**Overview**

F. A. Q.

Election Day Registration (EDR)

Election Day Registration (also known as Same-Day Voter Registration) is a policy that allows residents to register to vote or update their registration information on the same day that they cast their ballot. Eligible individuals would appear in person at the polling place in the precinct in which they reside and would be required to present proof of residency at the time of registration. Prospective voters may also register during the early voting period within their town or city at designated locations. The policy has already been adopted in 20 states plus Washington D.C., with Maine adopting it as early as 1973. There is strong evidence that same day and Election Day registration increases voter turnout and simplifies voting systems.

**How will this help voters?**

*GURANTEED OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE*

It is estimated that over 100,000 voters in MA would benefit from being able to register or update their registration on Election Day. EDR’s impact is shown to be higher among young voters who move more frequently.

*CORRECT COMMON ERRORS*

2/3 of voters around the country who utilized EDR are already-registered voters who need to update their existing registration information. This policy is particularly beneficial to those whose registration has been affected by bureaucratic errors such as fixing an incorrect middle initial, an apartment number, or any other inaccuracy. EDR allows them to correct these simple and common mistakes.

*INCREASE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT*

Studies show that voters become more interested in elections as it gets closer to Election Day, more specifically the week of the election. Whereas early deadlines to complete voter registration impede voters who decide to vote in the final weeks of a campaign.

**Why is this good for Massachusetts?**

*INCREASE TURNOUT*

Massachusetts is currently 17th in the nation for voter turnout according to Non-Profit Vote. Massachusetts is a politically active state and by implementing EDR Massachusetts has the potential to not only increase their turnout by an average of 5% but also potentially be a top state for voter turnout. Neighboring states such as CT, ME, NH & VT all have EDR.

*MODERNIZE & UPDATE OUR ELECTIONS*

With Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) in place, EDR will clean up whatever AVR does not cover. The two systems in sync together will help with long-term cost controls and improve efficiency and integrity in our elections system.

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