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## **Address Verification Process Palast/Mirer**

The objectives of the assignment were to analyze the cancelled voter data provided by the State of Georgia and to determine an estimate of the number of voters, if any, on the cancelled voter rolls provided who continue to reside at their original address.

John Lenser, CEO of CohereOne, Inc., lead in the analysis. CohereOne is a leading agency in list hygiene, circulation planning, and modelling for catalog/e-commerce companies. CohereOne routinely processes client lists to optimize address accuracy for mailing using a combination of the National Change of Address database provided by the United States Postal Service and proprietary advanced address hygiene (PCOA) tools provided by several specialized vendors.

### **Procedure**

Electronic files were received, input to standard software for analysis, and categorized by reason for cancellation; the results are displayed in the charts below.

- 665,677 names were received for the year 2017 and identified as cancelled
  - 534,584 were identified as “system cancels”
  - Of these, 534,510 were tagged as removed because of no activity in two voting cycles
- 83,319 names were received for the year 2016 and identified as cancelled

Palast/Mirer indicated that “System Cancels” merited further analysis. CohereOne chose to look at only the records that were not flagged as Deceased or Felons, assuming that the State of Georgia records were correct for these.

As a first step, it was necessary to convert the voter records from a concatenated format into standard name and address fields. Because of difficulty in reformatting addresses, CohereOne was able to quickly reformat only 458,556 records.

CohereOne then subjected these records to advanced address hygiene.

The address hygiene processing included the following steps:

- Reading a file of 555,702 cancelled voter registration records originating from the State of Georgia from 2016 and 2017. These records were pre-screened for deceased, felonious, and other standard conditions that disqualify voters;
- Correcting record address fields, parsing them into street address, city, state, and ZIP code, as the State of Georgia had not provided them in a usable standard address format. **458,556** records were correctly re-formatted; those re-formatted names were processed through advanced address hygiene; and
- Processing **458,556** names and addresses through postal hygiene routines including address standardization, ZIP code correction, NCOA (National Change of Address) and PCOA (Proprietary Change of Address) which provides dynamically updated information from dozens of private databases. Out of these processes, the service delivered output that included assessment of mail deliverability, moves that occurred in the past 48 months with forwarding addresses where applicable, and verification of a named individual at an address. In commercial settings, this process has been determined to have a 95% plus accuracy rate in verifying that an individual resides at a specific address or providing a new address.

To summarize, the goal of these processes for commercial mailers is to determine the correct address for an individual, so as to not waste mailing expense and so as to not lose sales from customers on the move. In commercial settings, this process has been determined to have a 95% plus accuracy rate.

## Results

Applying that process to this file, yielded **340,134** records where mailing technology indicates that the individual is still at the original address (and is neither deceased nor a felon).

We note that of 458,556 names processed, an additional 19,118 were determined to be deceased.

To further validate this process provided accurate results, one could mail a statistically valid subset of the file and request the post office apply a 'do not forward' / 'return to sender' service. This is a standard USPS service, is a several week process and, depending on the sample size, could be of moderate cost. Only those who return a card or whose card is returned by the post office should be considered to have moved their residence.

## Summary

The processes used in determining that a substantial portion of cancelled registrants still reside at their original address are standard and deployed daily by commercial mailers. Not only are they standard but they are cost-effective typically costing less than \$.05 per record processed. In our opinion, this process is far superior, at a fraction of the cost, in determining that a person still resides at an address than mailing them a postcard that can be easily mistaken for “junk mail” or requires them to return a reply card.

## Appendix: Source data

### 2016 Cancellations by Reason

| Status Reason        | Removal Process |               |               |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
|                      | System          | Vital Process | Grand Total   |
| Deceased             | 19,684          | 37,363        | 57,047        |
| Duplicate            | 9,329           | -             | 9,329         |
| Error                | 639             | -             | 639           |
| Felon                | 10,702          | -             | 10,702        |
| Hearing              | 358             | -             | 358           |
| Mentally Incompetent | 11              | -             | 11            |
| Moved Out of County  | 502             | -             | 502           |
| Moved Out of State   | 3,626           | -             | 3,626         |
| Not Verified         | 258             | -             | 258           |
| Voter Requested      | 847             | -             | 847           |
| <b>Grand Total</b>   | <b>45,956</b>   | <b>37,363</b> | <b>83,319</b> |

### 2017 Cancellations by Reason

| Status Reason                          | Removal Process |               |               | Grand Total    |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|  | System          | User Action   | Vital Process |                |
| Deceased                               | -               | 24,224        | 40,222        | 64,446         |
| Duplicate                              | -               | 36,623        | -             | 36,623         |
| Error                                  | 2               | 281           | -             | 283            |
| Felon                                  | -               | 14,021        | -             | 14,021         |
| Hearing                                | 31              | 574           | -             | 605            |
| Mentally Incompetent                   | -               | 21            | -             | 21             |
| Moved Out of County                    | 22              | 784           | -             | 806            |
| Moved Out of State                     | 10              | 11,621        | -             | 11,631         |
| No Activity For 2 Genl Election Cycles | 534,510         | 7             | -             | 534,517        |
| Not Verified                           | 8               | 514           | -             | 522            |
| Voter Requested                        | 1               | 2,201         | -             | 2,202          |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                     | <b>534,584</b>  | <b>90,871</b> | <b>40,222</b> | <b>665,677</b> |

