

Margaret Heitz, constituents
Street address
Lexington MA 02421

15th Massachusetts Middlesex District

State Representative Michelle Ciccolo
Massachusetts State House, Room 473F
24 Beacon Street
Boston MA 02133

Dear Representative Ciccolo,

The following citizens of the 15th Middlesex District thank you for co-sponsoring the Election Day Registration house bill, H. 685. We wish to be added to the list of citizens who support the bill and who strongly encourage its passage during the current (191st) legislative session.

Margaret B. Heitz, Lexington
Lisa Baci, Lexington
Name, Lexington
Name, Woburn, Ward 1
Name, Woburn, Ward 7
etc.

Name, Lexington
Name, Woburn, Ward 1
Name, Woburn, Ward 7
etc.

Background

Election Day Registration ([House Bill 685](#) & [Senate Bill 396](#)) would eliminate the arbitrary 20-day voter registration cutoff and enable prospective voters to register or update their registration at their polling place on Election Day or during the early voting period. Polling places would have to offer registration during the full hours of voting, with exceptions for small towns. (Those with fewer than 1,500 people would just be required to offer new registration during the morning and evening rushes). Prospective voters would be required to provide proof of residency at the polls, as is required of first-time voters, and local election officials would submit new registration information to the annual register of voters. The law would take full effect in July of 2021.

The Election Day Modernization Coalition led by the League of Women Voters, Common Cause, MassPIRG, and six other citizen organizations strongly support EDR. At a time when states across the country are passing laws restricting access to the ballot box, it is important for Massachusetts to continue to demonstrate positive election reforms. It has been noted that the average American moves by choice or necessity many times over the course of their lives. Given preoccupation with school, work, family, and myriad other commitments, many voters may first start to learn about an election after the current registration window of 20 days has passed. "Election Day Registration is a simple, proven solution," said Jonathan Cohn, Issues Chair of Progressive Massachusetts.

The policy was passed as early as 1973 in Maine and Minnesota and has since enjoyed tremendous success in 20 states. Election Day Registration is supported by state leaders including Secretary of State Bill Galvin and Attorney General Maura Healey. On the federal level the entire Massachusetts Congressional Delegation has cast their support for HR1 which includes EDR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Heitz". The signature is written in a dark brown or black ink on a white background.

Margaret B. Heitz
For 15th Middlesex constituents