

# Support Montana's Election Day Registration – Oppose HB 88

Let's not eliminate voting opportunities for Montana residents by rolling back our successful late voter registration period

Montana's late registration period is a success:

- Election Day registration allows Montana residents to vote who are erroneously missing from the voter lists on Election Day. Many Montanans correctly registered previously – sometimes months before – through the Montana Department of Motor Vehicles or other state agencies but found on Election Day that their registration had fallen through the cracks and was improperly withheld from the county election offices.
- Election Day registration helps young voters who move frequently and must reregister more often to keep their registration current. It engages the more mobile members of our population, including lower income residents.
- In 2008, over 10,000 Montanans took advantage of Montana's Election Day registration opportunity to cast their ballots in the general and primary elections. In the general election alone, voter registrations increased from 4,301 registrants on Election Day in 2006 to 7,419 in 2008.
- Use of the late registration period overall is increasing, from 8,189 new registrants in the 2006 general election to 18,357 in 2008 – and over 24,500 for both the 2008 general and primary elections. Montana should be PROUD of the fact that so many thousands of residents who might not otherwise have voted participated in its elections.
- Turnout in the 2008 presidential election in Montana was 74%, the highest in a presidential election since 1992. The turnout in the 2006 non-presidential election was over 63 percent, compared to 54 and 53 percent in the previous two non-presidential elections. The 2006 turnout exceeded even that in the presidential election of 2000.

HB 88 proposes to eliminate the opportunity for Montana residents to register and vote on Election Day and the day before the election.

Fraud is NOT an issue! The Secretary of State has not reported any instances of attempted voting fraud in 2008. It reported two instances of potential voting irregularities in 2006, both of which were investigated.

Turnout in states with Election Day registration consistently averages 10-12 percentage points higher than states without that option. In 2004, 4 of the 5 top states for voter turnout were ones with Election Day registration.

Other states have made Election Day registration work. In November 2008, for example, over 116,000 people, or about 13 percent of the total registered population, registered and voted on Election Day in Idaho, which has allowed Election Day registration since 1994.

Montana should not eliminate something that promoted participation in our election by several thousand Montanans, many of whom may not have otherwise voted, and that could allow for the participation of many thousands more in future elections.

Election Day registration is very successful in Montana, with no evidence of fraud or attempted fraud. The goal of our election process should be to improve voter participation. Clerk and recorders can certainly help make this work with sufficient resources, rather than eliminating this voter opportunity.

Preserving Election Day registration is key to involving more Montana residents in the election process and protecting the rights of Montanans to vote.

## Resources:

### AARP

Andy Heiman, 431.7580,  
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[www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

### Disability Rights Montana

Beth Brenneman, 431.2756,  
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[www.disabilityrightsmt.org](http://www.disabilityrightsmt.org)

### Forward Montana

Matt Singer, 542.8683,  
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[www.forwardmontana.org](http://www.forwardmontana.org)

### League of Women Voters Montana

Gladys Hardin, 543.4096,  
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[lwvmt.montana.com](http://lwvmt.montana.com)

### Montana Common Cause

Kate Cholewa, 459.4092,  
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[commoncause.org/montana](http://commoncause.org/montana)

### Montana Women Vote

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[montanawomenvote.org](http://montanawomenvote.org)

### Montana Conservation Voters

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# Late Registration Statistics by County

2008 General Late Reg.			
	By 11/3	On 11/4	All
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10938</b>	<b>7419</b>	<b>18357</b>
Beaverhead	106	93	199
Big Horn	87	156	243
Blaine	34	49	83
Broadwater	70	64	134
Carbon	129	81	210
Carter	5	6	11
Cascade	904	722	1626
Chouteau	35	20	55
Custer	116	114	230
Daniels	9	13	22
Dawson	66	44	110
Deer Lodge	69	83	152
Fallon	28	14	42
Fergus	120	95	215
Flathead	1505	812	2317
Gallatin	2221	578	2799
Garfield	7	15	22
Glacier	80	43	123
Golden Valley	8	0	8
Granite	22	11	33
Hill	133	157	290
Jefferson	104	73	177
Judith Basin	24	13	37
Lake	323	256	579
Lewis and Clark	665	502	1167
Liberty	15	12	27
Lincoln	151	104	255
Madison	86	64	150
McCone	15	7	22
Meagher	2	18	20
Mineral	35	37	72
Missoula	1226	1014	2240
Musselshell	56	45	101
Park	244	123	367
Petroleum	5	9	14
Phillips	43	15	58
Pondera	45	29	74
Powder River	6	0	6
Powell	47	45	92
Prairie	10	6	16
Ravalli	367	271	638
Richland	65	80	145
Roosevelt	44	63	107
Rosebud	58	75	133
Sanders	106	77	183
Sheridan	27	13	40
Silver Bow	202	305	507
Stillwater	104	84	188
Sweet Grass	47	17	64
Teton	51	30	81
Toole	39	26	65
Treasure	3	8	11
Valley	69	50	119
Wheatland	33	16	49
Wibaux	6	5	11
Yellowstone	861	757	1618

2008 Primary Late Reg.			
	By 6/2	On 6/3	All
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3591</b>	<b>2679</b>	<b>6270</b>
	32	34	66
	46	92	138
	7	13	20
	11	22	33
	78	26	104
	1	0	1
	272	223	495
	18	12	30
	40	31	71
	4	3	7
	7	2	9
	63	38	101
	4	0	4
	67	36	103
	483	235	718
	585	154	739
	11	11	22
	32	17	49
	0	0	0
	4	4	8
	40	33	73
	39	17	56
	0	0	0
	175	94	269
	348	335	683
	10	0	10
	42	21	63
	11	8	19
	6	2	8
	0	0	0
	9	8	17
	361	491	852
	22	0	22
	89	52	141
	0	0	0
	15	2	17
	27	9	36
	0	0	0
	9	8	17
	0	0	0
	123	92	215
	18	23	41
	12	19	31
	9	15	24
	15	13	28
	11	8	19
	91	142	233
	13	0	13
	9	3	12
	32	20	52
	13	10	23
	0	2	2
	14	12	26
	4	11	15
	0	0	0
	259	276	535

2006 General Late Reg.			
	By 11/6	On 11/7	All
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3888</b>	<b>4301</b>	<b>8189</b>
	74	83	157
	47	143	190
	23	26	49
	71	44	115
	44	64	108
	2	1	3
	274	281	555
	21	13	34
	72	81	153
	9	4	13
	53	41	94
	46	58	104
	17	10	27
	71	34	105
	160	328	488
	495	419	914
	5	4	9
	32	75	107
	4	3	7
	9	14	23
	60	100	160
	50	46	96
	16	3	19
	68	79	147
	262	266	528
	10	4	14
	51	28	79
	18	43	61
	2	2	4
	9	7	16
	25	19	44
	533	632	1165
	21	25	46
	120	109	229
	5	8	13
	28	20	48
	38	14	52
	13	9	22
	24	23	47
	4	4	8
	107	159	266
	57	44	101
	24	88	112
	11	50	61
	33	32	65
	12	10	22
	152	185	337
	48	47	95
	6	24	30
	43	36	79
	32	11	43
	4	3	7
	54	26	80
	6	10	16
	2	3	5
	411	456	867