Utah & Same-Day Voter Registration

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2014 - 2016 Pilot Project

Participating Jurisdictions:

2014: 6 / 29 counties
2015: 57 / 246 municipalities
2016: 8 / 29 counties
2018: 2.1% of votes cast were from same-day registrations
EDR in Weber County – 100,000 voters, 153 precincts

- 2014 – Pilot project, no advertising
- 2016 – Pilot Project, some advertising
- 2018 – Full EDR, heavy advertising

Estimate: 50 percent of all provisionals are EDR

Other factors:

2015 Weber County went vote by mail with vote centers
- 2012 – 58 polling places
- 2014 – 25 polling places – 14 vote centers
- 2016 – 9 vote centers
- 2018 – 6 vote centers

2018 – Prop 2 - medical canabis
Provisional voters increase with EDR

% of In-person Voters Who Voted Provisionally

- 2012: 6% (Regular: 94%, Provisional: 6%)
- 2014: 5% (Regular: 95%, Provisional: 5%)
- 2016: 18% (Regular: 82%, Provisional: 18%)
- 2018: 35% (Regular: 65%, Provisional: 35%)

*Same-Day Registration - Local Perspective*
Provisional voters require more help

% of Poll Worker Time Spent Helping Provisional Voters

- 2012: 30% helping regular voters, 70% helping provisional voters
- 2014: 26% helping regular voters, 74% helping provisional voters
- 2016: 40% helping regular voters, 60% helping provisional voters
- 2018: 21% helping regular voters, 79% helping provisional voters

Same-Day Registration - Local Perspective
More provisionals, more time

% of Provisionals and Processing Time

- Percentage of Poll Worker Time Spent Processing Provisional Ballots
- Percentage of Provisional Ballots

Same-Day Registration - Local Perspective
Big Benefit of EDR

Percentage of Rejected Provisionals

Same-Day Registration - Local Perspective
Lessons Learned

EDR/Provisionals consume poll worker time & increase lines
- Remember the *
- Two lines – sheep & goats
- Work the lines/prefill
- Alter polling place resources

Not all provisionals require the same treatment
- Address changes vs. New voters

Work in advance with voter advocacy groups (esp. for youth)
- Emphasize deadlines, not EDR
How to Improve the process?

Late online registrations - print a pre-filled provisional form (or online with QR/provisional #)

Use Motor Vehicle address updates
• Auto-update voter registrations
• Trigger confirmation notice to voter

Use services to ID voters who moved
• NCOA (free w/ERIC)
• Credit rating agencies (i.e., Equifax, Experian)

Automatic Voter Registration (and updating)
• Keeps addresses current