

# Voter Registration Reforms

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) has fought for voting rights since its founding in 1893, when it advocated for women's suffrage. Today, we continue to advocate for laws and policies that guarantee easy and equitable access to the ballot box and oppose obstacles to voting rights. **Lawmakers should support state and federal voter registration reforms, including automatic voter registration, same-day voter registration, and online voter registration.**<sup>i</sup>

## Reforms increase turnout.

- Voter turnout in the United States is low in part because some laws make it difficult to register to vote and cast a ballot, especially for people of color.
- Studies show that states consistently experience a turnout boost between 5 – 7 percent after implementing same-day voter registration.
- A survey found that Americans living in states with voting reforms found it more convenient to vote.

## Reforms benefit underrepresented communities.

- Many states have onerous voter registration processes that disproportionately impact people of color, low income individuals, young people, the elderly, and those living in rural areas. Passing reforms to remove these barriers would help combat voter suppression and make our democracy more representative.
- Studies show that automatic voter registration increases turnout among young, rural, and Latinx voters and that same-day registrants are disproportionately people of color.

## Reforms make voter rolls more accurate and less expensive to maintain.

- Implementing automatic and online voter registration makes it easier for states to keep voter rolls up to date and accurate by switching from paper to electronic recordkeeping.
- Studies show that every state that has modernized voter registration, such as Delaware, Arizona, and Washington, has saved money as a result.
- A study by the National Council of State Legislatures found that online registration is more than 25 times cheaper for states to use than traditional paper registration.

### AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

Automatic voter registration automatically registers eligible voters when they come into contact with any government agency, such as getting a driver's license. Automatic voter registration has been approved in 10 states and is being considered in 32 more. The Automatic Voter Registration Act (S 1353/HR 2876) has been introduced to the House and the Senate.

### ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

Online voter registration allows voters to register to vote online. Thirty-four states and the District of Columbia allow eligible residents to register to vote online.

### SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION

Same-day voter registration allows eligible voters to register the same day they cast their ballot. Thirteen states and the District of Columbia have same-day registration on Election Day, while North Carolina and Maryland permit same-day registration during early voting periods.

<sup>i</sup> Surveys, data, and evidence cited above comes from the Brennan Center for Justice (<http://www.brennancenter.org/>) and the National Conference on State Legislatures (<http://www.ncsl.org/>).