



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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- NEWS RELEASE -

STATE SENATE APPROVES BYSIEWICZ PLAN: ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION TO DEBUT FOR FEB. 5TH PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

CONNECTICUT COULD BECOME ONLY 'SUPER-DUPER' TUESDAY STATE
TO HAVE EDR

Hartford: The State Senate has passed a measure, first proposed by Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz, allowing for Election Day Registration (EDR) to debut in Connecticut on Feb. 5, 2008 – the proposed date for the state’s presidential primaries. Under the plan, Connecticut residents would be able to register to vote on the day of the election and unaffiliated voters, which total more than 940,000 in Connecticut, would be able to register with a political party and vote in that party’s presidential primary on the same day.

“Enacting EDR for the Feb. 5th presidential primary is a powerful one-two punch that would drive up voter turnout and place Connecticut as a national leader for election reform,” said Bysiewicz. “This would not be possible without the hard work of our State Senate leadership, especially Senator Gayle Slossberg.”

If the measure is approved by the State House and signed by Gov. Rell, Connecticut would join seven other states which have enacted some type of

Election Day Registration. Connecticut would also become the only state participating in the Feb. 5th 'Super-duper' Tuesday presidential primary to implement EDR.

Bysiewicz added, "Imagine nearly one million unaffiliated voters, not to mention thousands of people who are not registered at all, being able to register with any party on Election Day and then voting in that party's primary! The changes will make for an exciting and very well attended presidential primary in Connecticut."

The seven states that allow same-day registration average a turnout of approximately 48 percent, compared to 37 percent in states where voters are required to register days or weeks ahead of time. Currently, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Wyoming have EDR. The bill that just passed the State Senate in Connecticut allows for EDR to be implemented as a pilot program for Feb. 5, 2008.

Connecticut was the first state in the nation to implement a statewide electronic voter registration system that protects voters' rights and protects privacy. The creation of the Connecticut Voter Registration (CVR) system enables local Registrars of Voters to instantly verify voter information and check to see if the voter is already registered in another Connecticut town or city.

"Voter fraud must always be of paramount concern when reforming the electoral process," said Bysiewicz. "Thanks to the safeguards we have enacted, I am confident that our elections under EDR will be fraud free, as they have been in the other states which have EDR."

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