

## **The Dirty Dozen:** Top Twelve Reasons States Must Not Participate in ERIC

The Electronic Voter Registration Center is a taxpayer funded leftwing get-out-the-vote organization pretending to clean up voter rolls while exploiting private citizen data in violation of law.

- 1. **ERIC had a partisan and deceitful start**. ERIC was <u>founded with George Soros</u> <u>Open Society</u> private sector donations through the Pew Foundation in 2010. Was neither created as a "non-partisan" organization or by an association of states.
- 2. ERIC hides itself from the public view. ERIC is not transparent to the voting and taxpaying public. It appears to only have three employees and its address of record is in a 'rent-by-the-day' virtual space (see also <u>CorpOnline</u> for business filings). It hides behind its private sector status to avoid public information requests, and discourages its government members from honoring such requests. The ERIC <u>contract (section 4) prohibits member states</u> from sharing data it receives from ERIC with any third party but does NOT contain a similar prohibition against its own sharing proprietary data received from the states.
- 3. **ERIC is dishonest about its purpose**. ERIC's focus is NOT list maintenance but to exploit states' private data to identify and register <u>'eligible but unregistered'</u> individuals (EBU's.)
- 4. ERIC is run by partisan, left-wing activists. ERIC was founded and controlled until March of 2023 by David Becker, a leftwing activist who was part of the Zuckerbucks election-manipulation scheme in 2020 as Executive Director of Center for Election Innovation and Research (CEIR) – which, in a conflict of interest, also receives ERIC data for voter registration purposes. <u>He left his</u> <u>position at ERIC in March 2023</u> after six states removed themselves from ERIC in a six month period.

The current chair is Jonathan Brater, director of the Michigan Bureau of Elections under the anti-election integrity Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson who has actively blocked the removal of deceased voters from the state's voter rolls.

- ERIC violates federal law. Its contract violates federal law by prohibiting member states from making its list maintenance records public; these are public records as defined in the <u>National Voter Registration Act (NVRA</u>). <u>Click here</u> for NVRA FAQ.
- 6. ERIC unlawfully shares private citizen data with private sector third party voter registration groups. ERIC sends proprietary, nonpublic data from states to CEIR and the Revere Project, David Becker's dark money organizations engaged in election-related activities. According to Becker, Revere is designed to use the personal data gathered through ERIC to send out messages to potential voters.
- 7. **ERIC does not clean up voter rolls**. The ERIC contract does NOT require member states to take actions regarding list maintenance. Sixteen (>50%) of ERIC states have voter rolls containing more registrations than their citizen voting age populations.
- ERIC does not accept member states' input. A perfunctory ERIC task force was created by its board to gather information from members on suggested reforms. ERIC's board, led by David Becker, <u>refused to implement any meaningful recommendations</u>.
- 9. ERIC unlawfully shares private data of minor children and non-citizens. ERIC also obtains non-public, proprietary data from the DMV that includes personal information of minors, non-citizen drivers and people who have already declined to register to vote. It shares that data with third parties in apparent violation of the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act and the NVRA.
- 10. **ERIC forces taxpayers to pay for the violation of their own privacy**. ERIC is funded by state membership fees which originate from taxes collected from citizens the same citizens whose private information is shared with private sector vote gathering groups. Total fees (membership plus EBU's) can approach \$1 million per year for some states.

- 11. ERIC member states do not perform voter roll maintenance as well as non-member states. Data shows non-ERIC states <u>do better at list maintenance</u> than member states by utilizing their own procedures, state death records and federally available databases such as the USPS and NCOA.
- 12. **ERIC will not reveal its partners**. ERIC will not disclose the list of all subcontractors, contractors and vendors who have access to the sensitive private data of millions of Americans.

**The answer to ERIC?** States are given the right – and responsibility - under the U.S. Constitution to set election laws and procedures. This right was granted to empower states to protect the voting rights and privacy of their own citizens. Clean, accurate voter rolls are solely the product of state and local election officials' commitment to consistently doing list maintenance with existing tools and resources.

A detailed report and analysis of ERIC completed by Verity Vote can be found here.