



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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OFFICE OF
LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

NINA MITCHELL WELLS, ESQ.
Secretary of State

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

June 10, 2008

The Honorable Barbara Buono
Senator, District 18
C/O David Rosen, Legislative Budget and Finance Officer
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 068
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0068

Dear Senator Buono:

I am writing in response to Senator Haines' question regarding the status of the Division of Elections and the State Wide Voter Registration System (SVRS) under the auspices of the Department of State.

Since the return of the Division of Elections to the Department of State, we have hired a new Director of Elections, and merged the administrative side of the Division with the more technical unit, created to implement the requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), into one division. This merged division will be physically relocated within the offices of the Department of State. The relocation will not only save rental costs, but will enable the Division to promote and ensure a level of cohesive staff integration.

The SVRS was implemented in New Jersey after Congress passed the Help America Vote Act in 2002. The SVRS provides election officials with a complete election management system. In addition to the federally-mandated centralized voter registration database, the SRVS contains the following web-based modules: voter inquiries; duplicate voters search; elections management; absentee ballot processing; poll worker management; polling place management; candidate management; petitions management; street library management; county data management; redistricting; surname analysis; state and county reports; batch scanning; system administrator functions; and security and external interfaces with various local, state and federal agencies.

Currently, the Division receives weekly transmissions from the Department of Corrections, the Parole Board, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Division of Vital Statistics and the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to improve the method by

which data is transferred from their systems to the SVRS. The Division is working towards an automated system whereby new registrants and change-of-address information could be uploaded to the SVRS in real time.

The SRVS is constantly being upgraded and system enhancements are made in response to legislative changes and in accordance with the needs of each county. In previous years, enhancement costs have approached \$1.5 million per year. These costs are expected to steadily decline because full county participation on the SVRS is nearing the one year mark.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns. Thank you and I look forward to discussion this issue and other matters at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nina Mitchell Wells". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Nina Mitchell Wells

CC: The Honorable Philip E. Haines, Senator, District 8