 per year		

8. Have other states implemented automatic voter registration (AVR)?

Eight states (Alaska, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont), plus the District of Columbia, have implemented automatic voter registration (AVR) as of July 2018.⁵⁹ An additional five states—Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Washington, and West Virginia—have approved AVR, though implementation is still pending in each of these states (see Figure 3).⁶⁰

Figure 3. Status of Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), by State (as of July 2018)61



Appendix A. Procedural Details of Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) in Nevada, as Proposed⁶²

According to the "Explanation & Digest," which accompanies Question 5: The Automatic Voter Registration Initiative in the Nevada Secretary of State's informational booklet on the 2018 statewide ballot questions, the following procedures are expected to be instituted if the ballot measure passes in November 2018:

Overview

The Nevada Secretary of State, the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and each county clerk would "establish a system that automatically registers to vote an eligible person when the person submits an application for the issuance or renewal of or change of address for any type of driver's license or identification card issued by the DMV."

- Those already registered to vote would have his (her) voter registration information updated in the system automatically.
- If the person does not want to vote, he (she) may affirmatively decline to do so in writing.

Election Security

The cooperative system (established by the Secretary of State, DMV, and county clerks) would require voter registration information to be transmitted electronically from the DMV to the Secretary of State and county clerks for the purposes of: (1) voter registration; (2) updates to voter registration information; and/or (3) corrections to the statewide voter registration list.

- "[E]lectronic transmission of voter registration information must be secure."
- "The storage of any voter registration information collected pursuant to the measure must also be secure."

Notifications

Each individual who completes a voter registration transaction at the DMV (i.e., a new driver's license, a new Nevada Identification Card, renewal, address change, etc.) must be notified by the DMV, as follows:

- "The qualifications to vote in Nevada;
- That the person will be automatically registered to vote unless he or she affirmatively declines in writing;
- That indicating a political party affiliation or no political party affiliation is voluntary;
- That the person may indicate a political party affiliation on the voter registration form;
- That the person will not be able to vote at a primary election for candidates for partisan offices of a major political party unless the person indicates a major political party affiliation;
- That the decision of whether to register to vote or not will not affect the person's transactions with the DMV or the DMV's services;
- That the person's decision regarding whether to register to vote or not cannot legally be disclosed to the public; and
- That any information collected by the DMV for automatic voter registration cannot be used for any purpose other than voter registration."

Lastly, "[a]ccording to the measure, if the person does not affirmatively decline in writing to register to vote, certain personal information will be transmitted to the appropriate county election official who will determine if the application to register to vote is complete. The county election official must notify the person if the application is incomplete and additional information is required."

Appendix B. Voter Registration as a Percent of the Voting-Eligible Population (VEP), 201663

			<u>Voter Registration as a Percent of VEP</u>
Alabama	2,526,000	3,609,447	70.0%
Alaska	358,000	522,679	68.5%
Arizona	3,145,000	4,740,310	66.3%
Arkansas	1,456,000	2,140,097	68.0%
California	16,096,000	25,104,844	64.1%
Colorado	2,893,000	3,974,406	72.8%
Connecticut	1,763,000	2,582,761	68.3%
Delaware	487,000	691,720	70.4%
District of Columbia	420,000	515,249	81.5%
Florida	9,604,000	14,601,066	65.8%
Georgia	4,892,000	6,959,963	70.3%
Hawaii	530,000	1,012,860	52.3%
Idaho	790,000	1,166,706	67.7%
Illinois	6,665,000	8,985,443	74.2%
Indiana	3,298,000	4,849,937	68.0%
Iowa	1,657,000	2,288,537	72.4%
Kansas	1,438,000	2,054,026	70.0%
Kentucky	2,253,000	3,282,420	68.6%
Louisiana	2,446,000	3,384,435	72.3%
Maine	830,000	1,058,373	78.4%
Maryland	3,114,000	4,189,616	74.3%
Massachusetts	3,660,000	4,948,028	74.0%
	5,434,000		73.2%
Michigan		7,420,629	
Minnesota	3,055,000	3,973,204	76.9%
Mississippi	1,725,000	2,191,241	78.7%
Missouri	3,333,000	4,517,925	73.8%
Montana	581,000	804,250	72.2%
Nebraska	1,008,000	1,343,821	75.0%
Nevada	1,371,000	1,961,587	69.9%
New Hampshire	763,000	1,042,795	73.2%
New Jersey	4,165,000	6,013,656	69.3%
New Mexico	916,000	1,464,515	62.5%
New York	9,142,000	13,604,645	67.2%
North Carolina	5,194,000	7,352,501	70.6%
North Dakota	424,000	566,783	74.8%
Ohio	6,128,000	8,736,808	70.1%
Oklahoma	1,861,000	2,778,219	67.0%
Oregon	2,147,000	3,024,174	71.0%
Pennsylvania	6,909,000	9,691,160	71.3%
Rhode Island	538,000	786,012	68.4%
South Carolina	2,575,000	3,709,283	69.4%
South Dakota	437,000	631,173	69.2%
Tennessee	3,251,000	4,909,426	66.2%
Texas	11,724,000	17,448,910	67.2%
Utah	1,398,000	1,991,885	70.2%
Vermont	351,000	494,871	70.9%
Virginia	4,399,000	6,027,153	73.0%
Washington	3,906,000	5,123,020	76.2%
West Virginia	913,000	1,423,031	64.2%
Wisconsin	3,323,000	4,285,071	77.5%
Wyoming	304,000	429,682	70.7%
United States	157,596,000	230,931,920	68.2%

Board of Directors

Dana Lee

Chair

Tom Gallagher

Vice Chair

Stephanie Tyler

Vice Chair

Deane Albright, CPA

Secretary/Treasurer

Kathleen Conaboy

Dr. Michael Daubs

Alex de Castroverde

Jill Derby, Ph.D.

Dan Hamilton, Ph.D.

Carol Harter, Ph.D.

Doreen Spears Hartwell

Pat Hickey

Mick Hitchcock, Ph.D.

Nicole Lamboley

Ken Ladd

Erin McMullen

Chris Roman

Douglas Seastrand

Donald D. Snyder

David B. Walker

Renée Yackira

Missy Young

About the Guinn Center

The Kenny C. Guinn Center for Policy Priorities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, bipartisan, independent policy institute focused on providing fact-based, relevant, and well-reasoned analysis of critical policy issues facing Nevada and the Intermountain West. The Guinn Center engages policy-makers, experts, and the public with innovative, data-driven research and analysis to advance policy solutions, inform the public debate, and expand public engagement.

© 2018 Kenny C. Guinn Center for Policy Priorities. All rights reserved.

Contact information:

Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities

3281 S. Highland Drive, Suite 810

Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

Phone: (702) 916-0746 Email: info@quinncenter.org

Website: www.quinncenter.org

Nancy E. Brune, Ph.D., Executive Director

Email: nbrune@quinncenter.org

Kenneth J. Retzl, Ph.D., Director of Education Policy

Email: kretzl@quinncenter.org

Suzanne Bierman, J.D., M.P.H., Director of Health Policy

Email: sbierman@quinncenter.org

Meredith A. Levine, M.A., M.Phil., Director of Economic Policy

Email: mlevine@guinncenter.org

Tony S. Foresta, M.A., Research Fellow

Email: tforesta@quinncenter.org

Lorena Rodriguez, Chief Organizer & Bilingual Policy Analyst

Email: lrodriguez@quinncenter.org

REFERENCES

¹ U.S. Department of Justice. 2017. "The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA): Questions and Answers." Available: https://www.justice.gov/crt/national-voter-registration-act-1993-nvra.

² U.S.C. §§ 20501–20511, Public Law No. 103-31, 107 Stat. 77 (1993). Available: http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title52/subtitle2/chapter205&edition=prelim.

³ Nevada State Legislature. 68th (1995) Session. "Assembly Bill 619, as Enrolled." Available: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/68th1995/95bills/AB619 EN.TXT.

⁴ Nevada State Legislature. 68th (1995) Session. "Assembly Bill 619, as Enrolled." Available: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/68th1995/95bills/AB619_EN.TXT; and Nevada Revised Statutes. § 293.504. Available: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-293.html#NRS293Sec504.

⁵ Nevada Secretary of State. 2018. "Statewide Ballot Questions: To Appear on the November 6, 2018 General Election Ballot." Page 41. Available: https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=5824.

⁶ Nevada Secretary of State. 2018. "Statewide Ballot Questions: To Appear on the November 6, 2018 General Election Ballot." Available: https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=5824.

⁷ Nevada Secretary of State. 2018. "Statewide Ballot Questions: To Appear on the November 6, 2018 General Election Ballot." Available: https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=5824.

⁸ Nevada Secretary of State. 2018. "Statewide Ballot Questions: To Appear on the November 6, 2018 General Election Ballot." Available: https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=5824.

⁹ Nevada Secretary of State. 2018. "Statewide Ballot Questions: To Appear on the November 6, 2018 General Election Ballot." Page 39. Available: https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=5824.

¹⁰ Nevada Secretary of State. "Filing a Statutory Initiative." Available: https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/ initiatives-referenda/filing-a-statutory-initiative.

¹¹ Nev. Const. art. 19 § 2(3). Available: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Const/NVConst.html#Art19Sec2.

¹² Nevada Secretary of State. "2018 Petitions and General Election Ballot Questions." Available: https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/elections/initiatives-referendums/2018-petitions.

¹³ Nevada State Legislature. 79th (2017) Session. "IP1: Bill History." Available: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Reports/history.cfm?DocumentType=9&BillNo=1.

¹⁴ Nevada State Legislature. 79th (2017) Session. "IP1: Bill History." Available: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Reports/history.cfm?DocumentType=9&BillNo=1.

¹⁵ State of Nevada, Governor Brian Sandoval. "RE: Initiative Petition No. 1 of the 79th Legislative Session." March 21, 2017. n.p. Available: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Reports/VetoMessages/IP1_79th_VetoMessage.pdf.

¹⁶ State of Nevada, Governor Brian Sandoval. "RE: Initiative Petition No. 1 of the 79th Legislative Session." March 21, 2017. n.p. Available: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Reports/VetoMessages/IP1_79th_VetoMessage.pdf.

¹⁷ Nevada Secretary of State. 2018. "Statewide Ballot Questions: To Appear on the November 6, 2018 General Election Ballot." Available: https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=5824.

¹⁸ Figure 1 constructed by the Guinn Center. Voter registration as a percent of VEP calculated by the Guinn Center. Data on "Total Registered" (2016) obtained from: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. "Table 4a: Reported Voting and Registration, for States: November 2016." Available: https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/tables/p20/580/table04a.xlsx; data on the voting-eligible population (VEP; 2016) obtained from: United States Election Project. "2016 November General Election Turnout Rates." September 5, 2018. Available: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VAcF0eJ06y_8T402qvlL4YcyQy8pxb1zYkqXF76Uu1s/edit?usp=sharing.

¹⁹ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. "Table 4c: Reported Voting and Registration, by Age, for States: November 2016." Available: https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/tables/p20/580/table04c.xlsx.

- ²⁰ Denise Lieberman. "Barriers to the Ballot Box: New Restrictions Underscore the Need for Voting Laws Enforcement." American Bar Association. October 23, 2012. Available: https://www.americanbar.org/ publications/human_rights_magazine_home/2012_vol_39_/winter_2012_-_vote/barriers_to_the_ballotboxnewrestrictionsunderscoretheneedforvoti/.
- ²¹ Wendy R. Weiser. "Voter Suppression: How Bad? (Pretty Bad)." *American Prospect*. October 1, 2014. Available: http://prospect.org/article/22-states-wave-new-voting-restrictions-threatens-shift-outcomes-tight-races.
- ²² Liz Kennedy, Lew Daly, and Brenda Wright. 2015. "Automatic Voter Registration: Finding America's Missing Voters." Demos. Page 9. Available: https://www.demos.org/sites/default/files/publications/AVR-0.pdf.
- ²³ Liz Kennedy, Lew Daly, and Brenda Wright. 2015. "Automatic Voter Registration: Finding America's Missing Voters." Demos. Available: https://www.demos.org/sites/default/files/publications/AVR_0.pdf.
- ²⁴ Liz Kennedy, Lew Daly, and Brenda Wright. 2015. "Automatic Voter Registration: Finding America's Missing Voters." Demos. Available: https://www.demos.org/sites/default/files/publications/AVR_0.pdf.
- ²⁵ Liz Kennedy, Lew Daly, and Brenda Wright. 2015. "Automatic Voter Registration: Finding America's Missing Voters." Demos. Page 17. Available: https://www.demos.org/sites/default/files/publications/AVR 0.pdf.
- ²⁶ National Conference of State Legislatures. "Automatic Voter Registration." October 23, 2018. Available: http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/automatic-voter-registration.aspx.
- ²⁷ Jonathan Brater. "Automatic Voter Registration in Oregon a Huge Success." Brennan Center for Justice. April 8, 2016. Available: https://www.brennancenter.org/blog/automatic-voter-registration-oregon-huge-success.
- ²⁸ Brennan Center for Justice. "Automatic Voter Registration." July 24, 2018. Available: https://www.brennan.center.org/analysis/automatic-voter-registration.
- ²⁹ Brennan Center for Justice. "Automatic Voter Registration." July 24, 2018. Available: https://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/automatic-voter-registration.
- ³⁰ On the implementation date in California, see: Brennan Center for Justice. "History of AVR & Implementation Dates." July 24, 2018. Available: https://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/history-avr-implementation-dates; and on the expansion of voter rolls, see: Mary Plummer. "Automatic Voter Registration Could Have A Big Impact By 2020 Election." NPR. April 18, 2018. Available: https://www.npr.org/2018/04/18/603693118/automatic-voter-registration-could-have-a-big-impact-by-2020-election.
- ³¹ Alison Noon. "Report: 'Motor Voter' Law Could Cost Nevada as Much as \$5M." *Reno Gazette-Journal*. February 14, 2017. Available: https://www.rgj.com/story/news/politics/2017/02/14/report-motor-voter-law-could-cost-nevada-much-5m/97921204/.
- ³² Brennan Center for Justice. "Automatic Voter Registration." July 24, 2018. Available: https://www.brennan.center.org/analysis/automatic-voter-registration.
- ³³ Terri Albertson, Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Director. "MINUTES: Testimony Before the Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections." February 14, 2017. Available: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Minutes/Assembly/LOE/Final/168.pdf.
- ³⁴ Terri Albertson, Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Director. "MINUTES: Testimony Before the Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections." February 14, 2017. Available: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Minutes/Assembly/LOE/Final/168.pdf.
- ³⁵ State of Nevada, Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections. "MINUTES." February 14, 2017. Available: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Minutes/Assembly/LOE/Final/168.pdf.
- ³⁶ Terri Albertson, Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Director. "MINUTES: Testimony Before the Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections." February 14, 2017. Available: https://www.leq.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Minutes/Assembly/LOE/Final/168.pdf.
- ³⁷ National Conference of State Legislatures. "Automatic Voter Registration." October 23, 2018. Available: http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/automatic-voter-registration.aspx.
- ³⁸ Joseph P. Gloria, Registrar of Voters, Clark County. "MINUTES: Testimony Before the Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections." February 14, 2017. Available: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Minutes/Assembly/LOE/Final/168.pdf.

- Guinn VOTER IN
- ³⁹ American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). "ACLU Backs Question 5 Campaign to Implement Automatic Voter Registration." September 12, 2018. Available: https://www.aclu.org/news/aclu-backs-question-5-campaign-implement-automatic-voter-registration.
- ⁴⁰ State of Nevada, Governor Brian Sandoval. "RE: Initiative Petition No. 1 of the 79th Legislative Session." March 21, 2017. n.p. Available: https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Reports/VetoMessages/IP1_79th_VetoMessage.pdf.
- ⁴¹ Jacob Solis. "The Indy Explains: Question 5, an Effort to Automatically Register People to Vote at the DMV." *The Nevada Independent*. October 2, 2018. Available: https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/indy-explainer-question-5.
- ⁴² National Conference of State Legislatures. "Automatic Voter Registration." October 23, 2018. Available: http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/automatic-voter-registration.aspx.
- ⁴³ Hans von Spakovsky. "Mandatory Voter Registration: How Universal Registration Threatens Electoral Integrity." The Heritage Foundation. March 27, 2013. Available: https://www.heritage.org/report/mandatory-voter-registration-how-universal-registration-threatens-electoral-integrity.
- ⁴⁴ Pew Charitable Trusts. "Why Are Millions of Citizens Not Registered to Vote?" June 21, 2017. Available: https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2017/06/why-are-millions-of-citizens-not-registered-to-vote#0-overview.
- ⁴⁵ Pew Charitable Trusts. "Why Are Millions of Citizens Not Registered to Vote?" June 21, 2017. Available: https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2017/06/why-are-millions-of-citizens-not-registered-to-vote#0-overview.
- ⁴⁶ Cascade Business News (CBN). "Upcoming May Primary Spurs Uptick in Oregon Motor Voter Party Selection." *Cascade Business News*. April 14, 2016. Available: http://cascadebusnews.com/upcoming-may-primary-spurs-uptick-oregon-motor-voter-party-selection/.
- ⁴⁷ National Conference of State Legislatures. "Automatic Voter Registration." October 23, 2018. Available: http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/automatic-voter-registration.aspx.
- ⁴⁸ Amber Phillips. "How to Argue About Automatic Voter Registration, as Oregon Gets the Ball Rolling." *Washington Post*. February 13, 2016. Available: <a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/13/how-to-argue-about-automatic-voter-registration-as-oregon-gets-the-ball-rolling/?utm_term="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/13/how-to-argue-about-automatic-voter-registration-as-oregon-gets-the-ball-rolling/?utm_term="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/13/how-to-argue-about-automatic-voter-registration-as-oregon-gets-the-ball-rolling/?utm_term="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/13/how-to-argue-about-automatic-voter-registration-as-oregon-gets-the-ball-rolling/?utm_term="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/13/how-to-argue-about-automatic-voter-registration-as-oregon-gets-the-ball-rolling/?utm_term="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/13/how-to-argue-about-automatic-voter-registration-as-oregon-gets-the-ball-rolling/?utm_term="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/13/how-to-argue-about-automatic-voter-registration-as-oregon-gets-the-ball-rolling/?utm_term="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/13/how-to-argue-about-automatic-voter-registration-as-oregon-gets-the-ball-rolling/?utm_term="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/13/how-to-argue-about-automatic-voter-registration-as-oregon-gets-the-ball-rolling/?utm_term="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/13/how-to-argue-about-automatic-voter-registration-as-oregon-gets-the-ball-rolling/?utm_term="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/13/how-to-argue-about-automatic-voter-registration-as-oregon-gets-the-ball-rolling/?utm_term="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/14/how-to-argue-about-automatic-voter-registration-as-oregon-gets-the-ball-rolling/?utm_term="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/how-to-argue-about-about-about-about-abo
- ⁴⁹ Randall D. Lloyd. n.d. "Motor Voter: A Dismal Failure." *Nevada Journal*. Available: http://archive.nevada-journal.com/nj99/02/vote.htm.
- ⁵⁰ Hans von Spakovsky. "Mandatory Voter Registration: How Universal Registration Threatens Electoral Integrity." The Heritage Foundation. March 27, 2013. Available: https://www.heritage.org/report/mandatory-voter-registration-how-universal-registration-threatens-electoral-integrity. The study to which the refers is: Jack C. Doppelt and Ellen Shearer. 1999. *Nonvoters: America's No-Shows*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- ⁵¹ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. "Table 4a: Reported Voting and Registration, for States: November 2016." Available: https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/tables/p20/580/table04a.xlsx.
- ⁵² U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. "Table 4a: Reported Voting and Registration, for States: November 2016." Available: https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/tables/p20/580/table04a.xlsx.
- ⁵³ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. "Table 4a: Reported Voting and Registration, for States: November 2016." Available: https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/tables/p20/580/table04a.xlsx.
- ⁵⁴ Figure 2 constructed by the Guinn Center. Data obtained from: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. "Table 10: Reasons for Not Voting, by Selected Characteristics: November 2016." Available: https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/tables/p20/580/table10.xlsx.
- 55 Nevada Secretary of State. 2018. "Statewide Ballot Questions: To Appear on the November 6, 2018 General Election Ballot." Page 47. Available: https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=5824.

 15



- ⁵⁶ Adapted from the "Fiscal Note" accompanying Question 5. See: Nevada Secretary of State. 2018. "Statewide Ballot Questions: To Appear on the November 6, 2018 General Election Ballot." Page 45. Available: https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=5824.
- ⁵⁷ Quoted directly from the "Fiscal Note" accompanying Question 5. See: Nevada Secretary of State. 2018. "Statewide Ballot Questions: To Appear on the November 6, 2018 General Election Ballot." Pages 45-46. Available: https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=5824.
- ⁵⁸ Adapted from the "Fiscal Note" accompanying Question 5. See: Nevada Secretary of State. 2018. "Statewide Ballot Questions: To Appear on the November 6, 2018 General Election Ballot." Page 47. Available: https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument?id=5824.
- ⁵⁹ Brennan Center for Justice. "History of AVR & Implementation Dates." July 24, 2018. Available: https://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/history-avr-implementation-dates.
- ⁶⁰ Brennan Center for Justice. "History of AVR & Implementation Dates." July 24, 2018. Available: https://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/history-avr-implementation-dates.
- ⁶¹ Figure 3 constructed by the Guinn Center based on data obtained from: Brennan Center for Justice. "History of AVR & Implementation Dates." July 24, 2018. Available: https://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/history-avr-implementation-dates.
- ⁶² All information in Appendix A adapted or quoted directly from the "Explanation & Digest" accompanying Question 6. See: Nevada Secretary of State. 2018. "Statewide Ballot Questions: To Appear on the November 6, 2018 General Election Ballot." Pages 39-40. Available: https://www.nvsos.gov/sos/home/showdocument? id=5824.
- 63 Appendix B compiled by the Guinn Center. Voter registration as a percent of VEP calculated by the Guinn Center. Data on "Total Registered" (2016) obtained from: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. "Table 4a: Reported Voting and Registration, for States: November 2016." Available: https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/tables/p20/580/table04a.xlsx; data on the voting-eligible population (VEP; 2016) obtained from: United States Election Project. "2016 November General Election Turnout Rates." September 5, 2018. Available: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VAcF0eJ06y_8T4o2gvIL4YcyOy8pxb1zYkgXF76Uu1s/edit?usp=sharing.