



SENATE STATE ADMIN.  
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## High 2004 Turnout for States with Election Day Registration

Advocates for democracy had one strong reason to cheer on election night: high voter turnout. More than 122 million Americans voted for President in 2004, an increase of 17 million voters or more than 8% of the voting-eligible population (VEP),<sup>1</sup> from the 2000 election.

Once again, the states leading the country in voter participation all have one thing in common: they allow voters to register to vote on Election Day. Election Day Registration (EDR) makes it possible for new voters, the recently relocated, and those whose registrations were incomplete or lost to participate without unnecessary hurdles. **Nationwide, residents of states with Election Day registration voted at rates far higher than average:**

- 73.8% of all eligible voters in EDR states voted, compared with 60.2% of eligible voters in states without EDR -- a difference of 13.6 percentage points.
- Turnout in four of the six states with EDR topped the nation. Minnesota (78.0%), Wisconsin (74.9%), Maine (72.6%), and New Hampshire (70.5%). Oregon, which employs a vote-by-mail system, had a turnout of 70.9%, making it the only non-EDR state to place in the top five.
- Turnout in “safe” states<sup>2</sup> with EDR averaged 66.9%, compared with 58.5% turnout rates in other “safe” states -- a difference of 8.4 percentage points.
- “Battleground” states with EDR averaged a 75.7% turnout, compared with 65.2% turnout rates in other “battleground” states -- a difference of 10.5 percentage points.
- The 13.6% turnout advantage for EDR states was significantly larger than the 8.2% difference in turnout between “battleground” and “safe” states.
- EDR may enhance the intense mobilization that occurs in “battleground” states. “Battleground” states with traditional voter registration had turnout rates only 6.7% higher than “safe” states. In “battleground” states with EDR, turnout was 8.8% higher than in “safe” EDR states.

<sup>1</sup> The U.S. voting-eligible population (VEP) includes all adult residents of the United States who are citizens and not disfranchised by current felony convictions. It more closely approximates the actual electorate than other more common measures (voting age population and citizen voting age population). Due to data limitations, the state-level VEP figures presented here do not properly account for overseas citizens, former prisoners, probationers or parolees who are still unable to vote under certain state laws, nor adults declared mentally incapacitated and therefore ineligible to vote. VEP data was drawn from the United States Election Project ([http://elections.gmu.edu/voter\\_turnout.htm](http://elections.gmu.edu/voter_turnout.htm)) on December 14, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> “Safe” states are those in which one presidential candidate won with more than 5% of the vote. All states with a smaller margin of victory are “battleground” states.

## Overall Turnout

	<b>Percent Turnout</b>	<b>Voting Eligible Population</b>	<b>2004 Turnout</b>
<b>All States</b>	60.9%	200,760,369	122,284,728
<b>All EDR</b>	73.8%	10,959,323	8,086,045
<b>All Non-EDR States</b>	60.2%	189,801,046	114,198,683
<b>EDR Advantage</b>	<b>13.6%</b>		

## Turnout in "Battleground" States

	<b>Percent Turnout</b>	<b>Voting Eligible Population</b>	<b>2004 Turnout</b>
<b>All Battleground States</b>	66.8%	55,985,041	37,402,724
<b>EDR Battleground States</b>	75.7%	8,592,020	6,503,056
<b>Non-EDR Battleground States</b>	65.2%	47,393,021	30,899,668
<b>New Hampshire</b>	70.5%	961,505	677,662
<b>Wisconsin</b>	74.9%	4,002,710	2,997,007
<b>Minnesota</b>	78.0%	3,627,805	2,828,387
<b>EDR Advantage</b>	<b>10.5%</b>		

## Turnout in "Safe" States

	<b>Percent Turnout</b>	<b>Voting Eligible Population</b>	<b>2004 Turnout</b>
<b>All Safe States</b>	58.6%	144,775,328	84,882,004
<b>EDR Safe States</b>	66.9%	2,367,303	1,582,989
<b>Non-EDR Safe States</b>	58.5%	142,408,025	83,299,015
<b>Maine</b>	72.6%	1,019,972	740,752
<b>Idaho</b>	61.8%	967,761	598,376
<b>Wyoming</b>	64.2%	379,570	243,861
<b>EDR Advantage</b>	<b>8.4%</b>		

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