

June 20, 2019  
State Senator Barry Finegold  
Joint Committee on Election Laws  
24 Beacon St, Room 507  
Boston, MA 02133

State Representative John Lawn  
Joint Committee on Election Laws  
24 Beacon St, Room 443  
Boston, MA 02133

**In Support of S.396/H.636 & H.685**

Committee Chairs Finegold and Lawn, and Members of the Joint Committee on Election Laws,

Reforms intended to protect the ability of citizens to vote are critical for strengthening and protecting American democracy. In Massachusetts, you have recognized the urgent necessity of such laws by passing Online Voter Registration in 2014 and then Automatic Voter Registration last summer. These measures matter, but it is time for the Commonwealth to take a simple and proven step that has now been taken in 21 other states: enact Election Day Registration.

Among other benefits, Election Day Registration (EDR), and same-day registration more broadly increase voter participation by reducing arbitrary obstacles to registration. My team's research, along with a litany of other studies in political science and public policy, finds that EDR significantly increases voter participation. While EDR increases turnout among all kinds of people, we find that turnout is especially concentrated among those facing higher barriers to registration, such as lower-income individuals. Overall, our research shows that EDR is an effective, safe, and low-cost reform that expands access to voting.

I urge you to support Election Day Registration and join the 21 other states have recognized the importance of ensuring that all eligible citizens have a voice in our democracy. It is time to bring this critical reform to the Commonwealth.

Please support Election Day Registration and make Massachusetts the next state to adopt EDR.

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