



ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION

H. 636 - Rep. Benson, H. 685 - Rep Malia, S. 396 - Sen. Creem

All eligible citizens who want to cast a ballot on Election Day should be able and encouraged to participate. But Massachusetts' 20-day registration deadline denies eligible citizens the right to have their voices heard.

Election Day Registration is a simple, proven, and common-sense reform. It allows eligible citizens to register or update their registration and vote on Election Day, and will significantly reduce provisional ballots, improve election administration, and ensure that no eligible citizen who turns out to vote will be turned away.

It's easy.

Officials in states with Election Day Registration say that it actually makes the election process easier to administer. After an election, officials have to comb voter registration records to determine whether provisional voters actually registered, and whether their ballot should be counted. This process is costly and time consuming. Election Day Registration spares election officials this work. In fact, officials in some states with EDR say that up to 2/3 of voters who use EDR are already-registered and just update their existing information - thus Election Day Registration significantly reduces provisional balloting.

It's cheap.

Elections in states with Election Day Registration are no more costly than those in states without it. Overall expense does not increase, but is instead shifted—for instance, more resources may be needed on Election Day, rather than before or after. In Iowa, Election Day Registration was implemented without allocating additional funds.

It's the next step.

Election Day Registration is a natural and necessary complement to Automatic Voter Registration, passed by the Massachusetts legislature in 2018, because it would ensure that new Massachusetts residents and those whose registration has old addresses, typos, or misspelled names, can still participate.

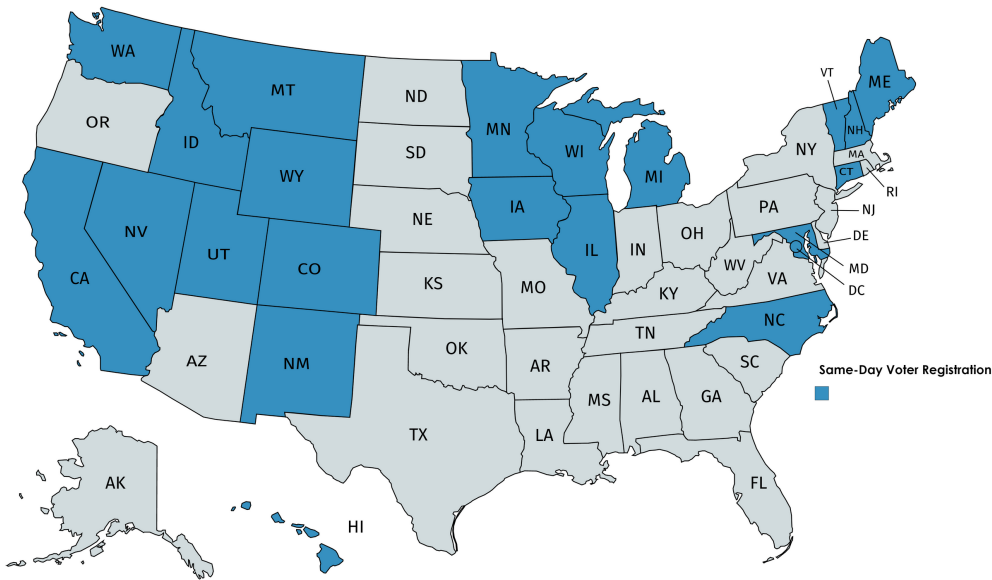
Election Day Registration is Good for Democracy

- ✓ It helps secure our elections: Election Day Registration requires an oath and identification, violations carry significant fines and imprisonment, and officials in EDR states report virtually no problems with fraud.
- ✓ It strengthens voter participation: in 2014, for example, 118,000 eligible voters in the Commonwealth said they did not participate because of the registration deadline.
- ✓ In the 2018 midterms, seven out of the ten highest turnout states had Election Day Registration.
- ✓ States with Election Day Registration typically have 3-12% higher voter participation than those without it.
- ✓ The amount of money spent on registering voters could decrease.
- ✓ Errors that occur during voter registration would likely decrease—making voting on Election Day easier

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It's Working Well in 21 States.

Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have passed Election Day Registration (also known as Same Day Registration).



Boston Globe says

“MANY Massachusetts residents will miss out on a historic presidential primary today because they failed to meet the proper deadline for registration. Such polling place frustrations could be resolved quickly and higher turnout assured if the Massachusetts Legislature chose to adopt election day registration in time for the November general election.”

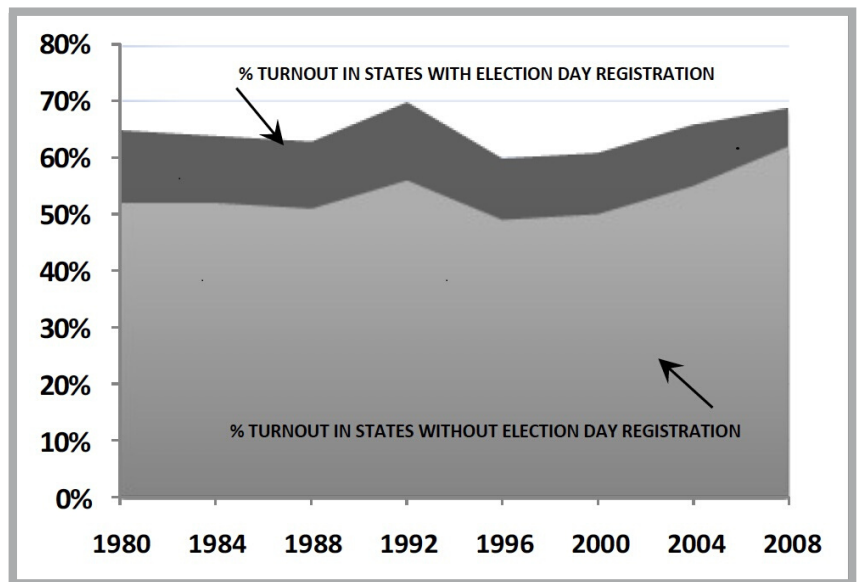
“Allowing voters to register on Election Day is the next step in our successful effort to expand access to the ballot. EDR is yet another way to make it easier to cast a ballot for any eligible citizen who wants to vote.”

- Secretary of State William Galvin

Attorney General Maura Healey says

“Voting rights are civil rights...I urge the legislature to seize this opportunity by making Election Day Registration a reality in Massachusetts.”

It Encourages Political Participation.



ACLU of MA; Common Cause MA; Lawyers for Civil Rights; League of Women Voters of MA; Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA); MassPIRG; MassVOTE; Massachusetts Voter Table; Progressive Massachusetts; Democratic Socialists of America; ForwardMA; Lift+Every+Vote; Clean Water Action; Equal Citizens; Massachusetts Law Reform Institute; National Association of Social Workers – MA Chapter; Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter; Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts; Progressive Democrats of America; Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants; Asian American Resource Workshop; Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts; MIT Graduate Student Council; MITvote; Small Planet Institute; Worcester Interfaith; Chinese Progressive Association; Massachusetts Jobs with Justice; Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action; Madison Park Development Corporation; MASSPIRG Students; Unitarian Universalist Mass Action; Right to the City Boston; Black Directors' Network; Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association; Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; Chelsea Collaborative; Voter Choice Massachusetts; Jewish Community Relations Council; Project Right; Generation Citizen; Coalition for Social Justice; McKnight Community Development Coalition; La Comunidad; Jetpac; Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association; Our Revolution Massachusetts; 350 Mass for a Better Future; Indivisible MA; Newton Democratic City Committee; The Boston Foundation; Salem Democratic City Committee; College Dems of Massachusetts