

NASED Statement 8-25-2017 1:15 pm

The National Association of State Election Directors (NASED) issued the following statement regarding today's report.

"While we have enjoyed a respectful relationship with academia, today's report does a disservice to that relationship and to the election administrators but even more importantly, to voters. This report regarding online voter registration pointedly minimizes procedural and technical safeguards that are already in place," Stated NASED President, Judd Choate, Colorado election director.

Thirty-four states and the District of Columbia offer online voter registration and more states will be coming on board in the coming years.

"Online voter registration has been hailed as a best practice in election administration by the leading experts in this field. In contrast, this report argues not only that online voter registration has vulnerabilities, which are in fact are no different than the paper registration, but appears to make an untenable argument for no online voter registration. A position that will only reduce voter access to the rolls," noted Lori Augino, Director of Elections in Washington State, the 2nd state to adopt online voter registration.

The report "sensationalizes the dangers by suggesting these changes could happen secretly and barely mentions the protections employed by each state with online voter registration." Said Gary Poser, Minnesota election director and former president of NASED.

The report minimizes audit and monitoring controls that states employ to track system use and the safety net afforded by the notice that voters who submit new registrations and updates receive after making changes online. The change is not automatic but instead involves identity verification and some level of system or human review.

"There is no way to systematically change voter records - each is an individual submission," added Michelle Tassinari, Massachusetts election director. "So, the suggestion that online voter registration can be used to commit a mass fraud is without merit.

Arizona was the first U.S. State to adopt online voter registration when it was introduced in 1997.

Choate, the NASED President, concluded: "Online voter registration is one of the most convenient, secure and easy-to-use options for voters to register and to update their voter registration. Arizona's 20 years using online registration without a significant incident speaks for itself. An irresponsible report like this should not overshadow the success story of online voter registration to promote voter engagement in the electoral process.