



Why Delaware Needs Same-Day Registration

What is same-day registration? Same-day registration (SDR), allows any qualified resident of the state to register to vote and cast a ballot all on the same day — including on Election Day.

Why is it important? There is strong evidence that SDR increases voter participation. States that allow same-day registration experience, on average, [a 5 percent increase](#) in voter participation and consistently have the highest participation in the country. For example, [Maryland had 26,300 voters register during early voting and on Election Day in 2020](#). If Delaware implements same-day voter registration, [estimates predict](#) that we could expand voter turnout by over 22,000 people.

Delaware's current registration deadline is arbitrary and cuts off long before prime election season when many folks become engaged with election issues. For people who aren't proactively engaged, it's easy to miss the deadline.

Who would SDR benefit? Same-day registration increases turnout among groups who face the most barriers to voting, like communities of color, low-income voters, and voters who move around a lot—particularly young voters. Anyone who's working multiple jobs, managing multiple priorities, dealing with a health issue, parenting, or any other number of things, could benefit from SDR. Sometimes life just gets in the way. No vote should be missed because someone accidentally let an arbitrary deadline slip.

How many other states have Same Day Registration? For the 2022 elections, 21 states plus the District of Columbia will offer same-day registration (SDR), which allows any eligible resident of the state to register to vote and cast a ballot all on the same day.

How do you provide security and avoid voter fraud with SDR? Safeguards to proving identity and residency could include:

- Voters who register and vote on Election Day must present documentation to verify their identity and residency.
- Electronic poll books, which Delaware just implemented, provide immediate on-site update capability to a central database. This helps to prevent a person from same-day registering in multiple locations.
- Oaths and sworn affidavits saying that the voter is eligible to vote and has not already voted in this election. Criminal penalties for fraudulent voting.

HB 25: The Same Day Registration Bill This bill, sponsored by Representative Sherry Dorsey Walker, provides for election day registration for the presidential primary, primary, special, and general elections whereas currently, the deadline is the fourth Saturday prior to the date of the election. Moreover, same-day registration at polling places would be permitted with the submission of valid government-issued identification or other generally accepted proof of identification.