

Election Day Registration (EDR) and Automatic Voter Registration (AVR)

The Trump administration is attacking voting rights:

- Trump’s “Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity,” led by notorious vote suppressor Kris Kobach, requested that states, including Maryland, turn over voters’ personal data.
- The Department of Justice requested that election officials from 44 states, including Maryland, provide detailed information about how they are maintaining their voter rolls.
- These demands were widely seen by voting rights experts as a prelude to voter purges.
- Kobach’s Interstate Voter Crosscheck Program, whose alleged purpose is to rid the voter rolls of duplicative registrations, has 200 false positives for every real double registration.
- Although the Kobach Commission was recently disbanded, the Trump administration’s “voter fraud investigation” will continue at the Department of Homeland Security.
- The Department of Homeland Security might compare its immigration databases to voter registration lists and try to purge individuals who share names with non-citizens from the voter rolls.
- Like the Interstate Voter Crosscheck Program, this practice would disproportionately disenfranchise voters of color, who are more likely than white voters to have common names.

Maryland state laws providing for EDR and AVR would help protect us from these voter suppression tactics by facilitating voter registration and expanding the electorate.

EDR:

- Fourteen states and Washington, D.C. allow voters to register at the polls on Election Day, but Maryland voters must register at least 21 days before Election Day.
- This restriction lowers voter turnout by preventing voters from registering when they are most likely to be politically engaged.
- In 2014, voter turnout in states with EDR was more than 10% higher than in states without EDR.
- EDR is especially effective at improving turnout among young voters, voters of color, newly naturalized citizens, and voters with lower incomes and levels of education.
- EDR is now a bill in the Maryland General Assembly. It would allow Maryland voters who are unfairly purged from the rolls to re-register and vote on Election Day, without having to cast provisional ballots.

AVR:

- Ten states and Washington, D.C. have approved AVR.
- In 2016, after becoming the first state to implement AVR, Oregon had the largest increase in voter turnout of any state in the country.
- The Oregon law greatly increased the number of young voters, voters of color, and low-income voters.
- This year’s AVR bill in Maryland – the Secure and Accessible Registration Act (SARA) – would simply change voter registration at the MVA and other state agencies from an opt-in to an opt-out system. Clients at these agencies who are eligible Maryland voters would be asked, “Would you like to opt out of registering to vote?” instead of being asked, “Would you like to register to vote?”

Urge your representatives to support EDR and AVR!

1) Join us for a lobby day in Annapolis. We will be meeting with state legislators from Baltimore City and Baltimore County to discuss the importance of these bills.

When: Monday, January 29th, 6-8 pm
Where: 121 Cathedral Street, #2a (Common Cause Maryland office)
Annapolis, MD 21401
RSVP: email Dave Rodwin - drodwin@gmail.com

2) Call your state legislators and ask them to co-sponsor EDR and AVR. You can look up your district here: <http://mdelect.net/>.

District 6:

Sen. Johnny Ray Salling
(410) 841-3587
Del. Robin Grammer
(410) 841-3298
Del. Bob Long
(410) 841-3458
Del. Ric Metzgar
(410) 841-3332

District 10:

Sen. Delores Kelley
(410) 841-3606
Del. Benjamin Brooks
(410) 841-3352
Del. Jay Jalisi
(410) 841-3358
Del. Adrienne Jones
(410) 841-3391

District 40:

Sen. Barbara Robinson
(410) 841-3656
Del. Frank Conaway
(410) 841-3189
Del. Antonio Hayes
(410) 841-3545
Del. Nick Mosby
(410) 841-3520

District 44:

Sen. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam
(410) 841-3612
Del. Keith Haynes (44A)
(410) 841-3801
Del. Charles Sydnor (44B)
(410) 841-3802
Del. Pat Young (44B)
(410) 841-3544

District 7:

Sen. JB Jennings
(410) 841-3706
Del. Rick Impallaria
(410) 841-3289
Del. Pat McDonough
(410) 841-3334
Del. Kathy Szeliga
(410) 841-3698

District 11:

Sen. Bobby Zirkin
(410) 841-3131
Del. Shelly Hettleman
(410) 841-3833
Del. Dan Morhaim
(410) 841-3054
Del. Dana Stein
(410) 841-3527

District 41:

Sen. Nathaniel Oaks
(410) 841-3697
Del. Bilal Ali
(410) 841-3268
Del. Angela Gibson
(410) 841-3283
Del. Samuel Rosenberg
(410) 841-3297

District 45:

Sen. Nathaniel McFadden
(410) 841-3165
Del. Talmadge Branch
(410) 841-3398
Del. Cheryl Glenn
(410) 841-3257
Del. Cory McCray
(410) 841-3486

District 8:

Sen. Katherine Klausmeier
(410) 841-3620
Del. Eric Bromwell
(410) 841-3766
Del. Joe Cluster
(410) 841-3526
Del. Christian Miele
(410) 841-3365

District 12:

Sen. Edward Kasemeyer
(410) 841-3653
Del. Eric Ebersole
(410) 841-3328
Del. Terri Hill
(410) 841-3378
Del. Clarence Lam
(410) 841-3205

District 42:

Sen. Jim Brochin
(410) 841-3648
Del. Stephen Lafferty
(410) 841-3487
Del. Susan Aumann
(410) 841-3258
Del. Chris West
(410) 841-3793

District 46:

Sen. Bill Ferguson
(410) 841-3600
Del. Luke Clippinger
(410) 841-3303
Del. Robbyn Lewis
(410) 841-3772
Del. Brooke Lierman
(410) 841-3319

District 9:

Sen. Gail Bates
(410) 841-3671
Del. Trent Kittleman (9A)
(410) 841-3556
Del. Warren Miller (9A)
(410) 841-3582
Del. Robert Flanagan (9B)
(410) 841-3077

District 13:

Sen. Guy Guzzone
(410) 841-3572
Del. Vanessa Atterbeary
(410) 841-3471
Del. Shane Pendergrass
(410) 841-3139
Del. Frank Turner
(410) 841-3246

District 43:

Sen. Joan Carter Conway
(410) 841-3145
Del. Curt Anderson
(410) 841-3291
Del. Maggie McIntosh
(410) 841-3407
Del. Mary Washington
(410) 841-3476