

# VRDB

Version 2.3

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## What is VRDB?

VRDB is the “Voter Registration DataBase” which relies upon public data from Washington State Voter Registration. It allows viewing this data, comparing the data against a prescribed PDF document printed from LCR (see below), and exporting an Excel spreadsheet containing the output of the comparison.

## What is LCR?

LCR is the acronym used to refer to “Leader and Clerk Resources” found on the website of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. If you are unfamiliar with this common term, you may need to obtain assistance from someone else to proceed using this program.

## How “computer literate” does a user need to be?

The program itself is fairly simple to use, relying only upon selecting actions via buttons or items in the menu bar. The installation and setup of the program requires a little more computer knowledge as the person installing must be familiar with installing programs on a Windows computer and selecting files and folders in the file system. Familiarity with LCR is necessary to create and generate the report of member information, is also necessary.

## How is member data compared to the voter registration data?

Using the LCR, a custom report is created that, when generated, can be read in by the program and its contents compared to that in the voter registration database.

Identification of a member with the voter registration data is made by matching last name, birth date, and first name. Optionally, the gender and middle initial, or using only the first initial is also supported.

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But testing has shown that, generally, the most accurate results come by using the default search options.

If a member is identified in the voter registration data, the associated address found there is compared to that in the LCR report and determination made whether it matches exactly or only partially.

## How secure is the data? What is done with the member data?

Security and care of the data is a valid concern. The program does nothing with the data other than read the LCR report, compare what is on the report with the contents of the voter registration database. No data ever leaves the computer upon which the program is installed. The voter registration data is loaded into the database and stored locally but no member data is retained; it is only used at the time it is read from the LCR report.

The program is open-source and licensed under the Apache 2.0 license. As such, the source code is available for anyone to review and confirm that it does not establish any network connections nor use any existing connections.

## Why an installed program rather than an online program?

Simply put, this is due to security concerns and proper respect for the data sources. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints would not be happy with any operation that required submitting member data to another site.

The Washington State Elections Board would likely not appreciate providing access to the voter registration data from another site than their own.

By providing a program that is installed on a computer rather than providing a web site open on the internet, no additional security concerns exist beyond those already present in saving LCR reports to disk – something already supported by LCR.

## What are the system requirements?

The program has been tested and used successfully on Windows 10 and Windows 11 computer systems. The system must have at least 5GB of storage space available. (NOTE: Earlier versions are not supported as VRDB uses SQL Server 2019 which is not supported on those systems.)

## Why can this not be installed on the Church unit computer?

In 2023 and earlier, the unit computers are protected by Sophos and prevent installation of any programs other than those administered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Subsequently, it might be possible to install on a Church unit computer. But, even if possible, the unit computers may be too under-powered for this type of operation.

## What preparation is needed before using the program?

The download package includes all the pieces needed to run the program. As noted in the instructions, there is also the need to create a report in LCR and to load the voter registration data into the database.

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Step-by-step instructions are provided for creating and running the report, and the time to load the database depends upon the speed and performance of the computer upon which it is installed<sup>1</sup>.

However, it is highly recommended that an effort be taken to go through the member data in LCR and ensure that all the addresses are updated to USPS standards. The purpose of this effort is increase the reliability of the comparison results. This can be accomplished by running the LCR report and reviewing each address which appears questionable.

When an address is modified and saved in LCR, the program will prompt the user to select the USPS standard entry. Taking this option is recommended in most cases. However, there may be instances where the USPS suggestion is actually incorrect. Whomever undertakes this effort will need to be familiar with the geographic area of the unit in order to know when to take the USPS suggestion and when not to.

## What restrictions apply to use of the voter registration data?

The only restrictions are that it cannot be used for commercial purposes. Since the only use here is to match against existing membership data using the LCR report, it was felt that this falls within the non-commercial use of the data.

For convenience, the downloaded package includes a current extract of the voter registration data from the Washington State Elections Board. However, future extracts will need to be obtained by submitting a request to the Board, typically on an annual or biannual basis.

## Why does Windows 10 not allow me to install?

The cause of this is addressed in the [Installation](#) document. In the “Getting Started” section step #3 – unblocking the archive – and step #6 – allowing install of apps from other than the Microsoft Store. If either or both of these steps are bypassed, Windows 10 will prevent the installation.

## What should be done when a message appears?

If a message appears, do the following:

1. Click on the message text and drag to highlight the text (or press CTRL-A) to select all text.
2. Right-click and select “Copy” (or press CTRL-C) to copy the highlighted text.
3. Open an email to [advappsw@gmail.com](mailto:advappsw@gmail.com) and give it a descriptive subject line.
4. In the body, add any helpful information as to what was happening, what you were attempting to do, etc. when the message appeared
5. Below your description, add a line that says “Message Text”
6. Below that line, right-click and select “Paste” (or press CTRL-V) to paste in the text.
7. Send the email.

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<sup>1</sup> On an Intel Core i7-4790 CPU @ 3.60GHz ([Passmark 7,200](#)), it takes one hour to load the database.