

Fears Of Fraud Concerning “Registration & Voting at One-Stop Sites”

NC HOUSE BILL 91 (Prime sponsors: Reps. Ross, Parmon, Tolson, Holliman)
NC SENATE BILL 195 (Prime sponsor: Sen. Shaw)

What H-91/S-195 Allows: These bills allow a person who misses the registration deadline to go to an One-Stop, Early Voting site in the county, show a form of ID, fill out the registration form, swear they are a citizen under penalty of a felony, and vote, all on the same day – which is why it’s nicknamed *Same Day Registration*. People can use this process in North Carolina only during the early voting period (19 to 3 days before Election Day), not on Election Day itself.

Some people claim it’s necessary to require a government-issued photo ID to protect against fraud, but that’s just wrong. Here’s why:

► **Experience in other states:** Six states have used Same Day Registration (SDR) on Election Day itself for years (3 states for over 30 years, 3 for over a dozen years) and none of them have experienced any more fraud than states without SDR. Fraud is a mythical fear, not a real problem.

► **Other ID works:** None of those 6 SDR states require a driver’s license or government-issued photo ID as the only means to establish the new registrant’s identity. They all allow the person to use other documents or, in some states, allow a registered neighbor to vouch for the person.

► **Unconstitutional burden:** Requiring photo IDs is an unnecessary burden that acts as a barrier to many people. It has been ruled unconstitutional in Georgia and elsewhere. Voting is a constitutional right in North Carolina, not a privilege for those who happen to have photo IDs. Tens of thousands of North Carolinians don’t have one. Requiring a photo ID creates more problems than it solves.

► **Federal requirements:** The North Carolina proposal uses the same set of ID requirements and registration procedures that are required at other times people register, in accordance with the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The bill also follows the National Voter Registration Act, and it uses the same process to verify the driver’s license or social security number and address.

► **State requirements:** Gary Bartlett of the State Board of Elections has written: "Following the procedures described in this legislation, I believe we can preserve the security and integrity of the election process and provide additional access for citizens who miss the registration deadline." In-person registration adds security, not a fraud risk.

► **Early Voting Period only:** The NC proposal only allows Same Day Registration during the One-Stop, Early Voting period that extends from 19 days to 3 days before Election Day. This gives time for the verification process to be completed before the official canvass day (vote count).

► **Retrievable ballot:** The person who registers under this legislation is voting with a retrievable ballot, so if a problem occurs their ballot can be retrieved and not counted.

► **Stiff penalties for violations:** The person who registers must sign a sworn statement, in front of an elections official, stating that they are giving the correct address, that they are at least 18, and that they are a US citizen. Lying is a Class I felony. If they then vote, while illegally registered, they are committing another felony. The fraud fears are just overblown to scare people.

For more, contact the NC Coalition for Same-Day Registration at 1-866-302-0031 or Democracy North Carolina at 1-888-OUR-VOTE or go to www.democracy-nc.org