

ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION FOR IOWA

Prepared in the office of the Secretary of State

1. What is Election Day Registration (EDR) mean?

The process of Election Day Registration allows un-registered voters to register to vote on Election Day at the polling place, and vote in the regular manner. The voter does not have to vote a provisional ballot.

2. How would EDR work in Iowa?

Voters registering to vote at the polls on Election Day would have to prove identity and residency and sign an oath testifying that they had not already voted in any other precinct in the election. Alternatively, a voter can have another registered voter in the precinct vouch for them.

3. What types of identification can be used?

The Secretary of State will promulgate rules listing the types of identification a voter may use for EDR. The list will most likely include, but not necessarily limited to the following:

- Iowa Driver's License with current address

- Iowa Non-Driver ID card with current address

If the Iowa DL or non-drivers ID card do not have current address of the voter, the voter shall also supply one of the following documents with the voter's name and current address listed:

- Residential lease

- Tax Bill or Utility Bill

- Bank Statement

- Current Paycheck

- Government check

- Any other government document with full name and current address

Other documents that can be used to prove identity are:

- Out-Of-State Driver's License or Non-Drivers ID card

- Passport

- Military Identification

- Identification card issued by an employer

- Student ID with photo

4. What would the requirements be for a person vouching for another person?

The voucher must be registered in the precinct where the voter is attempting to register on Election Day. The voucher must sign an oath stating that the voucher personally knows the voter to be a resident of the precinct. Criminal penalties for falsifying an oath would apply to both the voter and the voucher if the voter is found guilty of falsifying residency. It's a class D felony under current Iowa law.

5. What would stop a voter from going to multiple precincts and casting a vote?

Voters are required to show a photo identification with current address in the precinct where they live. If their driver's license or other photo identification does not show the current address of the voter, the voter is also required to present one of the HAVA compliant documents listed on the chart, such as a utility bill, bank statement, current paycheck, government check or other government-issued document, showing the voter's current address in the precinct where the voter is attempting to vote.

It is unlikely that any one person would have multiple photo IDs accompanied by multiple documents showing addresses in multiple precincts. If a person does that kind of false documentation, they could potentially commit vote fraud with or without EDR. Voting, or attempting to vote fraudulently is a class D felony.

6. Which states currently have EDR and has it increased fraud in those states?

Minnesota has had EDR for 33 years. Other states include Wisconsin, Idaho, Wyoming, New Hampshire and Maine. Montana instituted EDR in 2006. All of the states are adamant that voter fraud due to EDR is virtually non-existent.

7. What effect would EDR have on Provisional Balloting?

In the 2004 Presidential Election, there were 15,454 provisional ballots cast. Of those, 13,980 voters were either not registered at all, or their registration had to be verified after the election through the DOT. EDR would have eliminated 90.4% of the provisional ballots cast at the 2004 election.

8. What effect does EDR have on voter turnout?

The six states that have EDR averaged a turnout of nearly 10 percent higher than the national average for that election. In the 2004 election, EDR states had a turnout 12% higher. Iowa already enjoys a high voter turnout and could easily overtake Minnesota as the highest voter turnout state in the nation, with EDR.

9. How would precinct officials handle EDR?

With EDR, the precinct official need only check the voter's photo identification and other documentation proving residency, if required for that voter, ask the voter to fill out the proper forms, and the voter casts a ballot in the regular manner.

With EDR, provisional ballots would decrease dramatically, easing the burden on precinct officials. Also, changes of address at the polling place, which currently required precinct officials to call the auditor's office for verification, could be handled through EDR. Provisional ballots and Changes of Address are the two areas where precinct officials make the most procedural errors on Election Day.

