



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

September 25, 2018

Chicago Sun-Times  
350 N. Orleans  
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the article on September 25 about automatic voter registration (AVR). My number one priority in implementing the AVR program is to ensure the integrity of the election process. The system we have designed and implemented does this. We also want to ensure that those who are ineligible to vote do not inadvertently try to register through AVR. We do not want the Automatic Voter Registration program to become the Automatic Deportation program.

The fact is the AVR program is up and running. It is going very well. The system is completely automated and the information provided to the Secretary of State's office is being sent electronically to the Illinois State Board of Elections each night. Anyone who wishes to register to vote may do so.

In fact, the Illinois State Board of Elections says the registration numbers are close to double since the program went into effect July 2, 2018. According to the Illinois State Board of Elections, registration figures before AVR averaged around 31,500 a month. But since the implementation of AVR on July 2 of this year, more than 145,300 have been registered in less than three months.

We understand there are people on both sides of the political spectrum that may have issues with this new law. But my number one priority is to ensure we are protecting the integrity of the election process. I will not be intimidated by threats as we continue to move forward with this new system.

Sincerely,

Jesse White  
Illinois Secretary of State