

Information concerning the use of NCOA in Ohio

At the 13th annual Ohio Jury Management Conference a question came up regarding whether or not Ohio's trial court were using source lists that were updated with the National Change of Address (NCOA) service.

The following information was received from Matt Damschroeder, who was with the Franklin County Board of Elections in response to a question raised by Tom Shields of the Franklin County Municipal Court:

From: Damschroeder, Matt
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2009 2:54 PM
To: Shields, Tom
Subject: RE: registered?

848,242 is our current registration for Franklin County.

Of these, 245,735 are "inactive" meaning they haven't voted since at least May 2006 or have moved, registered with NCOA, but haven't updated their information with us.

md

From: Shields, Tom
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2009 2:58 PM
To: Damschroeder, Matthew M.
Subject: RE: registered?
Sensitivity: Confidential

How long are you required to carry the inactives?

Tom Shields
Jury Commissioner
Franklin County Municipal Court
(614) 645-7652
shieldst@fmcclerk.com

From: Damschroeder, Matthew M.
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2009 3:07 PM
To: Shields, Tom
Subject: RE: registered?
Sensitivity: Confidential

In general, there are two ways to become inactive:

1. **In the summer of an odd-numbered year, to board of elections notifies voters who have had a period of inactivity (no voter initiated activity, primarily not voting) for two regular federal general cycles (a period of 4 years that includes two federal elections) that they will be cancelled after another period of inactivity (another period of 4 years that includes two federal elections) unless they initiate some kind of activity (such as voting, changing their address, etc.). So its possible that an OSU student, for the most extreme example, who lived in Columbus in 2004, registered to vote and cast his ballot in 2004, and who has since graduated and**

moved to another state, will remain on our roles until we can cancel them in December 2013.

2. In the summer of an odd-numbered year, the board of elections, using USPS National Change of Address (NCOA) data, sends a notice by forwardable mail to anyone who is registered to vote but who has filed a change of address with the Post Office informing them that they must update their address and that if they do not, or do not initiate some other kind of activity with the board of elections, that they will be cancelled after two federal general election cycles (so folks who we mailed under this category this summer couldn't be cancelled for this reason until December 2013).

It's my understanding that when you request your list from us that you can ask for just the "active" voters so that you're bad mailing costs are not as bad.

Hope this helps.

Note: The following is the current ORC language regarding the list provided by the Board of Elections. If a Court wants to use only the "active" list, it is recommended that a court order be prepared directing the Board of Elections to provide the court with the current list of all the ACTIVE electors of the county.

[2313.06 Poll and commercial licensed drivers lists](#)

On or before the last day of December of each year, unless otherwise ordered by the court of common pleas, the board of elections for each county shall compile and file with the commissioners of jurors of the county a certified, current list containing the names, addresses, dates of birth, and social security numbers, if the numbers are available, of all the electors of the county shown on the registration lists for the most recent general election...