



State of Vermont

Office of the Secretary of State
128 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-1101

[phone] 802-828-2363
[fax] 802-828-2496
www.sec.state.vt.us

James C. Condos, Secretary of State
Christopher D. Winters, Deputy Secretary

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For immediate release

Contact: Liz Ryder, 802-828-2148

PRESS RELEASE

**Secretary Condos Applauds VT Legislature for Passage of
Automatic Voter Registration**

Montpelier, VT – Today, the Vermont House concurred with minor amendments to H.458 Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) with a strong tri-partisan vote. As it now moves to the Governor for his signature, we are asking him to sign the bill into law.

“H.458 allows eligible Vermonters who receive their Driver’s Licenses to be automatically registered to vote. AVR saves time and money, increases the accuracy of our statewide voter checklist, curbs the potential for fraud, and protects the integrity of our elections,” said Secretary Condos.

This bill streamlines the federally mandated voter registration at the DMV with a new process that identifies and automatically adds eligible Vermonters to the statewide voter checklist electronically and without any action needed by the voter.

This will add more eligible voters to the Vermont rolls, cementing Vermont’s ranking as a state with one of the highest registration rates in the country.

“As Secretary of State, I believe voting is a sacred right – one we must protect and encourage by removing unnecessary barriers. Democracy works best when more people participate. I once again applaud the Legislature for their hard work and thank them for their nonpartisan support,” said Secretary of State Jim Condos.

Vermont would become the fourth state in the nation to enact such a law, and the first without a partisan fight on the issue. This is especially important in a time when more and more states are adding restrictions on voting rather than making it easier.

Secretary Condos specifically thanks Representative Chris Pearson for introducing the bill, Speaker Shap Smith, President Pro Tem John Campbell and Rep. Donna Sweaney (House Gov. Operations) and Senator Jeanette White (Senate Gov. Operations) for their leadership.

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Twitter: @VermontSOS

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