



## MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

LINDA McCULLOCH

STATE ADMINISTRATION

SB 33: Allow Electronic Voter Registration  
Senate State Administration, RM 335  
January 14, 2011 @ 3 PM  
Secretary of State Linda McCulloch's Testimony

Exhibit No. 6  
Date 1-14-2011  
Bill No. SB 33

- Good afternoon Mr. Chair, members of the committee. For the record, I am Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State.
- I am here today to support Senate Bill 33, an act allowing Montana citizens who possess a valid Montana driver's license or ID card to apply for voter registration online.
- Thank you Senator Wanzon for introducing this legislation, and for supporting my effort to ensure every eligible Montanan has ample opportunity to exercise their fundamental right to vote.
- Just about everywhere in Montana, and in the U.S., people are filing important documents online.
- Folks securely do their banking online, pay their bills and taxes; update their driver's license and registration; file their business Annual Reports with the Secretary of State's Office; and much more.
- One thing we can't do online in Montana is register to vote.
- Allowing Montana citizens to apply for voter registration online will not only make it more convenient for folks to register to vote, it will save county election offices a conservative \$25,000 each year.
- I'd like to stress that this bill allows online voter registration to only those Montanans who possess a valid, Montana driver's license or ID card.
- Here's how it works:
  - When you apply for a Montana driver's license, the Department of Motor Vehicles or DMV asks if you would like to register to vote.
  - They already have all your information, and you can choose to register then, or sometime later.
- I'd like for it to be clear that under current Montana law, a person does **not** have to appear in person, or show their ID, in order to register to vote. Montanans have **never** had to appear in person or show their ID to register to vote.

- It's only been since the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 that an ID number has even been required in order to register. To clarify, Montanans do not show their ID, they write that number on their voter registration card.
- For voter registration purposes, a valid ID number is either a driver's license number or the last four digits of a social security number.
- In recent years, we've enhanced Montana's elections process through the use of new technology – yet our voter registration process has remained in the virtual dark ages.
  - Voters can now access their voter registration information, including the status of their absentee ballot, online through My Voter Page on the Secretary of State's website.
    - This high level of transparency works as assurance to the public of the integrity of the registration and voting process.
  - Montana's military and overseas citizen electors can now apply for a ballot, receive a precinct-specific ballot, vote their ballot and return their ballot online through our Ballot Marking Wizard, which we implemented in 2010.
  - Candidates have the ability to file their Declarations for Nomination and campaign finance information online.
  - We also place election resources online – including the Voter Information Pamphlet, candidate forms, statistics, and Primary and General Election Results - so that the public has immediate and open access to elections information.
- Offering voter registration online is a clear step in the right direction.
- I urge you to support the fundamental right for all eligible Montanans to easily register to vote by supporting Senate Bill 33.
- Thank you for your time.