

SAME DAY REGISTRATION

What's up with registering to vote in Massachusetts?

The deadline to register to vote or update your registration in Massachusetts is 20 days before each election. If you are not registered to vote less than 20 days before an election, then you cannot vote in said election. If your registration is not up-to-date – if, for example, you moved but did not update your address – then you must cast a provisional ballot. However, the process of counting a provisional ballot is cumbersome on both voters and election officials, leading to them routinely not being processed. Same Day Registration (SDR) would solve all of these issues.



What is Same Day Registration?

SDR is used throughout the country, and is proven to increase voter turnout. 21 states and the District of Columbia currently use SDR, and more are moving to implement it in the coming years. SDR has proven to increase voter turnout by as much as 12% in states that utilize it. When matched with early in-person voting, SDR becomes especially effective in driving up turnout, as individuals have multiple days to register and vote at once. It also decreases burdens placed on local election officials, as they need not deal with provisional ballots. It ensures election security too, as individuals must present an ID when registering or updating registration.



SDR is the exact type of reform critical to boosting voter turnout in underrepresented communities. The policy would benefit those that move most often, like students and low-income individuals. But one group that SDR would benefit most is renters, who move more frequently than homeowners and are less likely to update their voter registration when they move. Across the country, 58% of Black households are

rented, as are 53% of Hispanic households. Meanwhile, less than 31% of white households nation-wide are rented. Renters also earn approximately half the annual income that homeowners do, meaning that they are far more likely to be low-income.



In communities like [Boston](#), [Worcester](#), [Springfield](#), [Lowell](#) and more, the majority of residents do not own homes, but rent them. Many of these individuals are likely Black or brown, low-income, and/or Hispanic. SDR, with a proven track record, would play a pivotal role in increasing voter turnout among these groups, and must be implemented.

The state can make this happen. [Contact your state legislators](#) and tell them why they should support SDR!

Same Day Registration Across the US

