



*Pennsylvania
Voter Registration Modernization
7.15.2019*

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Bureau of Election Security & Technology*

Voter Registration Modernization History

Background

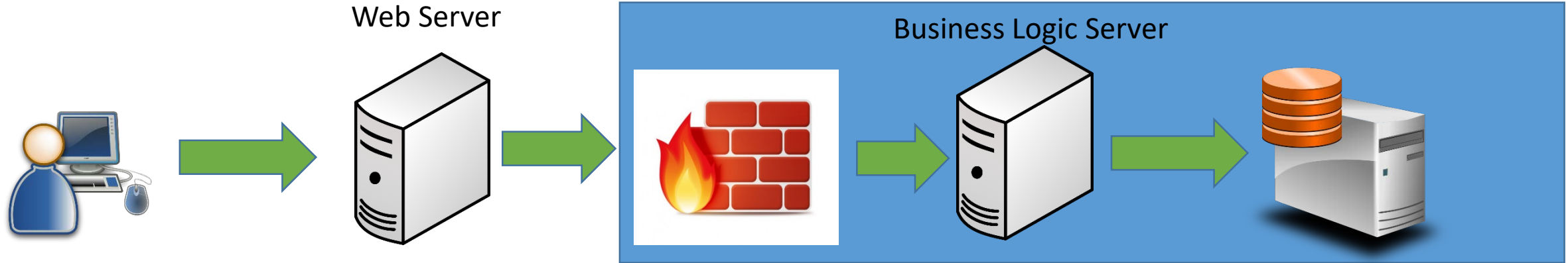
- 2003
 - Motor Voter - electronic exchange with signatures since 2003 (with PennDOT)
- 2005
 - All PA counties completed transition to current voter registration database
- 2015
 - Redesign of paper voter registration application (VRMA)
 - Launch of online voter registration application (OVR)
- 2016
 - Motor Voter – simplified language and eligibility questions
 - Incorporated online signature upload feature into online voter registration (OVR)
 - Implemented Web Application Programming Interface (API) with online voter registration (OVR) for 3rd party organizations
- 2017
 - Adopted first state NVRA agency Web API into OVR
- 2018
 - Launched online 3rd party feature for registration drives (OVR Drive)

What is an API?

- **API stand for ‘application programming interface’**
 - A set of defined protocols to connect interfaces
- **The PA OVR API (voter registration API) is an xml data exchange with an online application**
- **APIs are not experimental***
 - More than half of all the traffic to major companies like Twitter and eBay come through APIs
- **APIs are channels to new customers and markets***
 - APIs used externally unlock the power of partners to use business assets to extend the reach of your products or services to customers and markets you may not easily reach.
- **APIs promote innovation***
 - Through an API, people who are passionate about a problem can solve it on their own.
- **APIs create a path to lots of Apps***
 - Apps are powered by APIs. When developers are motivated, they can use APIs and combinations of APIs to create new experiences for end users.

*Forbes – Explaining the API revolution

How it Works



Our Goal

The goal of the PA OVR Web API is to provide a programmatic interface to the Department of State's Online Voter Registration System in order to increase access to voter registration as well as reduce county processing times.

- **Interested organization engages with PA DOS**
 - A trusted, mutually beneficial relationship is formed and maintained throughout the lifetime of the registration account
- **Organization agrees to a legal contract (terms of use)**
- **Organization develops application in secure staging environment**
 - Typically, this process lasts 3-4 months.
 - PA DOS defines application testing requirements
- **PA DOS approves application for use after satisfactory requirements and testing**
- **Organization approved for use in production**
 - PA DOS also defines application testing once the product is launched
- **Ongoing review and oversight of organization**
 - Ability to manage each API party individually

Pennsylvania Onboarding

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION WEB API TERMS OF USE
Version 1.0 - August 2016

The Pennsylvania Department of State (DOS) hosts the <https://www.pavoterservices.state.pa.us/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx> website, that allows eligible Pennsylvanians to register to vote using DOS' online voter registration application. DOS desires to allow third-parties (Posting Entities) to access the online voter registration application via a web application program interface (Web API) to facilitate voter registration through the third-party's website. The following Terms of Use (Terms) set forth the parameters under which third-parties will be granted access to the Web API. By registering with DOS, the Posting Entity acknowledges and agrees to the following:

1. **Definitions**

PA OVR Web API. Application program interface developed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of State to provide an interface between its online voter registration application and other web-based applications. The term includes the associated tools and documentation necessary to use the API.

Application. The software application that the Posting Entity proposes to connect to and communicate with the PA OVR Web API.

Posting Entity. Any entity signatory to these Terms who has developed an Application that will submit a complete set of voter registration information to DOS on behalf of Registrants who use the Posting Entity's online register-to-vote tool.

Registrant. Person applying to be registered to vote in Pennsylvania.

Partner Organization. Organization using the Posting Entity's Application as a vehicle through which it will access the PA OVR Web API.

Partner ID. Unique ID to identify each Partner Organization to track submitted application through PA OVR Web API.

2. **Grant of Access**

The Posting Entity understands that the electronic signature on the Terms of Use will constitute the legal equivalent of its authorized representative's signature. Upon receipt of the Posting Entity's acceptance of, and its authorized representative's signature on, these Terms on DOS's website, DOS will grant Posting Entity access to the PA OVR Web API pursuant to the following registration, testing, and access procedures:

- a. Posting Entity must register with DOS and create an account by going to <https://paovrwebapi.voterspa.com/SUREWebAPIAdmin/>.
- b. Posting Entity must provide all of the information requested in the online login form when creating an account. The Posting Entity account must contain accurate and up-to-date

PA OVR Web API Partner	Document ID: PAOVRSpec	Version: 1.4
PA OVR Web API Specification Document		Version Date: 06/01/2018

PA OVR Web API Specification PA Online Voter Registration (PAOVR)

Version 1.4

Produced for:
PA OVR Web API Posting Entities

Produced by:
Pennsylvania Department of State
Harrisburg, PA



Page 1

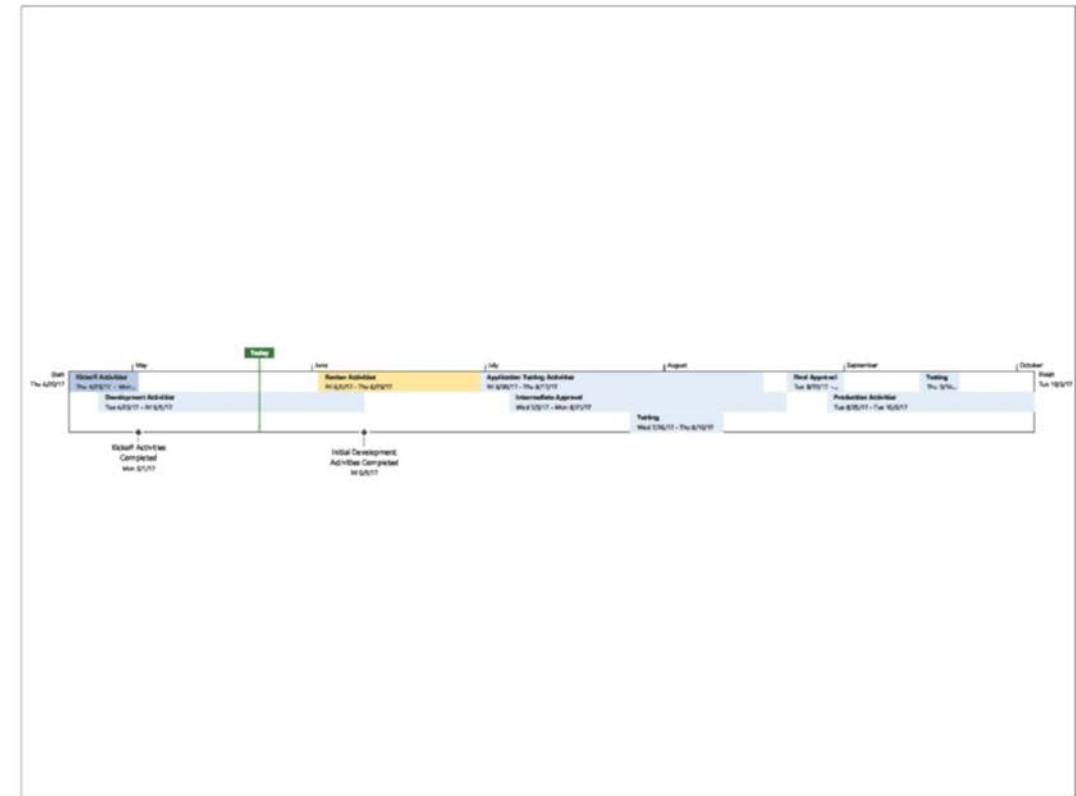
Pennsylvania Onboarding

ID	Task Mode	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	Predecessors
1		Kickoff Activities	8 days	Thu 4/20/17	Mon 5/1/17	
2		Receive Request from Posting Entity in SUREPortal	0 days	Thu 4/20/17	Thu 4/20/17	
3		Send Intro eMail and Package	1 day	Thu 4/20/17	Thu 4/20/17	2
4		Package Review	2 days	Fri 4/21/17	Mon 4/24/17	3
5		Intro Concall	1 day	Fri 4/28/17	Fri 4/28/17	2,4FS+3 days
6		Schedule Defined	1 day	Mon 5/1/17	Mon 5/1/17	5FF+1 day
7		Project Plan Updated	1 day	Mon 5/1/17	Mon 5/1/17	5
8		Setup SharePoint Repository for Project	1 day	Mon 5/1/17	Mon 5/1/17	5
9		Review and Approve	1 wk	Tue 4/25/17	Mon 5/1/17	8FF
10		Kickoff Activities Completed	0 days	Mon 5/1/17	Mon 5/1/17	3,5,6,7,8
11		Development Activities	34 days	Tue 4/25/17	Fri 6/9/17	
12		STAGING Access Key Generated	1 day	Thu 5/4/17	Thu 5/4/17	10FS+2 days
13		Grant STAGING Read-Only Status to Posting Entity	2 days	Fri 5/5/17	Mon 5/8/17	12

Project: WebAPI.PostingEntity.G
Date: Wed 5/24/17

Task		Inactive Summary		External Tasks	
Split		Manual Task		External Milestone	
Milestone		Duration-only		Deadline	
Summary		Manual Summary Rollup		Progress	
Project Summary		Manual Summary		Manual Progress	
Inactive Task		Start-only			
Inactive Milestone		Finish-only			

Page 1





PA OVR Web API Frequently Asked Questions

What is the PA OVR Web API?

The Pennsylvania Online Voter Registration Web Application Programming Interface (PA OVR Web API) is a programmatic interface to the Pennsylvania Department of State's Online Voter Registration System. This interface allows an organization conducting registration drives the ability to connect directly to the Online Voter Registration system to facilitate voter registration through the organization's application or website.

What does API stand for?

API stands for Application Programming Interface. An API is a set of rules ('code') and specifications that software programs can follow to communicate with each other. It serves as an interface between different software programs and facilitates their interaction, similar to the way the user interface facilitates interaction between humans and computers.

Who can use the PA OVR Web API?

Any organization or entity may register with the Pennsylvania Department of State (DOS) to request certification to use the PA OVR Web API as long as their application satisfies all testing requirements and meets security standards.

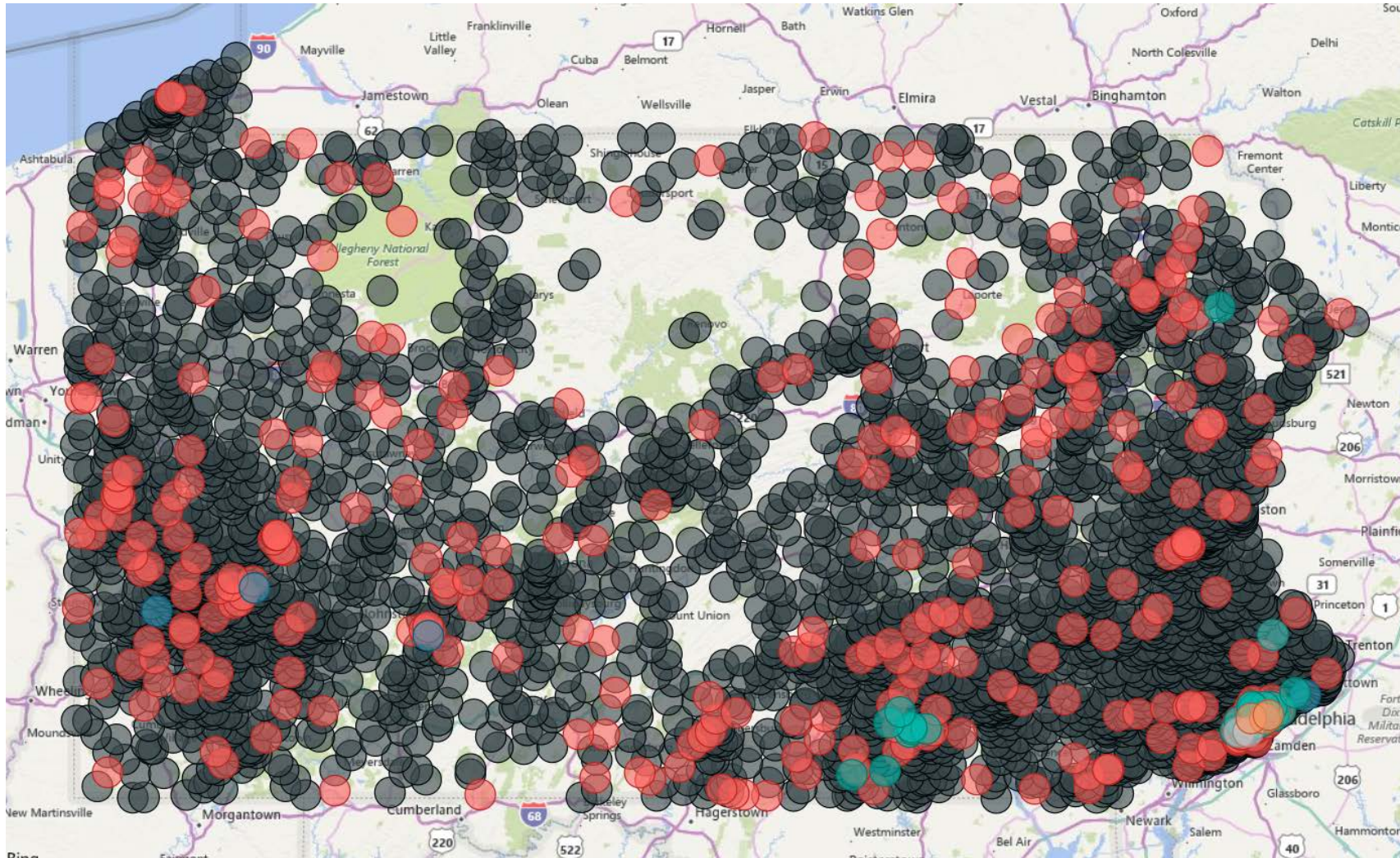
How do I register?

Third parties may register with the Department of State by clicking on the "New User? Register" link available at <https://paovrwebapi.votespa.com/SUREWebAPIAdmin/>.

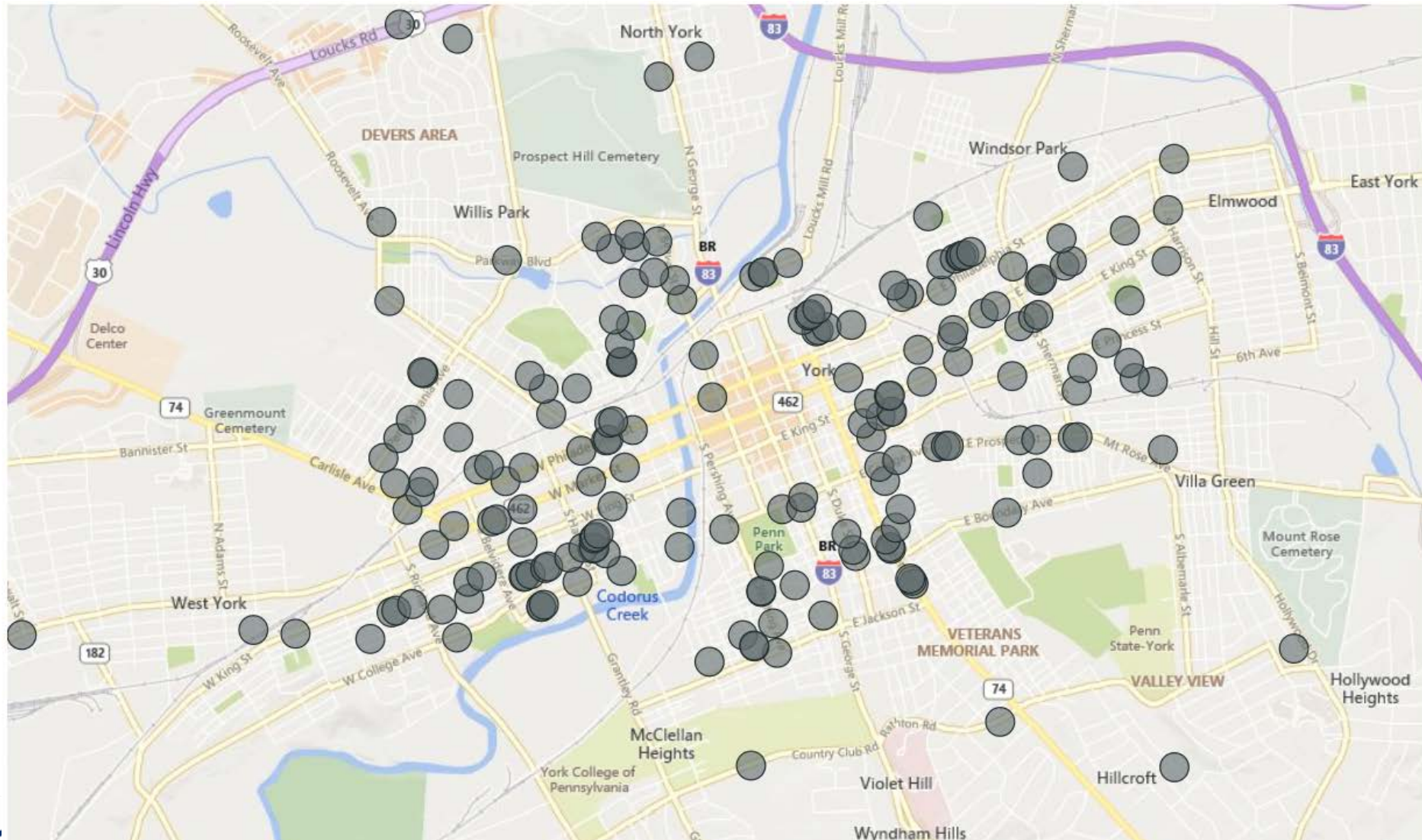
What is the certification process?

In order to submit data, users must first have their application approved by the Department through a series of reviews of flow diagrams and captured screens. After registering with the Department, a representative will contact the person identified during the registration process. The requestor will be provided with the official agreement for review and acceptance. After the agreement has been signed, the requestor will be provided with the necessary information to connect to the Staging (testing) environment. Upon successful stage testing the requestor will be approved with the Department to use the PA OVR Web API and will be provided with the necessary information to connect to the Production environment. Once approved, the Department will assist in monitoring and troubleshooting, as resources are available.

Greater accountability with registration drives



Greater accountability with registration drives



Posting entities can generate an on-demand report (including affiliate associated submissions) in their PA OVR Web API account.

Organization or Affiliate	Application ID	Application Date	Status	Status Reason
NIYEMAS PLACE	88135	04/25/2017	New	
NIYEMAS PLACE	88136	04/25/2017	Pending	PEND - MISSING SIGNATURE
NIYEMAS PLACE	88137	04/25/2017	Pending	PEND - MISSING SIGNATURE
NIYEMAS PLACE	88138	04/25/2017	Pending	PEND - MISSING SIGNATURE
NIYEMAS PLACE	88139	04/25/2017	New	
NIYEMAS PLACE	88140	04/25/2017	Pending	PEND - MISSING SIGNATURE

Example 1

⌵ Deadline: 10.11.2016

Will you be 18 years or older on or before election day?

Under 18 on November 8th? ?

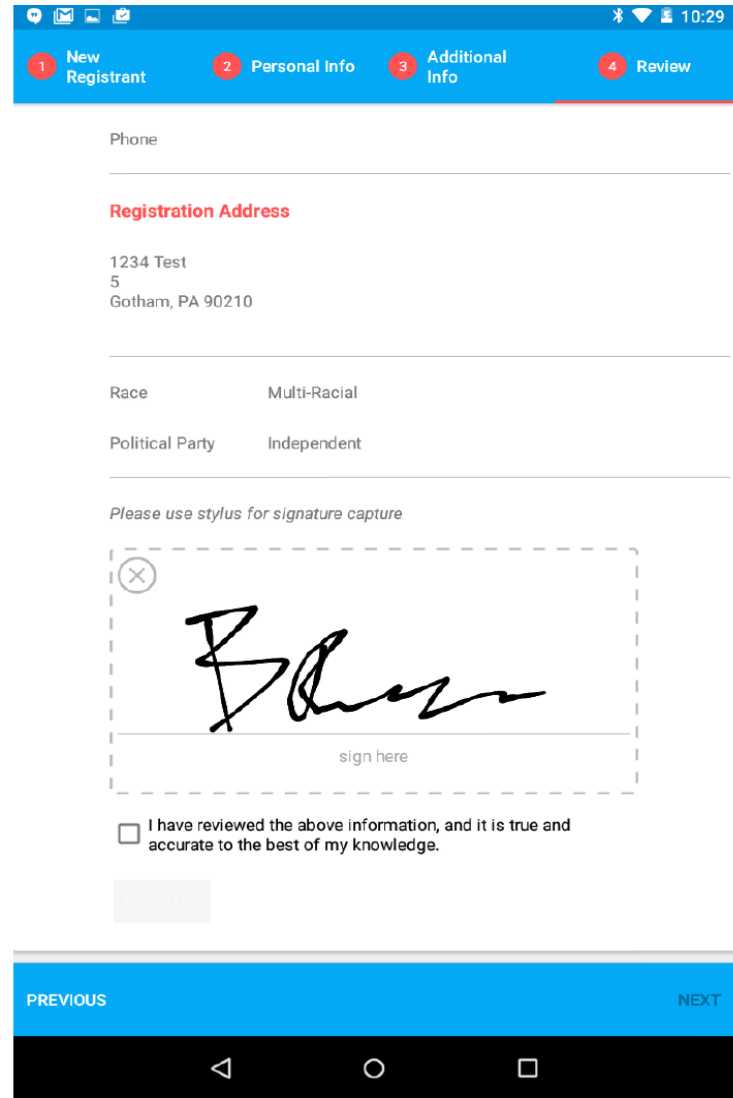
When is your birthday?

Month* Day* Day*

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Example 2



The image shows a mobile application interface for a registration process. At the top, there is a blue header with four steps: 1. New Registrant, 2. Personal Info, 3. Additional Info, and 4. Review. The 'Review' step is currently active. Below the header, there are several form fields: a 'Phone' field, a 'Registration Address' field containing '1234 Test', '5', and 'Gotham, PA 90210', a 'Race' field with the value 'Multi-Racial', and a 'Political Party' field with the value 'Independent'. Below these fields is a signature capture area with a dashed border and a 'sign here' label. A checkbox is present with the text 'I have reviewed the above information, and it is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.' At the bottom of the form, there are 'PREVIOUS' and 'NEXT' buttons. The entire form is displayed on a mobile device screen with a status bar at the top showing the time as 10:29.

- **Total users since the service was launched in 2016 – 6**
 - 3 of them are Commonwealth agencies:
 - Dept. of Human Services – COMPASS benefits application for health and human services
 - Dept. of Labor & Industry – Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Dept. of Health – Women Infants and Children (WIC) Office
- **Total applications through API – 136,417**
 - Approximately 10.3% of all online applications since Aug. 2015
- **Types of posting applications**
 - Mobile applications
 - Web applications
- **Actively courting 2020 registration organizations**

Want to learn more?

www.dos.pa.gov/paovrwebapi

Thank you!

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PA Department of State

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