

# VOTERS WIN

## WITH SAME DAY REGISTRATION,

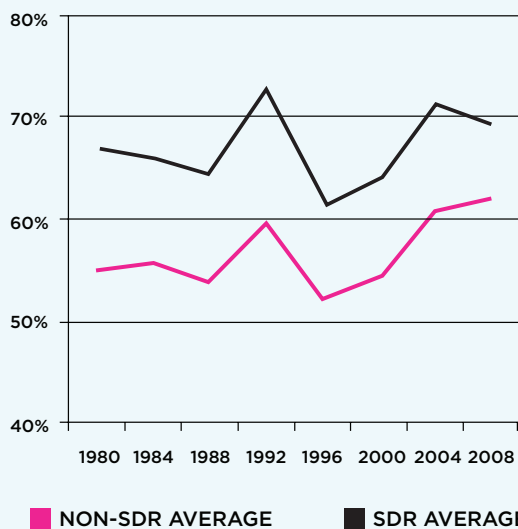
### 2010 MIDTERM ELECTIONS FACT SHEET

#### SAME DAY REGISTRATION IN THE 2010 ELECTIONS

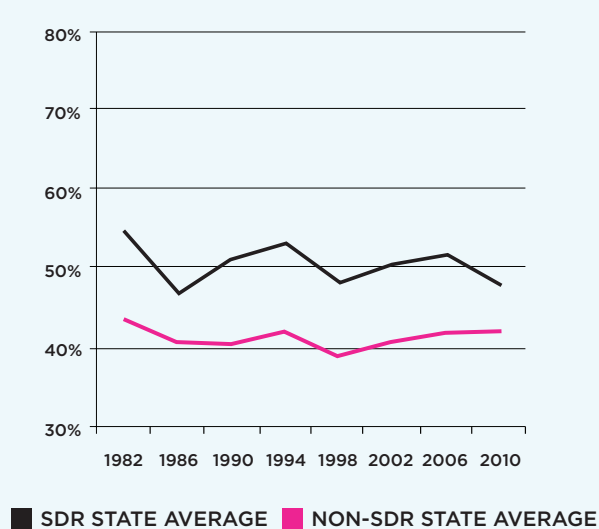
“Same Day Registration” (SDR) greatly expands opportunities for Americans to participate in the electoral process and cast a ballot that will be properly counted by allowing citizens to register and vote on Election Day or during the period immediately preceding an election. States that allow for Same Day Registration consistently lead the nation in voter turnout.<sup>1</sup>

That trend continued in the 2010 midterm elections. Average turnout in the nine SDR states and the District of Columbia, which first implemented Same Day Registration in 2010, was nearly 6 percentage points higher than in non-SDR states.<sup>2</sup> SDR allowed almost 640,000 Americans to register and vote in the November 2, 2010 election. This bloc of voters is larger than the populations of Washington, D.C.; Boston, Massachusetts; Nashville, Tennessee; Denver, Colorado; or the state of Vermont.

**TURNOUT RATES IN SDR VS. NON-SDR STATES, 1980 - 2010, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION YEARS**



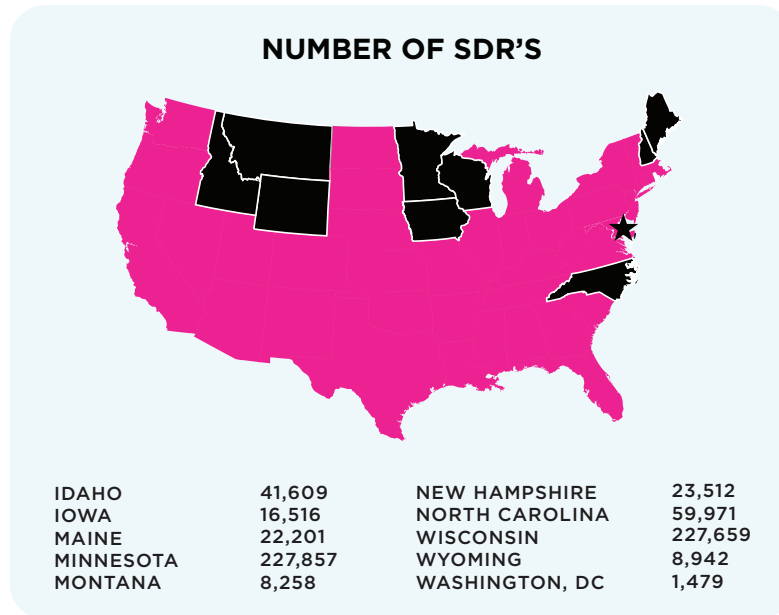
**TURNOUT RATES IN SDR VS. NON-SDR STATES, 1980 - 2010, MIDTERM ELECTION YEARS**



Source: United States Election Project, <http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout%201980-2010.xls>.

## STATE BY STATE SUMMARY 2010

Maine and Minnesota, which allow voters to register and cast a ballot on Election Day, led the nation in voter turnout in the 2010 midterm election. Turnout rates there were 15 percentage points higher than the national average. Turnout was 10 percentage points higher in Wisconsin and Iowa, two other Same Day Registration states.



**Idaho:** Election Day registrants accounted for nearly 10 percent of the total ballots cast.<sup>3</sup>

**Iowa:** Same Day Registration was first introduced 2008. Over 62,000 Iowans used SDR to vote in the two subsequent general elections.<sup>4</sup>

**Maine:** Four out of five SDR voters registered on Election Day.<sup>5</sup> Maine allows eligible citizens to register and vote at the municipal clerk's office 30 to 45 days before each election, and on Election Day itself.

**Minnesota:** More than 10 percent of the total votes were cast by voters registering on Election Day.<sup>6</sup>

**Montana:** Nearly 10,000 Montana citizens registered and voted during the state's "late registration" period, which runs from the close of the regular registration period up to and including Election Day. Of those, almost half registered on Election Day itself.<sup>7</sup>

**New Hampshire:** More than 23,000 New Hampshire residents registered and voted on Election Day in 2010.<sup>8</sup>

**North Carolina:** Same Day Registration went into effect in North Carolina in October 2007. The state saw a steep rise in voter turnout in the November 2008 presidential election. The trend continued through the November 2010 midterm election. Voting in 2010 midterm election was 8 percentage points higher than in the 2006 midterm election -- the second greatest midterm vote increase in the nation. Over 21,000 of those who used SDR were new registrants. Nearly 40,000 others used SDR to update their voter registration records and vote, avoiding the need to vote by provisional ballot.<sup>9</sup>

**Wisconsin:** Citizens who registered on Election Day accounted for over 10 percent of all voters.<sup>10</sup>

**Wyoming:** Nearly 9,000 Wyoming residents used SDR to participate in the November 2010 general election.<sup>11</sup>

The **District of Columbia** enacted Same Day Registration in 2009.<sup>12</sup> It went into effect in 2010.

## ENDNOTES

1. Steven Carbó and Regina Eaton, "Voters Win with Same Day Registration," Demos, updated January 2010, [http://www.demos.org/pubs/voterswin\\_feb032010.pdf](http://www.demos.org/pubs/voterswin_feb032010.pdf).
2. The voter turnout figures used throughout this document were derived from the number of voted cast for the highest office and the voting-eligible population (VEP), as reported by the United States Election Project, <http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout%201980-2010.xls>. The VEP is constructed by adjusting the voting-age population for non-citizens and ineligible felons, depending on state law.
3. Idaho Secretary of State, [http://www.idsos.state.id.us/elect/RESULTS/2008/general/tot\\_stwd.htm](http://www.idsos.state.id.us/elect/RESULTS/2008/general/tot_stwd.htm).
4. Email from Marisa Roseberry, Iowa Secretary of State's Office (Feb. 7, 2011) (on file with Dēmos).
5. Email from Sue Look, CVR Manager, Maine Secretary of State Division of Elections (Feb. 7, 2011) (on file with Dēmos).
6. Minnesota Secretary of State, <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=9737>.
7. Email from Terri L. Knapp, Communications Director, Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch (Dec. 2010) (on file with Dēmos).
8. Email from David Scanlan, New Hampshire Deputy Secretary of State, (Feb. 7, 2011) (on file with Dēmos).
9. Email from Veronica Degraffenreid, Elections Liason, North Carolina State Board of Elections (Dec. 2, 2010) (on file with Dēmos).
10. Email from Nathaniel E. Robinson, Elections Division Administrator, Wisconsin Government Accountability Board (Feb. 8, 2011) (on file with Dēmos).
11. Email from Kai Schon, HAVA Coordinator, Wyoming Secretary of State's Office Elections Division (Feb. 8, 2011) (on file with Dēmos).
12. District of Columbia Omnibus Election Reform Act of 2009, Bill 18-345, <http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/images/00001/20090618130012.pdf>.

## ABOUT DĒMOS

**D**ēmos is a non-partisan public policy research and advocacy organization. Headquartered in New York City, Dēmos works with advocates and policymakers around the country in pursuit of four overarching goals: a more equitable economy; a vibrant and inclusive democracy; an empowered public sector that works for the common good; and responsible U.S. engagement in an interdependent world. Dēmos was founded in 2000. In 2010, Dēmos entered into a publishing partnership with *The American Prospect*, one of the nation's premier magazines focusing on policy analysis, investigative journalism, and forward-looking solutions for the nation's greatest challenges.