



Good afternoon.

We're here to talk about a common sense decision: Passing a bill allowing same day voter registration.

Strangely, when it comes to encouraging voter turnout, there seems to be a disconnect between common sense and legislation.

Our country was formed on the principle of giving every citizen a voice in choosing their elected officials.

Using common sense, you'd think the voting process would be simple, accessible, and straightforward, to ensure that all citizens vote in elections.

Unfortunately, this is where the disconnect occurs. Our voting process is confusing and cumbersome, and most people don't vote.

For example, national voter turnout in the last presidential election was 51.2 percent. That is absolutely pathetic!

The consequence of this is extreme. Our citizens are missing an opportunity to have a voice in their elected government.

We cannot let this continue.

Fortunately, there is a solution. Same day voter registration eliminates the disconnect and brings millions of citizens - who otherwise wouldn't vote - to the polls.

Look at the numbers. Minnesota has led the nation in voter turnout in nearly every presidential election since passing same day voter registration in 1974.

We're very proud of that.

Guess who else frequently leads the way in voter turnout?

The State of Maine.

Maine also has same day voter registration. (And an independent governor.)

See the pattern here?



We must bring people to the polls and solve the mystery of why countries like Italy have a 92 percent voter turnout, and we don't.

Virtually every democracy in the world has higher voter turnout than the United States.

In Cambodia, 90 percent of citizens vote.

Seychelles, a small Eastern African country northeast of Madagascar, has a 96 percent voter turnout!

The United States should be the role model for democracy. Voter participation is the best way to build a stronger democracy and ensure citizen involvement in that democracy.

I think we can make that happen by making same day voter registration a federal law.

Thank you.