

Conditional Voter/ Same Day Registration:

Increasing Voter Opportunities to Register to Vote

Future of California Elections

Policy Meets Practice: Implementing California's New
Election Laws

2018 Conference



BizBox 2.0

City of Milwaukee in a Snapshot

- Milwaukee's Demographics
 - Overall population of 600,000 with 437,000 eligible voters
 - On average, 280,000 (or 64%) vote in a Presidential Election
 - People of color represent the city's majority racial demographic, with an estimated 40% African American and 17% Hispanic/Latino
 - 29% or nearly 1 in 3 residents of Milwaukee live in poverty, with a disproportionate 40% of African American residents and 35% of Hispanic/Latino residents living in poverty.
- Same day registration has been offered in Wisconsin since 1975 and is available at all polling places



Benefits of Same Day Registration

- **One-Stop-Shop supports increased voter participation:** Wisconsin turnout in a Presidential Election consistently ranks #2 in the country.
- **Increases access to voting: 20% or 1 in 5 voters register and vote on Election Day (11% statewide average).**
- **Invites the participation of populations historically disenfranchised from voting:** The percentage of same day registration varies significantly with the highest volume of registration activity in economically challenged districts with high concentrations of people in poverty, with people of color disproportionately living at or near the poverty level.

Same Day Registration Demographics

District	Voters	Register	%	Demo
1	16164	2903	18%	
2	16406	3013	18%	
3	23661	5615	24%	STU
4	16515	4628	28%	STU / POV
5	19563	2731	14%	EcS
6	15999	3063	19%	POC / POV
7	17266	2884	17%	POC / POV
8	8708	1787	21%	POC / POV
9	16052	2781	17%	
10	19528	2926	15%	EcS
11	19661	2725	14%	EcS
12	8974	2212	25%	POC / POV
13	17754	2386	13%	EcS
14	18694	2362	13%	EcS
15	12901	2903	23%	POC / POV
	STU = Student			
	POC/POV = People of Color / People in Pove			
	EcS = Economically Stable			

Benefits of Same Day Registration

(continued)

- **Encourages young people to vote and become lifetime voters:** First-time young voters may not be aware of pre-election registration requirements or may be focused on academics. Milwaukee experiences very high rates of same day registration clustered around college and university campuses.
- **Reduces the need for provisional voting by providing more immediate election results.**

Same Day Registration Considerations

- **Election worker staffing:** Milwaukee shares the same challenges related to election worker recruitment as experienced by most large urban municipalities. To ensure sufficient staffing, the city:
 - Engages in year-around election worker recruitment
 - Provides biannual election worker refresher training
 - Cross-trains all election workers
 - Develops a polling place staffing plan based on past data related to same day registration activity
- **Cost:** While some costs can be offset by cost-savings opportunities, there can be additional costs attached to administering same day registration. Milwaukee's response: it is difficult to attach a price tag to democracy, even with government budget constraints. Our government leaders and our society should identify access to voting as a priority expenditure.

Same Day Registration Considerations

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- **Increases Election Integrity:** Same day registration provides “real time” data by encouraging people to re-register at current addresses, which reduces voting from previous addresses.
- **Fraud the Great Myth:** During the same day registration process, WI voters prove their residence by providing a proof of residence document and through a by-mail verification system. Wisconsin is a long-standing swing state - elections are closely reviewed, audited, scrutinized and examined and were subject to the *ONLY* statewide 2016 Presidential Recount. There has been **no proven correlation** between same day registration and voter fraud. Safeguards that ensure the integrity of an election are important, but should not present significant barriers that prevent people from voting.

Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor.

- James A. Baldwin