



Maryland Constitutional Amendment

Our democracy works best when everyone has a voice. Eligible Marylanders should not be hindered from participating in our elections. Election Day Registration (EDR) will eliminate arbitrary deadlines that stop citizens from voting and will increase voter participation throughout the state.

Vote Yes on Question 2 this November 6, 2018 to ensure every eligible Marylander can have their voice heard on Election Day.

Currently, Marylanders can register to vote or update their voter registration during the early voting period using same-day registration (SDR), but they cannot do so on Election Day. This disparity is unnecessary and leads to thousands of Marylanders' voices going unheard during our elections. EDR will help ensure no eligible Maryland voter faces obstacles to having their voice heard on Election Day.

EDR is Needed: The necessity of EDR in 2018 could not be more clear. Days before the primary election this year, the State Board of Elections became aware of the MVA's failure to transfer over 80,000 voter registrations – forcing thousands of Marylanders to fill out provisional ballots, which voters have extremely low confidence in. EDR would have allowed Marylanders in this situation the ability to vote on a regular ballot. EDR is a safety net to ensure that if eligible voters show up to the polls on Election Day, they can have confidence that their voices will be heard.

How it works: Similar to the voter registration process during the early voting period, EDR would be a one-stop process that allows eligible voters to register to vote or update an existing registration, and then cast a ballot immediately afterward.

EDR is Secure: EDR requires eligible voters to produce the same documents to register as during the same-day registration period during early voting. This system has worked well for Maryland, producing zero fraudulent registrations.

Benefits of EDR:

- EDR increases voter participation. In the November 2014 midterm elections, voter turnout in SDR states was over 11 percent higher than in non-SDR states.

- EDR ensures that when Get Out The Vote efforts reach their peak, voters who become interested and engaged right before or on Election Day are not left out because of registration deadlines.
- EDR protects voters if their registration applications are lost, mishandled, or entered incorrectly. Failure to discover these problems prior to Election Day, after registration deadlines have passed in many places, can result in eligible citizens losing their vote. EDR ensures voters can register and vote, and that their ballot will be counted.
- EDR gains are particularly strong in communities most likely to move – voters of color, young voters, low income voters and recently enfranchised Marylanders. These voters are more likely to have moved between election cycles, thus necessitating an updated registration. Instead of forcing these voters to fill out provisional ballots, which are more difficult to count administratively, EDR provides the opportunity to conveniently update their registration and allow them to vote normally.
- EDR greatly reduces the need for provisional balloting. Provisional ballots are offered to citizens who believe they are registered but whose names do not appear on voter rolls. During this 2018 Maryland Primary Election, about 80,000 voters discovered they would have to cast provisional ballots due to a technical glitch. Allowing eligible voters to register and vote on Election Day reduces the need for provisional ballots, helping to assure voters that their ballots will be counted, and saving elections officials the time and expense of processing many provisional votes.

Where it works: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and Washington D.C.

EDR will work for Maryland: During the 2016 elections, the first year of implementation for same-day registration during early voting, 20,000 Marylanders availed themselves of the program, meaning that 20,000 more Marylanders were able to make their voices heard during the course of the Primary and General elections. Allowing voters the ability to also register on Election Day would build on those gains.

Cost of EDR: The costs for EDR should be minimal. In 2008, the state of Iowa spent less than \$40,000 to introduce SDR for its 99 counties. County expenses were also minimal. In North Carolina, counties cited some additional staffing needs at voting sites as the most notable expense associated with SDR. At the same time, EDR reduces the costs of administrative overhead at the State Board of Elections by significantly reducing the use of provisional ballots.

Support EDR: Commit to vote Yes on Question 2 this November 6, 2018 and then help spread the word or make a donation to support the campaign. To learn more, visit EveryoneVotesMaryland.org