

VREMS will streamline voter records

The Division of Elections will complete a major conversion to a new computer Voter Registration and Election Management System (VREMS), by late summer, according to Sandra J. Stout, Director of Elections. This conversion represents the first major technological upgrade since the existing system was implemented in 1970, just two years following the enactment of legislation requiring voter registration in Alaska. "Alaska has come a long way since then" Stout said, "with a 275 percent increase in the number of voters served. It's time we came of age."

The VREMS system is one of the most sophisticated election management programs available, and will streamline virtually every function of voter records management. "The advantage of

the VREMS system will be direct on-line access which will allow us to make appropriate changes to voter records instantly, from terminals at each election office statewide," Stout said. The Division will have instant access to information and be able to respond to voter requests in minutes.

The VREMS system will also have the capacity to automatically assign proper district and precinct designations to each voter based on the individual's residence address. The work is nearly complete on this phase of the conversion process, which required the identification and definition of literally thousands of streets, street number ranges, subdivisions, mile post numbers and legal descriptions for each of the state's 440 precincts, according to Stout. The system will ac-

commodate not just State House, Senate, and Judicial Districts, but will also correlate Rural Education Attendance Area and Coastal

Resource Service voting districts as well.

The voter record management phase will be the first part of the

program to be implemented. "We are looking forward to a July 1 completion date," Stout said, "and will be issuing an all- new voter identification card to every registered voter in the State, shortly thereafter."
