



Why Delaware needs Same Day Registration.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.

Expanding voter registration has been a principal goal of the League since its founding. The LWV of Delaware bases its action on the LWVUS position.

What is same day registration? Same day registration (SDR), allows any qualified resident of the state to go to register to vote and cast a ballot all in that day.

Why is it important? Same Day Registration increases voter turnout. States with Same Day Registration outperform other states in voter turnout.²

How does it work?

- **Voter ID:** Voters who register and vote on Election Day must present documentation to verify their identity and residency. Delaware's current Voter ID regulations say that the voter needs to present a Delaware Driver's License or State ID Card, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.¹

How many other states have Same Day Registration?

- As of January 2019, 17 states plus the District of Columbia offer same day registration (SDR), which allows any qualified resident of the state to go to register to vote and cast a ballot all in that day. Washington has enacted same day registration, to be implemented in 2019.²
- Two states—North Carolina and Maryland—make same day registration possible for a portion of their early voting periods but not on Election Day.² However Maryland just passed a ballot measure in November of 2018 to extend same day registration and voting to election day.

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

- State-wide voter systems.² Electronic poll books provide immediate on-site update capability to a central database. This helps to prevent a person from same-day registering in multiple locations. Delaware will be getting e-poll books with the new voting machines so real time cross checks would be available immediately and on site.
- Oaths and sworn affidavits saying that the voter is eligible to vote and has not already voted in the election.²
- Casting of provisional ballots.² However, provisional ballots are currently only available for federal races in Delaware and not for local races. This would provide safety in terms of fraud, but not full voting capability for the voter.
- Criminal penalties for fraudulent voting.²

Does this cost more money?

Maybe. Increased election staff or poll workers are needed to process same day registrations. This extra administrative task can be time consuming at the same day registration site. Some states limit sites where onsite registration is available. Many states report this is more of a reallocation of costs and resources, though, rather than an additional cost.²

The LWV of Delaware supports this bill:

HB 39 SAME DAY REGISTRATION: This bill provides for election day registration for 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 will be permitted with submission of valid government issued identification or other generally accepted proof of identification.

¹<https://elections.delaware.gov/voter/votereg.shtml>

²<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/same-day-registration.aspx>