



Electronic Registration Information Center (**ERIC**)^{1,2} is a membership organization, with member-states paying an initiation fee and then annual fees determined by the size of the state. ERIC is part of a web of progressive partisan entities seeking to change elections to suit their goals. Member states periodically submit their voter rolls for review, ostensibly to identify incorrect and outdated voter information. To fully understand ERIC, one must know more about the people, causes, and political leanings behind ERIC and its cohort.

THE MURKY ORIGINS OF ERIC

2009: David Becker^{3,4} served as General Counsel for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) during the Bernie Madoff Ponzi Scheme investigation. Becker's family had invested with Madoff, but Becker did not recuse himself from the investigation. When this relationship was discovered, Becker was reprimanded by the Office of the Inspector General.⁵

2012: Becker, the former director of the left-leaning People for the American Way,^{6,7} founded Electronic Registration Information Center (**ERIC**), underwritten by the Pew Charitable Trust^{8,9} and the George Soros Open Society Foundation.^{10,11} Becker remains active in ERIC today.

2015: Former Obama Foundation^{12,13} Fellow Tiana Epps-Johnson founded the Center for Tech and Civic Life (**CTCL**),^{14,15} another 501(c)(3). Mark Zuckerberg¹⁶ directed \$328 Million (commonly referred to as "Zuck Bucks") to the organization, which then "granted" the funds to left-leaning segments of the electorate in the run-up to the 2020 election.

2016: Becker founded the 501(c)(3) Center for Election Innovation and Research (**CEIR**).^{17,18} CEIR received \$70 Million in "Zuck Bucks," which it then directed to progressive Secretaries of States to increase the voter turnout in left-leaning areas.

2022: Becker and CEIR founded the 501(c)(3) Election Official Legal Defense Network (**EOLDN**).^{19,20} EOLDN offered free legal assistance to election officials against "attacks" by watchdog groups and to combat "disinformation" about elections.

These entities are important because of their relationship with ERIC and the amount – and sensitivity – of the data they can access. ERIC currently sends Texans' Personal Identifiable Information (PII) to CEIR. CEIR then works with another entity, Senzing,²¹ to create an EBU (Eligible but unverified) voter registration list. Texas has no contract with CEIR or other third-

Want to visit ERIC?

You might be surprised to learn that the entity entrusted with managing voter data for 31 states and the District of Columbia is located in a virtual office in Washington, DC.

ERIC uses a DaVinci Virtual Office, located at 1201 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036.

Just as surprising is that ERIC has only three remote employees to police the voter rolls of 31 states.

These organizations frequently share directors and funding. The relationships between them are blurred and ill-defined. While these entities claim to be nonpartisan, they are founded and operated by left-leaning operatives and are funded by left-leaning foundations and donors.



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party 501(c)(3)/Becker-related entities. ERIC member states do not know the full extent of how their citizens' PII information is being used once it enters the ERIC data system.

THE DIRTY VOTER ROLLS PROBLEM

Texas knew it had a problem in 2020. That year, Judicial Watch identified 353 counties in 29 states with voter registration rates exceeding 100%.²² Texas was one of the states on the Judicial Watch list, with 33 Texas counties with more "registered voters" than eligible citizens.

Brewster	100.10%	Parker	101.93%	Chambers	108.98%
Duval	100.12%	Motley	102.01%	King	110.00%
Gillespie	100.21%	Rockwall	102.29%	Starr	110.32%
Waller	100.48%	Dimmit	103.00%	Maverick	111.51%
Crockett	100.53%	Kendall	103.46%	Zapata	114.63%
Mason	100.54%	Culberson	104.00%	Sterling	115.29%
Webb	100.57%	Oldham	104.35%	Roberts	116.12%
Kent	100.69%	Comal	105.76%	Brooks	116.56%
Fort Bend	100.71%	Polk	107.02%	McMullen	147.26%
Travis	100.90%	Jim Hogg	107.29%	Presidio	148.55%
Hudspeth	101.08%	Irion	107.98%	Loving	187.10%

Some may look at Loving County, whose 2020 Census population was 62, and wonder how or why no one noticed the smallest county in the state had 116 voters registered. But even Travis County, the home of Texas' capitol city, Austin, had more voters registered than eligible voters.

In 2020, Texas joined ERIC. Could ERIC clean up the voter rolls in these counties? Could ERIC clean up ALL of Texas' voter rolls?

Unfortunately, outside the SOS office, no one has been allowed to review the ERIC reports on Texas' voter rolls to determine what ERIC has done for Texas. Data from the ERIC website demonstrates ERIC adds more voters than it removes. This inflates voter rolls, so sometimes more than 100% of the eligible voters are registered to vote. ERIC thus functions as a left-wing get-out-the-vote organization and an intelligence-gathering Artificial Intelligence driven system.^{23,24}

California and New York DO NOT PARTICIPATE in ERIC.

Louisiana and Alabama left ERIC in 2022.

Colorado, Wisconsin, Alaska, and Washington, DC are suing ERIC.



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WHAT ERIC CLAIMS IT DOES	WHAT ERIC ACTUALLY DOES
ERIC's website states: "to improve the accuracy of America's voter rolls and increase access to voter registration for all eligible citizens."	ERIC's primary focus is to produce a national database of all potential voters. Little focus is given to removing or identifying ineligible voters, which is critical to improving voter roll accuracy.

Currently, fifteen (roughly 50%) of the ERIC member states have voter rolls containing more registrations than their citizen voting age populations. ERIC asserts Texas, a member of ERIC since 2020, has 93.3% of its eligible voters registered.^{25,26}

AL: 100.9%	MO: 94.2%	IL: 108.2%	TEXAS: 93.3%
AK: 121.7%	NV: 101%	IA: 96.7%	UT: 91.8%
AZ: 96.1%	NM: 90.9%	KY: 106.5%	VT: 98.7%
CO: 103.6%	OH: 91.5%	LA: 89.4%	VA: 97.3%
CT: 96.9%	OR: 96.4%	ME: 106.9%	WA: 100%
DE: 104.1%	PA: 92.4%	MD: 100.4%	WV: 88.5%
FL: 101.6%	RI: 102.0%	MI: 108.1%	WI: 87.8%
GA: 103.6%	SC: 101.8%	MN: 91.7%	DC: n/a

Since ERIC is focused primarily on registering voters, there is no confidence that those counties noted to have more registered voters than eligible voters in the 2020 study have cleaned their rolls. Likewise, there is no certainty as to the quality of the voter rolls in counties not identified in the 2020 study.

INTERSTATE VOTER REGISTRATION CROSSCHECK (IVRC)

Before joining ERIC, Texas participated in the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck (IVRC).²⁷

During the 84th Legislative session, Senate Bill 795,²⁸ relating to establishing an interstate voter registration crosscheck program, amended the Texas Election Code²⁹ to comply with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).³⁰ This bill was signed into law on June 15, 2015.³¹ The bill's purpose was simple: Senate Bill 795 amended the Election Code to require the secretary of state to cooperate with other states and jurisdictions to develop systems to compare voters, voter history, and voter registration lists to identify voters whose addresses have changed.

IVRC was a free service offered to states to help maintain voter roll lists. IVRC shared information between the states, and its use was encouraged to combat voter fraud.

The IVRC program compared voter registration records from one state with 27 other participating states to check for duplicate voter registrations and possible double voting.



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IVRC crosschecked over 100 million voter records. IVRC was said to have uncovered significant numbers of potential duplicate registrations.³²

After a data breach, the Crosscheck program was sued out of existence by left-leaning groups like the ACLU,^{33,34} leaving a void ERIC soon filled. In 2020, Texas joined ERIC.

ERIC IS NOT A FREE SERVICE

Texas has paid about \$1.5 million to participate in ERIC. This expenditure includes:

- \$25,000 - Initiation Fees dated 4/3/20.
- \$24,849.33 - 2020 pro-rated membership dues from 3/1/20 to 6/30/2020.
- \$74,314.00 Membership Dues for period of 7/1/2020 to 6/30/21.
- \$858,000 (dated 8.24.20) plus \$101,389.97 (dated 9/4/21) "Postage cost to mail Eligible but Unregistered (EBU) postcards to all eligible but unregistered Texans." Voter registration contact must be made per the contract.
- The cost of associated manpower is not included in the cost reports.

TEXAS' RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Our Grassroots groups researched the cost/benefit ratio of ERIC. To date, we have not obtained the documentation we requested from the Texas SOS office.

One of our members, currently serving on a Legislative research staff, was told ERIC identified 712 ineligible voters. This number was amended closer to November 2022, when it was reported that 127,074 names were provided to the Secretary of State's office for potential removal from voter rolls.

Which number is correct? Without documentation, this cannot be answered. Knowing that Texas has a growing population as so many relocate here, even the larger number is open to question.

ERIC DOES NOT REMOVE INELIGIBLE VOTERS:

Under Texas election law,³⁵ the voter registrations ERIC identifies as potentially invalid and requiring further inquiry must be sent to the registrar of the individual counties to determine voter eligibility. The public cannot be notified of any potentially ineligible voter registrations until the registrar assesses the registration. This multi-step process creates opportunities for failure.

- Texas MAY receive notification of a potential ineligible voter.
- Texas MUST notify the relevant counties.
- The County Voter Registrar MUST validate the voter's eligibility.
- The voter MAY be validated or removed.

While ERIC bylaws require members to register 95% of identified eligible but unregistered voters, REMOVING registrants suspected of being ineligible to vote is OPTIONAL for members.



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ERIC REQUIRES PERSONAL IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION

ERIC requires Texas to submit all voter registration and motor vehicle license data every 60 days.³⁶

Texas submits voter registration and motor vehicle licensee data every 60 days in compliance with the ERIC contract. The Personal Identifiable Information sent to ERIC is listed below. Note that this requirement includes the PII of TEENAGE DRIVERS who are not yet eligible to vote.

VOTER DATA AND DPS DATA TO BE UPDATED EVERY 60 DAYS

All name fields.

Affirmative documentation of citizenship.

All address fields.

The title/type of affirmative documentation of citizenship presented.

Driver's license or state ID number.

E-mail address or other electronic contact method.

Last four digits of Social Security number.

Activity dates as defined by the ERIC Board of Directors.

Date of birth.

Phone number.

Current record status.

Texas must also provide other performance-related data as well.

PERFORMANCE DATA TO BE UPDATED EVERY 6 MONTHS

Number of voter registration applications new to the Member's jurisdiction submitted by the voter on a paper form.

Number of records reported from ERIC on In-state Movers report who updated through the jurisdiction's online voter registration system (if available).

Number of new voter registration applications new to the Member's jurisdiction submitted by the voter electronically.

Number of individuals for whom contact was initiated and invited to register as a result of reports received from ERIC within the period.

Number of updates to a voter's existing voter registration submitted by the voter on a paper form.

Number of individuals for whom contact was initiated and invited to correct their registration as a result of reports received from ERIC within the period.

Number of updates to a voter's existing voter registration submitted by the voter electronically.

In addition to the requirement to share Department of Public Safety and Voter Registration records, Texas must also agree to transmit data from "other agencies" to ERIC. The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)^{37,38} specifically requires all offices that provide public assistance and all offices primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities. In Texas, these include the Department of Aging, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Department of Health and Human Services, and others. Additionally, ERIC harvests data from the Social Security/National Technical Information Service master death file³⁹ and the United States Postal Service Change of Address records.⁴⁰



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The ERIC bylaws⁴¹ require Texas to initiate contact with any potentially eligible but unregistered (EBU) voter. This is an expansion of the objective of the 2015 amendment to the Texas Election Code.⁴² The stated legislative intent of the Act was to amend *the Election Code to require the secretary of state to cooperate with other states and jurisdictions to develop systems to compare voters, voter history, and voter registration lists to identify voters whose addresses have changed.*⁴³

The goal of the 2015 amendment to the Texas Election Code was, and remains, to maintain the integrity of our voter list and prevent duplication of records.

The legislature did not intend to not start a state (taxpayer) funded voter registration drive.

The data sent to ERIC changes hands many times. The ERIC agreement sends voters' and potential voters' Personal Identifiable Information to CEIR. CEIR then sends the data to Senzing Inc,⁴⁴ which utilizes artificial intelligence to identify Eligible but Unregistered lists (EBUs). Senzing then sends the information back to CEIR, which provides the data to ERIC, and ultimately a list of EBUs is provided to Members.

There are no contract restrictions regarding data-sharing by ERIC or its third parties affiliates.

THE IMPACT OF ERIC

During 2012-2022, ERIC identified 60 million potential voters to be added to the rolls in the United States. During the 2012 presidential campaign, 5.7 million new voters were identified.⁴⁵

In the run-up to the 2020 election, ERIC identified over 17 million potential new voters, the most in the organization's history.

Since its inception, ERIC has identified 11,162,822 registrants who have moved out of state; 23,168,597 registrants who have moved in-state; 986,718 duplicate registrations; and 572,208 deceased registrants. ERIC does not validate potentially ineligible registrants or remove known ineligible registrants from voter rolls.

The ERIC database possesses sufficient EBU voter data to influence a national election.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE DATA GENERATED BY ERIC?

ERIC provides each member state with a targeted list of persons in that jurisdiction who are not registered to vote but may be eligible to vote. According to the ERIC membership agreement⁴⁶ and bylaws, each state must contact at least 95% of the ERIC-identified unregistered prospects within 90 days, soliciting them to register.

ERIC also provides a list of registrants who may need their registration amended, corrected, or purged. There is no ERIC mandate or requirement for member states to purge their voter rolls of ineligible or illegal voters. States are "encouraged" but not required to request ERIC's voter updates at least once a year.



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NVRA mandates that registrants (voters) may only be removed from the voter registration rolls if:

1. The registrant has died;
2. If the registrant confirms in writing that their address is outside the registrar's jurisdiction;
3. If the registrant asks to be removed;
4. If the registrant is deemed mentally incompetent under relevant state law;
5. If the registrant is convicted of a crime that strips them of their voting right, as provided in state law; or
6. If the registrant fails to respond to confirmation mailings along with a failure to appear to vote in two consecutive federal general elections subsequent to the mailing.

ALTERNATIVES TO ERIC THAT SATISFY TEXAS LAW

1. **Dr. John W. (Rick) Richards**⁴⁷ recently, at the Capitol with many legislators in attendance, held a live demonstration of a data management integrity program that can evaluate and identify potential issues with the Texas voter rolls. The system uses data from many of the same sources as ERIC to identify eligible but unregistered voters. This system also provides a simple way to identify possible ineligible registrants, providing local registrars with much of the data they require to determine eligibility. In the demonstration, the program found many problematic registrations statewide.

This company's principals do not have a partisan bias, and dark-money donors do not fund the company. The company's mission is to clean voter rolls, not perform voter registration. This type of program will save Texas significant taxpayer dollars and assist in advancing the confidence in our elections for ALL Texas voters. This program can be implemented at the state and county levels for maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

2. **TEXAS LAW already mandates necessary updates to the voter rolls – at no cost.** Under Texas law, county registrars must get interstate and intrastate move address changes from the USPS at least monthly (Texas Election Code 15.022)⁴⁸. Intrastate moves are automatically updated whenever driver's license data is updated (Texas Election Code 20.062).⁴⁹

TEXANS DESERVE FAIR AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS

Texas has 40 electoral votes. It is difficult for any candidate to win the presidency without Texas. Our votes must be valid and true. Failure to ensure election integrity sows discontent and mistrust of the government and our election systems.

Texas must protect the integrity of her citizens' votes and the privacy of her citizens' personal identifiable information. ERIC and its network expose this information unduly.

This is a nonpartisan issue! Dirty voter rolls can mean dirty elections. Legal votes yield lawful elections.



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QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT ERIC AND VOTER ROLLS

1. How many potential voters have the SOS contacted per ERIC's requirement? What means have they used to contact 95% of these? What is the cost of this?
2. How can we be confident that this list is unbiased and has not been manipulated?
3. Will the SOS post the records that have been removed or corrected based on the ERIC reports since the inception of the ERIC contract? If not, why not?
4. Why does ERIC request, and therefore Texas provides Inactive Voter Information?
5. The ERIC bylaws state, "Under no circumstances shall the Member transmit an individual's record where the record contains documentation or other information indicating that the individual is a non-citizen of the United States." Why? Since non-citizens are ineligible to vote, why is this important data for determining eligibility to vote prohibited?
6. What are all the databases, and what are the data elements within those databases that ERIC accesses?
7. What databases does ERIC use to verify data and provide recommendations (i.e., NCOA, SS, other)?
8. How does ERIC connect to these databases or receive data? What security provisions are in place to prevent misuse of the data? What steps are taken to prevent unauthorized access?
9. How accurate are the recommendations made by ERIC? What metrics are used to gauge the accuracy? What reports on accuracy are provided to member states?
10. What other voter registration database management software or services are used for voter roll maintenance in addition to ERIC?
11. How often and at what frequency does ERIC provide updates to Texas for the voter file?
12. How many reports and updates has ERIC delivered to Texas over the life of the contract?
13. What is the contract history with ERIC? Has the contract changed? When and how did it change?
14. What is the state's total financial obligation to ERIC, and what does that cost annually?
15. Does ERIC share Texas' state data with third parties? If any third parties have access, who shares the data, to what extent is it shared, and why is it shared?



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