

## **FACT SHEET: U.S. Small Business Administration’s Implementation of the National Voter Registration Act and President Biden’s Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting**

*“Each State shall designate agencies for the registration of voters in elections for Federal office... Voter registration agencies may include... Federal and nongovernmental offices, with the agreement of such offices... All departments, agencies, and other entities of the executive branch of the Federal Government shall, to the greatest extent practicable, cooperate with the States in carrying out [this act].”*

**-National Voter Registration Act of 1993, §20506**

### **Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting**

On March 7, 2021, President Biden signed the [Executive Order](#) (E.O.) on Promoting Access to Voting (14019), in which he called upon all federal agencies to carry out their responsibilities under the [National Voter Registration Act](#) (NVRA). Under NVRA, states are directed to designate as voter registration agencies all offices in the state that provide public assistance, as well as federal and nongovernmental offices in the state, with the agreement of those offices. Specifically, the E.O. directs that, “The head of each agency shall evaluate ways in which the agency can, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, promote voter registration and voter participation...Each agency, if requested by a State to be designated as a voter registration agency pursuant to section 7(a)(3)(B)(ii) of the National Voter Registration Act, shall, to the greatest extent practicable and consistent with applicable law, agree to such designation.”

### **Whole-of-Government Approach**

The Executive Order extends to all executive departments and agencies, many of which have since announced [actions](#) to implement the NVRA and Executive Order. Those agencies include, but are not limited to, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Department of Education, Department of Agriculture, Indian Health Service, General Services Administration, Department of Treasury, Department of Interior, Department of Justice, Department of Defense, Department of State, [Department of Veterans Affairs](#), and [U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#). Agencies are promoting [vote.gov](#) on their websites and through their communications channels. Multiple agencies have also issued guidance on how states may designate their facilities as voter registration locations and entered into partnerships with states to provide voter registration information.

### **Access to Voter Registration Information for Small Businesses**

In the United States, there are 34 million small businesses. Together, those businesses [employ](#) more than 106 million workers, touching every community across the country. SBA serves those small businesses through a network of 68 [district offices](#), with locations in every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico—and serving each U.S. territory. SBA is a relied upon source of information for small businesses on government rules, regulations, benefits, programs, and opportunities—at the local, state, and federal level. Small business owners and workers deserve easy access to information that will help them exercise their right to vote. For these reasons, sharing information on voter registration is not just a legal obligation under

NVRA, but also a service aligned with [SBA's mission](#) to “aid, counsel, assist and protect, insofar as is possible, the interests of small business concerns” in communities across the country.

### **SBA Implementation of the NVRA and Executive Order**

Since the signing of the Executive Order, SBA has worked to carry out its role, consistent with the NVRA and all other applicable laws. SBA's implementation has consisted of two actions:

1. Promoting access to [vote.gov](#)  
Established in 2016 and maintained by the General Services Administration (GSA), [vote.gov](#) is the authoritative, trusted federal resource on voting in the United States. It connects Americans with state-specific information on voter registration, voter registration deadlines, and how to change registration upon moving to a new address. Along with other agencies, under the NVRA and Executive Order 14019, SBA has and will continue to share information on [vote.gov](#) with small business owners by maintaining the link on [sba.gov](#) and promoting the resource through digital media, to help ensure that small business owners are able to exercise their right to vote and have their voice heard in our democracy.
2. Serving as a Voter Registration Agency in all states where it is requested:  
SBA has contacted the department of elections or executive offices in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to communicate SBA's preparedness to execute its responsibilities under the NVRA, if requested by the state. SBA has cooperated with every state expressing interest in the SBA serving as a Voter Registration Agency, and the agency has accepted and will accept any state request for SBA to serve as a Voter Registration Agency that is permissible under the NVRA. Interested states should contact SBA's [Office of Field Operations](#).

The State of Michigan was the first state to designate SBA as a Voter Registration Agency under the NVRA. On March 18, 2024, SBA and the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) [signed](#) an agreement, specifying the duties to be performed by SBA as a Voter Registration Agency in the State of Michigan through Jan. 1, 2036. Under the terms of the agreement, SBA:

- Maintains a link to the [MDOS website](#) on the SBA Michigan District Office website and in other SBA materials
- Allows MDOS officials to conduct in-person voter registration at SBA's small business outreach events.

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