Legislative Fact Sheet

ELECTION DAY VOTER REGISTRATION

Let’s modernize our elections, increase civic participation, and strengthen our democracy. It’s time for Kansas to adopt election day registration.

Election day registration is key for a modern, efficient electoral system.

Election day voter registration permits an eligible citizen to register and cast a ballot at the same time on Election Day or during an early voting period. It eliminates unnecessary deadlines that confuse voters and exclude them from the political process.

Election day registration (EDR) will cut government red tape and streamline the process, allowing voters to participate through a one-stop process at the polling place, rather than requiring separate trips for registration and voting. That is important for people with demanding jobs or family responsibilities, elderly voters, and members of the military. It’s also important for maintaining accurate, timely voter rolls. Research shows EDR actually decreases the opportunity for voter fraud and increase the security of voter rolls. With EDR, eligible voters who provide documentation by Kansas law won’t be turned away at the polls simply because they are not on an out-dated roll, and there is a decreased need for provisional ballots.

Election day registration increases voter turnout and civic engagement.

Election-day voter registration is a proven tool for increasing voter turnout. The 19 states with election-day registration have turnout rates 10-12% higher than states without it. In 2016, all of the top five states with the highest rates of voter turnout had election-day voter registration, and these states also have higher rates of other forms of civic engagement.

Election day registration is such an effective tool for boosting voter turnout because it is widely used by citizens across the political and demographic spectrum. Members of the military, geographically mobile people, the elderly, young people, voters of color, lower-income Americans, and busy professionals all benefit from this system.

Election day registration is easy to implement, non-controversial, and used throughout the United States.

Election-day registration can be implemented in Kansas alongside existing registration requirements. The administrative costs and challenges of implementing the system are negligible. Surveys of local election officials in 7 states using election-day registration found that costs were “minimal” and no additional staff were needed.