



Election Day Registration

What is Election Day Registration?

Election Day Registration (EDR)—also known as same-day registration—allows a voter to register to vote or update their registration on Election Day.

How does EDR work?

In most EDR states voters are able to register and vote at the polling place associated with their current address, although in Montana voters must go to their local county elections office. In all EDR states, voters must present appropriate ID in order to register or update their registration. Once registered, their vote is then counted as a regular ballot.

Why do we need EDR?

Every national election, several million people are unable to exercise their right to vote due to a registration problem. Among those who did not register to vote in the 2008 presidential election, one in five reported that they had either missed the registration deadline—which can be up to 30 days before the election—or simply didn't know where and how to register.¹ Early registration deadlines and difficulty finding, completing, and returning registration forms aren't the only challenges voters face. Many voters go to the polls on Election Day expecting to cast their ballot, only to discover that their registration is no longer valid, because they've recently moved or changed their name. This is a particular challenge for younger and lower-income voters who move much more frequently than other groups.

By allowing voters to register and vote at the same time on Election Day, EDR ensures that every eligible voter who wants to participate can. It has proven to be effective: Turnout in states with EDR is 10-12 points higher than in states without it.

Which states have EDR?

Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Wyoming and the **District of Columbia** all have EDR. **North Carolina** has a variation of EDR known as One-Stop Voting where voters can register to vote and cast their ballot at the same time during the state's early voting period, but not on Election Day itself. Similarly, **Ohio** voters can register and vote on the same day during a one-week period known as the "Golden Week." **North Dakota** deserves special mention, because it is the only state that does not have a voter registration requirement.

What kind of ID is required?

Voters who want to register to vote on Election Day need to bring proper ID, as required by the state. Find your state's ID requirements using our "Voting in Your State" tool at www.nonprofitvote.org/voting-in-your-state.html or by contacting your local elections office.

The most common form of ID is a valid driver's license or state-issued ID card. Other forms include a U.S. passport, U.S. military ID card, tribal ID, or student ID card—often accompanied by a current student fee statement.

If your ID does not list your current address, bring a current utility bill, bank statement, pay stub, government check or other government document listing your name and current address with you to the polls. This is required in some EDR states and good practice in all.

Contact your local elections official to learn more about Election Day Registration in your state.

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¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey November 2008 Voting and Registration Supplement