

# ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION DATA

Election Day Registration is a more than 40-year old reform that ensures all eligible voters can cast a ballot that is counted. To understand how voters use this reform, we surveyed states with EDR.<sup>1</sup> The 21 states with EDR report that it is a low-cost, simple reform that is overwhelmingly used by voters to update their registration rather than to register for the first time.

Election Day Registration is used by a small percentage of voters in most states:

- In the 2018 Primary, 0.14% of voters in Utah used EDR;
- In state 2018 Generals, 0.5% of voters in California, 1.9% in Vermont, and 1.3% in Connecticut used EDR;
- In New Hampshire and Wisconsin's General Election, 5% and 10.7% of voters respectively used EDR – the highest of states sampled. But New Hampshire has had EDR for 24 years and Wisconsin for over 40, so using EDR has become a norm for voter registration in those states. We can assume that, back in the 1970's when EDR was implemented there, Wisconsin's percentage of EDR users was much more like that of California, Vermont, and Utah.

EDR is overwhelmingly used by already-registered voters to re-register or update their registration, correcting for old addresses or typos at the polls that would have kept them from casting a ballot:

- In the 2018 General Elections, EDR new registrants made up only 5% of EDR users and 0.1% of all voters in Vermont, and 34% of all EDR users and 0.15% of all voters in California;
- In Utah's 2018 Primaries, EDR new registrants made up only 25% of all EDR voters and 0.04% of all voters.

EDR voters are distributed across polling places. On average, Vermont saw one new registrant per polling place in the 2018 General Elections. While we can expect some variation, elections officials will not face an unmanageable or significant increase in work due to EDR. In fact, by reducing provisional ballots, their overall workload may be reduced.

## Use of EDR in 2018: Few EDR Voters, Fewer EDR New Registrants

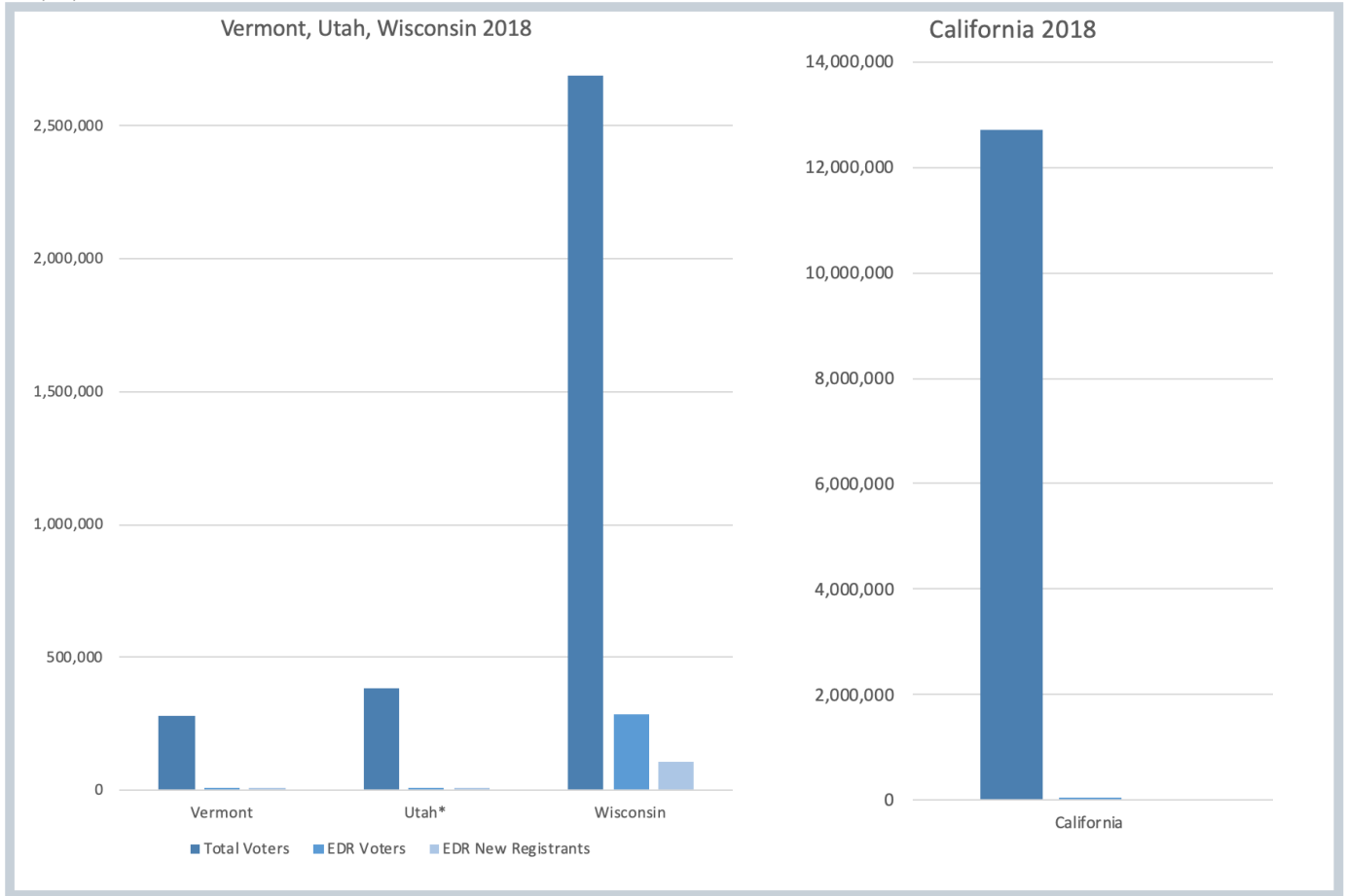
| State  | California | Vermont | Utah*   | Wisconsin |
|--|------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| <b>Total Voters</b>                            | 12,712,542 | 278,230 | 382,547 | 2,688,473 |
| <b>Total EDR Voters</b>                        | 58,016     | 5,550   | 544     | 287,858   |
| <b>EDR out of Total Voters</b>                 | 0.45%      | 2%      | 0.14%   | 11%       |
| <b>EDR New Registrants</b>                     | 19,629     | 281     | 139     | 108,176   |
| <b>EDR New Registrants out of Total EDR</b>    | 34%        | 5%      | 25%     | 38%       |
| <b>EDR New Registrants out of Total Voters</b> | 0.15%      | 0.1%    | 0.04%   | 4%        |

\*Utah's figures reflect the 2018 Primaries. The rest are from the General Elections.

<sup>1</sup> We surveyed all states that have had Election Day Registration in place for at least one election. Four states responded with complete data (meaning, it separated the number of those who used EDR to newly register in the state from those who used EDR to update their registration): California, Vermont, Utah, and Wisconsin. Five states responded with partial data: Connecticut, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Montana, and Michigan.

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## How Election Day Registrants & New Registrants Stack Up:



\* Utah's figures reflect the 2018 Primaries. The rest are from the General Elections.

## EDR: Updates vs. New Registrants

