



Election Day Registration Education Series, #3

Staffing and Training of Elections Personnel Winter/Spring 2003

Soon after EDR becomes law, state level election officials are encouraged to:

- *Involve county and local election officials in the process early on.* In other EDR states, feedback from local administrators proved beneficial down the road because it helped get them engaged and feeling positive about EDR.
- *Develop and update training materials* to include detailed information about EDR. County and local officials can use these materials when training clerks and poll workers.
- *Assist county and local election officials in providing EDR training* to all persons designated to conduct registration on election day. Particular attention should be paid to explaining the various types of identification voters are permitted to show in order to register at the polls.

In the weeks leading up to an election, state level election officials should:

- *Assist county clerks in the recruitment of new poll workers*, including young and bilingual volunteers. Having poll workers who are knowledgeable about current law and familiar with using computers and new voting technologies will be crucial to implementing EDR.
- *Conduct and observe training sessions* that allow hands-on practice with using registration materials and the address books used to find a voter's polling site. Each polling place should have at least one staff person who has been trained specifically in conducting registrations on election day.

On election day, poll workers must be trained to:

- *Create two separate areas at every polling place:* one for registered voters and one for voters who need to register or update their registration. This will prevent long lines for voters who are registered already.
- *Use the address book* and other materials to direct voters to the correct voting location. Unregistered voters may show up to register and vote at the wrong polling place.
- *Assure voters that their votes will be counted* at the correct voting location. Voters who appear at the wrong polling site may become agitated or feel like they are being turned away from voting.

More resources on election day registration, including toolkits, reports, and statistical data are available at www.demos-usa.org