



Vote by Mail  
Information  
Enclosed!



**Massachusetts**

# **INFORMATION FOR VOTERS**

**2020 Ballot Questions**

**STATE ELECTION**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

**Voter Registration Mail-In Form Enclosed!**



Massachusetts Register to Vote Online

**[registertovotema.com](https://registertovotema.com)**

*Published by*

**William Francis Galvin**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth*  
*State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133*

*William Francis Galvin*  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth*

Dear Voter:

This has been a challenging year for all our citizens, but now as in past difficult times the citizens of Massachusetts always meet the challenges and never allow circumstances to prevent them from having their voices heard and exercising their right to choose our leaders and make policy decisions.

This year, to help voters participate I initiated new procedures to give voters more options. We have introduced Vote by Mail as an option, increased early voting dates from October 17 to October 30, and are working to guarantee that those who choose to vote in person on November 3, 2020 will be able to do so safely. All polling places will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

If you have not yet registered to vote or need to re-register because you moved, we have enclosed a form for you to fill out and mail back, or, if you have a Massachusetts driver's license or ID, you can register to vote online at [www.RegisterToVoteMA.com](http://www.RegisterToVoteMA.com). State law requires that you must register by October 24, 2020 to have your name appear on the voting list. You can also check your voter registration status on our website as well.

There are two binding statewide ballot questions appearing on the state election ballot. The 2020 official Information for Voters booklet lists each question with the text of the proposed law, statements describing the effect of a yes or no vote, a summary, and brief argument for and against each question. This information will assist you in making a thoughtful decision before you vote. You can even take this booklet with you into the voting booth if you wish.

This booklet contains important information for the upcoming election. The choices you make in this election are going to shape the course of government for our nation, state and local communities. The leadership that you select will make important decisions affecting you and your family. I urge you to participate in this process because your vote matters.

Please VOTE and exercise the most essential right of our democratic system.

Very truly yours,

*William Francis Galvin*

William Francis Galvin  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

## Offices on the Ballot in 2020

**President/Vice President**

**Senator in Congress**

**Representative in Congress**

**Councillor**

**Senator in General Court**

**Representative in General Court**

**Register of Probate**

**County Commissioner**

(Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Norfolk and Plymouth counties only), or Franklin Council of Government (Franklin County only)

**County Treasurer**

(Bristol, Dukes, Norfolk and Plymouth counties only)

**Sheriff**

(Norfolk County only – to fill a vacancy)

## Deadline to Register to Vote!

Check your voter registration at [www.RegistertovoteMA.com](http://www.RegistertovoteMA.com).

If you are not registered, you can use the enclosed form to register, but it must be postmarked by **October 24, 2020** for you to be eligible to vote in the State Election.



## Voter Registration Mail-In Form Enclosed!

To receive additional Mail-in Voter Registration Forms, visit our website at [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele) or call the Elections Division at 617-727-2828 or 1-800-462-VOTE.

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¡Atención! Si desea recibir este folleto en Español, llame al 617-727-2828 o al 1-800-462-VOTE (8683).

請注意！如果您希望索取本手冊的中文譯本，請致電 617-727-2828 或 1-800-462-8683。

# 1

## QUESTION 1: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

# Motor Vehicle Mechanical Data

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

### SUMMARY

As required by law, summaries are written by the State Attorney General.

► This proposed law would require that motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities be provided with expanded access to mechanical data related to vehicle maintenance and repair.

Starting with model year 2022, the proposed law would require manufacturers of motor vehicles sold in Massachusetts to equip any such vehicles that use telematics systems -- systems that collect and wirelessly transmit mechanical data to a remote server -- with a standardized open access data platform. Owners of motor vehicles with telematics systems would get access to mechanical data through a mobile device application. With vehicle owner authorization, independent repair facilities (those not affiliated with a manufacturer) and independent dealerships would be able to retrieve mechanical data from, and send commands to, the vehicle for repair, maintenance, and diagnostic testing.

Under the proposed law, manufacturers would not be allowed to require authorization before owners or repair facilities could access mechanical data stored in a motor vehicle's on-board diagnostic

system, except through an authorization process standardized across all makes and models and administered by an entity unaffiliated with the manufacturer.

The proposed law would require the Attorney General to prepare a notice for prospective motor vehicle owners and lessees explaining telematics systems and the proposed law's requirements concerning access to the vehicle's mechanical data. Under the proposed law, dealers would have to provide prospective owners with, and prospective owners would have to acknowledge receipt of, the notice before buying or leasing a vehicle. Failure to comply with these notice requirements would subject motor vehicle dealers to sanctions by the applicable licensing authority.

Motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities could enforce this law through state consumer protection laws and recover civil penalties of the greater of treble damages or \$10,000 per violation.

### WHAT YOUR VOTE WILL DO

As required by law, the statements describing the effect of a "yes" or "no" vote are written jointly by the State Attorney General and the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

► **A YES VOTE** would provide motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities with expanded access to wirelessly transmitted mechanical data related to their vehicles' maintenance and repair.

**A NO VOTE** would make no change in the law governing access to vehicles' wirelessly transmitted mechanical data.

### STATEMENT OF FISCAL CONSEQUENCES

As required by law, statements of fiscal consequences are written by the Executive Office of Administration and Finance.

► The proposed law has no discernible material fiscal consequences for state and municipal government finances.

## QUESTION 1: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

### ARGUMENTS ►

As provided by law, the 150-word arguments are written by proponents and opponents of each question, and reflect their opinions. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts does not endorse these arguments, and does not certify the truth or accuracy of any statement made in these arguments. The names of the individuals and organizations who wrote each argument, and any written comments by others about each argument, are on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

**IN FAVOR:** A YES vote for Right to Repair will guarantee that as technology advances, drivers can continue to get their cars repaired where they want.

We passed the first Right to Repair law in 2012, but as new cars become more computerized auto manufacturers are using a loophole to restrict access to data needed to diagnose problems, make repairs, and perform maintenance.

This means car owners are steered toward more expensive dealer repair options. Vote YES to protect independent repair shops and preserve your ability to shop around.

Voting YES provides access ONLY to mechanical and repair information, not personal information.

A YES vote ensures that YOU will have the choice to provide access to the repair information necessary to fix your car to your local independent repair shop even as cars become more computerized.

It's your car, you paid for it, you should get it fixed where you want.

**Tommy Hickey**  
**Massachusetts Right to Repair**  
**9 Park Street, #5**  
**Boston, MA 02108**  
**617-248-9772**  
**massrighttorepair.org**

**AGAINST:** Vote NO on Question 1 to protect your privacy, your safety, and your family.

Question 1 has nothing to do with fixing cars. Question 1 is a data grab by third parties who want to gather your personal vehicle information and access it remotely, including location data in real time.

Domestic violence advocates warn how dangerous this information could be. Jane Doe, the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, wrote, "Access to vehicle data, particularly call logs and GPS location, enables persons who perpetrate abuse to possess the tools necessary to track and monitor their victim." A similar proposal failed in California after the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault warned, "from this information, a third party, such as a sexual predator, could stalk and/or harm victims."

Privacy advocates, cybersecurity experts, and domestic violence advocacy groups urge you to vote NO on Question 1.

**Steve McElhinney**  
**Coalition for Safe and Secure Data**  
**177 Milk Street, Suite 610**  
**Boston, MA 02109**  
**617-398-0281**  
**Safeandsecuredata.org**

### FULL TEXT OF QUESTION

Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Chapter 93K of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of "Manufacturer" the following definition: —

"Mechanical data", any vehicle-specific data, including telematics system data, generated, stored in or transmitted by a motor vehicle used for or otherwise related to the diagnosis, repair or maintenance of the vehicle.

Section 1 of said Chapter 93K is hereby further amended by inserting after the definition of "Owner" the following new definition: —

"Telematics system," any system in a motor vehicle that collects information generated by the operation of the vehicle and transmits such information, in this chapter referred to as "telematics system data," utilizing wireless communications to a remote receiving point where it is stored.

SECTION 2. Section 2 (d) (1) of Chapter 93K is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

Notwithstanding anything in the preceding paragraph, motor vehicle owners' and independent repair facilities' access to vehicle on-board diagnostic systems shall be standardized and not require any authorization by the manufacturer, directly or indirectly, unless the authorization system for access to vehicle networks and their on-board diagnostic systems is standardized across all makes and models sold in the Commonwealth and is administered by an entity unaffiliated with a manufacturer.

SECTION 3. Said Chapter 93K is hereby further amended by striking subsection (f) of Section 2 and inserting in place thereof the following: —

(f) Commencing in model year 2022 and thereafter a manufacturer of motor vehicles sold in the Commonwealth, including heavy duty vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 14,000 pounds, that utilizes a telematics system shall be required to equip such vehicles with an inter-operable, standardized and open access platform across all of the manufacturer's makes and models. Such platform shall be capable of securely communicating all mechanical data emanating directly

## QUESTION 1: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

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### FULL TEXT OF QUESTION (continued)

from the motor vehicle via direct data connection to the platform. Such platform shall be directly accessible by the owner of the vehicle through a mobile-based application and, upon the authorization of the vehicle owner, all mechanical data shall be directly accessible by an independent repair facility or a class 1 dealer licensed pursuant to section 58 of chapter 140 limited to the time to complete the repair or for a period of time agreed to by the vehicle owner for the purposes of maintaining, diagnosing and repairing the motor vehicle. Access shall include the ability to send commands to in-vehicle components if needed for purposes of maintenance, diagnostics and repair.

SECTION 4. Said Chapter 93K is hereby further amended by adding after subsection (f) of section 2 the following:

(g) The Attorney General is hereby directed to establish for prospective vehicle owners a motor vehicle telematics system notice that includes, but is not limited to, the following features: (i) an explanation of motor vehicle telematics and its purposes, (ii) a description summarizing the mechanical data collected, stored and transmitted by a telematics system, (iii) the prospective owner's ability to access the vehicle's mechanical data through a mobile device, and (iv) an owner's right to authorize an independent repair facility to access the vehicle's mechanical data for vehicle diagnostics, repair and

maintenance purposes. The notice form shall provide for the prospective owner's signature certifying that the prospective owner has read the telematics system notice.

(h) When selling or leasing motor vehicles containing a telematics system, a dealer holding a class 1 or class 2 license as defined in section 58 of chapter 140 shall provide the motor vehicle telematics system notice to the prospective owner, obtain the prospective owner's signed certification that he or she has read the notice, and provide a copy of the signed notice to the prospective owner. A dealer's failure to comply with the provisions of this subsection shall be grounds for any action by the licensing authority relative to the dealer's license, up to and including revocation, pursuant to section 59 of chapter 140.

SECTION 5. Section 6 of Chapter 93K is hereby amended by adding at the end the following —

(e) Notwithstanding subsections (b) and (c), any owner or independent repair facility authorized by an owner who has been denied access to mechanical data in violation of subsections (d) (1) or (f) of section 2 may initiate a civil action seeking any remedies under law, including any remedy authorized by chapter 93A. Each denial of access in violation of said subsections shall be compensable by an award of treble damages or \$10,000, whichever amount is greater.



# 2

## QUESTION 2: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

# Ranked-Choice Voting

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

### SUMMARY

As required by law, summaries are written by the State Attorney General.

This proposed law would implement a voting system known as “ranked-choice voting,” in which voters rank one or more candidates by order of preference. Ranked-choice voting would be used in primary and general elections for all Massachusetts statewide offices, state legislative offices, federal congressional offices, and certain other offices beginning in 2022. Ranked-choice voting would not be used in elections for president, county commissioner, or regional district school committee member.

Under the proposed law, votes would be counted in a series of rounds. In the first round, if one candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, that candidate would be declared the winner and no other rounds would be necessary. If no candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, then the candidate or candidates who received the fewest first-place votes would be eliminated and, in the next round, each vote for an eliminated candidate would instead be counted toward the next highest-ranked candidate on that voter’s ballot. Depending on the number of candidates, additional rounds of counting could occur, with the last-place candidate or candidates in each round being eliminated and the votes for an eliminated candidate going to the voter’s next choice out of the remaining

candidates. A tie for last place in any round would be broken by comparing the tied candidates’ support in earlier rounds. Ultimately, the candidate who was, out of the remaining candidates, the preference of a majority of voters would be declared the winner.

Ranked-choice voting would be used only in races where a single candidate is to be declared the winner and not in races where more than one person is to be elected.

Under the proposed law, if no candidate received more than 50 percent of first-place votes in the first round, the rounds of ballot-counting necessary for ranked-choice voting would be conducted at a central tabulation facility. At the facility, voters’ rankings would be entered into a computer, which would then be used to calculate the results of each round of the counting process. The proposed law provides that candidates in a statewide or district election would have at least three days to request a recount.

The Secretary of State would be required to issue regulations to implement the proposed law and conduct a voter education campaign about the ranked-choice voting process. The proposed law would take effect on January 1, 2022.

### WHAT YOUR VOTE WILL DO

As required by law, the statements describing the effect of a “yes” or “no” vote are written jointly by the State Attorney General and the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

**A YES VOTE** would create a system of ranked-choice voting in which voters would have the option to rank candidates in order of preference and votes would be counted in rounds, eliminating candidates with the lowest votes until one candidate has received a majority.

**A NO VOTE** would make no change in the laws governing voting and how votes are counted.

### STATEMENT OF FISCAL CONSEQUENCES

As required by law, statements of fiscal consequences are written by the Executive Office of Administration and Finance.

This measure will likely require implementation costs for state and municipal elections officials, but because the proposed law would only apply to elections and primaries that are held on or

after January 1, 2022, the fiscal consequences of this proposed measure for state and municipal government finances are otherwise unknown.

## QUESTION 2: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

### ARGUMENTS ►

As provided by law, the 150-word arguments are written by proponents and opponents of each question, and reflect their opinions. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts does not endorse these arguments, and does not certify the truth or accuracy of any statement made in these arguments. The names of the individuals and organizations who wrote each argument, and any written comments by others about each argument, are on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

**IN FAVOR:** A YES VOTE adopts ranked choice voting, a common-sense reform that puts more power in the hands of voters.

Ranked choice voting addresses three problems:

- Big money and corrupt special interests have too much control over our democracy
- Politicians can win with less than a majority, and independents are shut out
- Politics are tearing us apart, preventing solutions to major challenges

It works by giving voters the option to rank candidates in order of preference. You can vote for just one candidate like you always have, or you can rank your first, second and third choice. If your favorite candidate doesn't win, your vote is instantly counted for your second choice so candidates must compete for every vote. Ranked choice voting ensures the winner has majority support and reflects the true will of the people.

A YES VOTE gives voters more voice and will help make our democracy stronger.

**Shauna Hamilton**  
**Voter Choice for Massachusetts**  
**44 Temple Place**  
**Boston, MA 02111**  
**617-906-8166**  
**[www.voterchoice2020.org](http://www.voterchoice2020.org)**

**AGAINST:** Two Democratic Governors rejected ranked choice voting because it was confusing and denied voters informed choice. Democratic Governor Jerry Brown witnessed a mayoral election in Oakland where the winner won with voters' seventh and eighth place rankings. Governor Brown said, "Ranked-choice voting is overly complicated and confusing. I believe it deprives voters of genuinely informed choice." Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom said Ranked Choice Voting "has often led to voter confusion and the promise that ranked choice voting leads to greater democracy is not necessarily fulfilled."

Ranked Choice Voting ballots force voters to guess the candidates who will remain standing in multiple voting rounds and cast their votes in the dark. If they guess wrong and vote for eliminated candidates, their ballots are not counted in the final vote. Winners win a false "majority" of remaining ballots, not a true majority of all the voters voting in the election.

**Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance**  
**18 Tremont St., Suite 527**  
**Boston, MA 02108**  
**617-553-4115**  
**<https://www.massfiscal.org>**

### FULL TEXT OF QUESTION

Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 50 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of "Primary" and prior to the definition of "Registrars", the following definition:—

"Ranked-choice voting" means, in the case of elections and primaries for which ballots are prepared in accordance with section 43A of chapter 54, a method of casting and tabulating ballots more particularly described in sections 2A and 2B of chapter 50.

SECTION 2. Section 2 of said chapter 50 is hereby amended by adding the following sentence to the end of said section:—

The determination of the person receiving the highest number of votes for an office in a ranked-choice voting election or primary shall be governed by sections 2A and 2B of chapter 50.

SECTION 3. Said chapter 50 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 2 the following section 2A:—

Section 2A. As used in this section and section 2B, unless

the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings:

"Active preference" means a vote assigned to the highest continuing ranking on a continuing ballot.

"Batch elimination" means the simultaneous defeat of multiple candidates because, with respect to the candidates, one of the following applies:

(a) The candidate cannot be elected because the candidate's active preference total in a round of ranked-choice voting tabulation plus the total of all continuing ballots that could possibly be transferred to the candidate in future rounds from candidates with fewer active preferences or an equal number of active preferences is not enough to surpass the candidate with the next-higher active preference total in the round; or

(b) The candidate has a lower active preference total than a candidate described in subparagraph (a).

"Concluded ballot" means a ballot that does not rank any continuing candidate, contains an overvote at the highest continuing ranking, or contains two or more sequential skipped rankings before its highest continuing ranking.



## QUESTION 2: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

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### FULL TEXT OF QUESTION (continued)

“Continuing ballot” means a ballot that is not a concluded ballot.

“Continuing candidate” means a candidate who has not been defeated.

“Highest continuing ranking” means the continuing candidate with the highest ranking on a voter’s ballot.

“Last-place candidate” means (a) the candidate with the lowest active preference total in a round of the ranked-choice voting tabulation, or (b) a candidate that is defeated in batch elimination.

“Overvote” means a circumstance in which a voter ranks more than one candidate at the same ranking.

“Ranking” means the number assigned on a ballot by a voter to a candidate to express the voter’s preference for that candidate. Ranking number one is the highest ranking, ranking number two is the next-highest ranking and so on.

“Round” means an instance of the sequence of voting tabulation steps established in subsection 1 of section 2B.

“Skipped ranking” means a ranking not assigned on a ballot by a voter to any candidate, in the circumstance where a lower ranking is assigned on a ballot by a voter to a candidate.

SECTION 4. Said chapter 50 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 2A the following section 2B:—

Section 2B. The following applies for determining the results of ranked-choice voting elections and primaries.

1. Except as provided in subsection 2 below pertaining to ties, the following procedures are used to determine the person receiving the highest number of votes, for purposes of section 2 of chapter 50, in an election or primary for any office elected by ranked-choice voting. Tabulation must proceed in rounds. In a round, the number of active preferences for each continuing candidate must be counted. A continuing ballot counts as one active preference for its highest-ranked continuing candidate for that round. A concluded ballot is not counted for any continuing candidate. The round ends with one of the following:

A. In the first round only, if a candidate receives greater than fifty percent of all active preferences counted in the first round for all candidates, such candidate is determined to be the person receiving the highest number of votes and the tabulation shall end.

B. Otherwise, if there are more than two continuing candidates, the last-place candidate is defeated, or the last-place candidates are defeated in batch elimination, and a new round begins.

C. If there are two or fewer continuing candidates, the candidate with the most active preferences is determined to be the person receiving the highest number of votes and the tabulation shall end.

2. If two or more last-place candidates are tied and batch elimination does not apply, the one with the fewest active preferences in the prior round is defeated. If two or more such tied candidates were tied in the prior round, the second tie shall be decided by referring similarly to the standing of candidates, in terms of active preferences, in the second-prior round. This principle shall be applied successively as many times as may be necessary, a tie shown in any prior round being decided by referring to the standing of the tied candidates in the round immediately preceding the round in which the tie exists.

3. For the purposes of determining the percentage of the entire vote cast in the commonwealth for an office to be filled by all the voters of the commonwealth, as provided in the definition of “political party” in Section 1 of chapter 50, the number of votes cast for a party’s candidate for an applicable office elected by ranked-choice voting shall be the number of active preferences credited to that candidate after the initial counting in the first round described in subsection 1 above.

SECTION 5. Section 1 of chapter 53 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:—

A party that makes one or more nominations shall be entitled to have the name of each of its candidates printed on the ballot to be used at the ensuing election; but, unless the nomination is made in a primary for which ballots are prepared in accordance with section 43A of chapter 54 or in several caucuses held in more than one ward or in more than one precinct or group of precincts by direct plurality vote, a certificate of nomination must be filed as provided in section five.

SECTION 6. Section 2 of said chapter 53 is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following two sentences:—

All nominations and elections in primaries for which ballots are prepared in accordance with section 43A of chapter 54 shall use ranked-choice voting for determining the person receiving the highest number of votes. All nominations and elections in caucuses shall be by direct plurality vote.

SECTION 7. Chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by inserting after section 43A the following section 43B:—

Section 43B. All elections and primaries for which ballots are prepared in accordance with section 43A and for which

## QUESTION 2: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

### FULL TEXT OF QUESTION (continued)

only one person is to be elected shall, for the purposes of section 2 of chapter 50, use ranked-choice voting to determine the person receiving the highest number of votes for an office, except as follows:

(a) Ranked-choice voting shall not be used for the election of presidential electors.

(b) Ranked-choice voting shall not be used for offices described and elected in accordance with section 4 of chapter 34 and section 14E of chapter 71.

(c) Ranked-choice voting shall not be used in a particular election or primary for offices in which there are two or fewer candidates, as reported by the state secretary pursuant to section 49 of chapter 54.

SECTION 8. Section 77 of chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking the phrase “marking a cross (X) in the square at the right of the name of each candidate for whom he intends to vote” and inserting in place thereof the following phrase: “marking the ballot in a manner prescribed by the state secretary by regulation”.

SECTION 9. Section 78 of chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking the phrase “mark a cross (X) in the square at the right of the names of the group of candidates for said offices for whom he desires to vote” in the third sentence and inserting in place thereof the following phrase: “mark the ballot in a manner prescribed by the state secretary by regulation”.

SECTION 10. Chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by inserting after section 105A the following section 105B:—

Section 105B. For all elections or primaries using ranked-choice voting under section 43B, the state secretary shall establish a central tabulation facility for the purpose of tabulating active preferences after the first round of counting is completed pursuant to sections 33H and 105.

In the case of an election or primary where the person receiving the highest number of votes is not determined under paragraph 1A of section 2B of chapter 50, and notwithstanding any provision any general, special, or local law to the contrary, the record of all ballots cast in the elections or primaries shall be delivered to the central tabulation facility established under this section as follows:

A. For ballots counted under section 33H, the city or town clerk shall deliver the cast vote records, meaning a data record of each ranking marked of each ballot cast, whether in electronic, paper or other form, by secure means as established and approved by the state secretary by regulation, or otherwise as described in section 105A. For ballots that are not included in the cast vote records,

such as a ballot that is rejected by a computer or counting unit, or that is mutilated so that it cannot be inserted in a computer or counting unit, the ballots shall be entered into the cast vote records in a manner that can be observed by two inspectors of different political parties, so as to be delivered in the full cast vote record.

B. For ballots counted under section 105, notwithstanding the requirements to place all election material in a locked facility, the city or town clerk shall deliver all cast ballots including absentee ballots by secure means as established and approved by the state secretary by regulation, or otherwise as described in section 105A.

For the central tabulation facility designated under this section, the state secretary shall appoint the following election officers: a warden, a deputy warden, a clerk and deputy clerk and as many inspectors and deputy inspectors as the state secretary determines are necessary.

Each chair of a state committee may appoint in writing a person the chair considers to be a computer expert to monitor the electronic counting of ballots at the central tabulation facility. The expert shall be assigned by the presiding officer to a position within the center that will enable the expert to observe all operations.

The state secretary shall be the presiding officer at the central tabulation facility and shall assign to the election officers such duties as will ensure the accurate and complete tabulation of the ballots in accordance with rules and regulations for the operation of such tabulation center promulgated by the office of the state secretary.

Through means established by the state secretary, the rankings shown on each ballot for each election or primary subject to tabulation under this section shall be converted into a machine readable form. The converted ballots shall then be entered in a computer the state secretary considers capable of conducting the tabulation process described in section 2B of chapter 50. Upon completion of all rounds of tabulation, the state secretary, or an election officer designated by the state secretary, shall publicly and in the presence of the other election officers, audibly and distinctly, announce the number of active preferences cast for each continuing candidate in each round for each office being tabulated at the central tabulation facility. The state secretary shall further examine all original and all additional copies of the records and make them part of the records of such election or primary, and shall certify and attest copies of the records of votes for the several candidates in each round of tabulation.

SECTION 11. Section 135 of said chapter 54 is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph after the

## QUESTION 2: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

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### FULL TEXT OF QUESTION (continued)

seventh paragraph of said section:—

In the case of state-wide or district-wide recounts, as described in the preceding two paragraphs, in elections or primaries subject to ranked-choice voting and where ballots are to be or have been tabulated in a central tabulation facility pursuant to section 105B, the time for filing a petition for a recount shall be extended to on or before five o'clock post meridian on the third day following the announcement of the results of tabulation conducted pursuant to section 105B if the time for filing otherwise provided in this section would have otherwise already

expired by such extended date.

SECTION 12. The state secretary shall promulgate by October 1, 2021, regulations consistent with this act and that ensure that ballots using ranked-choice voting shall be simple and easy to understand. In addition, the state secretary shall conduct a voter education campaign to familiarize voters with ranked-choice voting.

SECTION 13. This act applies to elections and primaries held on or after January 1, 2022.

# Voting in 2020

## Voting in 2020

Voting this year will likely look a little different than in past elections. In order to ensure that everyone is able to vote safely this year, several changes have been made to our election laws and procedures.

This year, there will be more ways to vote in Massachusetts than ever before. Every voter can choose to vote:

- By mail; or
- In person, at an early voting site; or
- On Election Day, at your polling place.

Voting by mail is available this year to all registered voters. No excuse is needed in order to vote by mail.

In-person voting will still be available in every community on Election Day, as well as during the early voting period. See Pages 14 and 15 for information on voting in-person.



# Voter Registration

## Voter Registration

Whether you plan to vote in person or by mail, you will need to make sure you are registered to vote. You can check your voter registration online at [www.RegistertoVoteMA.com](http://www.RegistertoVoteMA.com). To make sure everyone has enough time to register to vote this year, the voter registration deadline for all 2020 elections has been shortened to 10 days before the election.

In order to vote in the November 3, 2020 State Election, you must be registered to vote by **October 24, 2020**.

October 24 is also the deadline to make any changes to your voter registration, such as a change of address.



## How to Register to Vote

**Online** – If you have a Massachusetts driver's license or state identification card, you can register to vote online at [www.RegisterToVoteMA.com](http://www.RegisterToVoteMA.com). You can also use this Online Voter Registration System to update your address or change your political party affiliation. Online registrations must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on October 24.

**By Mail** – If you are not able to register online, you always have the option of registering to vote by mail. A mail-in voter registration form is included with this booklet. Mail-in registration forms can be printed at [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele) or requested by calling 1-800-462-VOTE (8683). All mail-in voter registrations must be postmarked or delivered to your city or town hall by October 24.

**In-Person** – Voter registration is available at each local election office, which is usually located in your city or town hall. You may find your local election office at [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele). All local election offices must offer in-person voter registration on October 24 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

# Voting by Mail



This year, every registered voter in Massachusetts can vote by mail, without needing an excuse to do so. To vote by mail, you will need to submit a written request to your local election official. You may have received an application in the mail, which were sent to all registered voters who had not already applied to vote by mail.

If you've already applied to vote by mail, your ballot should be mailed to you soon. You can track your ballot online at [www.TrackMyBallotMA.com](http://www.TrackMyBallotMA.com)

If you want to vote by mail and have not already applied, follow the steps below to request your ballot.

## HOW TO VOTE BY MAIL

### 1. Check your voter registration at [www.RegisterToVoteMA.com](http://www.RegisterToVoteMA.com).

If you are not registered at your current address, you must update your registration before submitting your Vote by Mail application. The deadline to make any changes to your voter registration is **October 24**.

### 2. Apply to vote by mail at [www.MailMyBallotMA.com](http://www.MailMyBallotMA.com).

You can complete the application by hand or electronically. Be sure to include the address where you want the ballot to be mailed, if that address is different from the address where you are registered to vote.

If you want a paper application sent to you, call the Elections Division at 1-800-462-VOTE (8683) to request one. In the alternative, you can apply simply by writing a letter to your local election official. The letter must include your name, the address where you are registered to vote, the address where you want the ballot mailed, and your signature.

### 3. Submit your application to your local election office as soon as possible.

Your Vote by Mail application must reach your local election office no later than **October 28**. It is recommended that Vote by Mail applications be submitted at least 2 weeks before Election Day.

Applications may be submitted online, by mail, email, fax, or in-person. You can find contact information for your local election office at [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele).

### 4. Wait for your ballot to arrive.

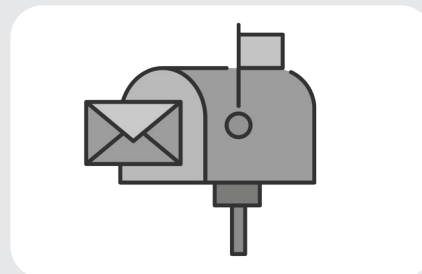
Local election officials will start mailing out ballots by early October and will continue to mail ballots as applications arrive, up until the application deadline of October 28.

### 5. Return your ballot.

All ballots being returned by mail must be **postmarked by November 3, 2020** and must **reach your local election official by November 6, 2020 in order to be counted**.

All 2020 Vote by Mail ballots packages will include a pre-addressed, postage pre-paid return envelope for you to use to return it to your local election office. You may also return your ballot in person to the local election office.

If you decide not to vote by mail, you may vote in person during early voting or on Election Day, as long as your ballot has not been accepted at your local election office. **Once your ballot has been accepted, you cannot take it back or vote again.**



The United States Postal Service  
recommends mailing  
your ballot back at least  
**7 DAYS before Election Day.**



# Early Voting: October 17 – 30

This year, voters will have more opportunities to vote than ever before. In-person early voting has been expanded and includes four weekend days, so that voters who want to vote in person will be able to do so at their convenience.

With additional days of early voting, in-person voting will be held over 15 days, in an effort to reduce crowding in polling places and early voting locations.

### Who?

Any registered voter who has not already cast a ballot by mail can vote early in-person. No excuse is needed to vote early.

### When?

The early voting period will begin on Saturday, October 17 and end on Friday, October 30. On weekdays, each city and town must offer early voting in at least one location during the local election office's regular business hours. On the weekends of October 17-18 and October 24-25, every community must be open each day. The number of hours each community must be open on the weekend depends on the size of the city or town.

Note: Many cities and towns have limited business hours on Fridays. Be sure to consult your community's early voting schedule at [www.MassEarlyVote.com](http://www.MassEarlyVote.com) when making a plan to vote.

### Where?

You may vote early at any early voting site in the city or town where you are registered to vote. All cities and towns must have at least one early voting location, but they may choose to have more. Early voting locations are chosen by each city and town and will be published at [www.MassEarlyVote.com](http://www.MassEarlyVote.com) at least 1 week before early voting begins.



### How?

You do not need make an appointment or apply to vote early in-person. You may simply go to any early voting location in your city or town and vote in person, like you do on Election Day. After you finish voting, you will seal your ballot in a ballot envelope and sign the affidavit on the envelope and return to an election official. Once you have handed in your ballot envelope and the clerk accepts it, your vote is final and you cannot take it back or vote again.

### Remember:

Like polling places on Election Day, early voting locations will be set up to allow for social distancing. The number of voters allowed in the early voting location at one time may be limited, and voters standing in line to enter the early voting location will be spaced appropriately which may make lines appear longer than usual.

Lines at early voting locations are often longer on the first and last days of the early voting period. Lines may also be longer on weekends. Voters who are able to cast their ballots during off-peak hours are encouraged to do so.

In most cases, there are more polling places throughout each city and town on Election Day than there are early voting locations, which means that there may be fewer people voting at any given time at your polling place than there are at your early voting location. No matter where or when you vote, polling places will be set up so that everyone is able to vote safely.

**All registered voters who do not vote by mail or early in-person will be able to vote at their polling place on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.**

# Voting on Election Day

All registered voters who do not vote by mail or vote early in-person will be able to vote in person on election day on November 3, 2020. Polling places across Massachusetts will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

## Safety Precautions

If you are voting in person either on November 3, 2020 or during the early voting period, the voting process may look and feel differently this year than in past elections. All voting locations will be set up to allow for social distancing. The number of voters allowed inside the polling place at any time may be limited, to avoid crowding. This means that you may need to wait in line outside of your polling place before entering. Voters in line should remain distanced from one another while they are waiting, which may have the effect of making the lines seem longer than usual. Please be patient with poll workers as they work to ensure that you are able to vote quickly and safely.

In accordance with Department of Public Health (DPH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance, all voters are advised to wear a mask or face covering in the polling place and while standing in line, if they are physically able to do so. Voters who are not able to wear a mask will still be allowed to vote, with reasonable accommodations to ensure that they remain safely distanced from other voters and poll workers.

Poll workers are being instructed to sanitize all commonly touched surfaces between uses. While pens will be provided to mark your ballot, which will be frequently sanitized, you may bring your own black pen with you to mark your ballot.

## The Voting Process

When you arrive at your polling place, you will be asked to check-in. You must provide your address and your name to the poll worker who will find your name on the list of voters. The poll worker must repeat your address and name back to you before marking it on the voter list. Voters who have already cast ballots by mail or during the early voting period will already be checked off on the list.

Once you have checked in, you will be given a ballot to vote and directed to a voting booth. Make sure you read both sides of the ballot, which may also be on two separate cards. If you make a mistake on your ballot, you may ask for a new one. Once you finish voting, you may cast your ballot and leave the polling place.

## Assistance when Voting

If you need assistance because of vision impairment, disability, or inability to read or to read English, you may seek help from any person of your choice, including from the election officials in your polling place. You may also ask the election officials to use the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal, an accessible ballot marking device which allows you to mark your ballot privately and independently. After inserting the ballot into the AutoMARK, you can review the ballot and make selections by using the touch screen and/or the keypad, while listening to the ballot over a set of headphones. The AutoMARK will mark the ballot in accordance with your choices, by filling in the corresponding ovals or connecting the arrows on the ballot. The ballot will then be returned to you to deposit into the ballot box.

## Voters Admitted to the Hospital Before Election Day

Any voter who is admitted to a healthcare facility or has been instructed by a health official to self-quarantine after the seventh day before the election (Tuesday, October 27, 2020) can request an absentee ballot up until the time the polls close. You must affirm in writing that you meet this qualification and must designate someone (who is not a candidate) to bring you the ballot. After voting, the ballot must be returned to the local election official before the polls close.

### **Reminder! Bring Personal Identification to the Polls!**

You may be required to show personal identification in order to vote. If it is your first time voting in Massachusetts, or if you are on the inactive voter list, you may be asked to show identification. It is recommended that all voters be prepared to show identification on Election Day. Photo identification is not required. Acceptable identification must include your name and the address at which you are registered to vote, for example:

a current and valid driver's license, photo identification card, current utility bill, bank statement, pay stub, government check, letter from your dormitory on school letterhead, or any other official and current document that shows your name and the address at which you are registered. You may present electronic identification to the poll worker, such as on a smart phone, if you do not have a hard copy.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## VOTING BY MAIL

### Do I have to vote by mail?

No. In-person voting is still available to anyone who does not want to vote by mail.

### How soon do I need to apply?

As soon as possible! Your application must reach your local election office by **October 28**, but mail can take up to 1 week to be delivered, so the sooner you apply, the more time you will have to return your ballot and make sure it counts.

### If I request a mail-in ballot, can I change my mind and vote in person?

Maybe. Once your ballot has been returned and accepted by your local election official, you cannot take it back or vote again. If you request a mail-in ballot but you do not return it to your local election official, you can vote in person during the early voting period or on Election Day.

### Is voting by mail safe?

Yes. Before your local election official can send you a ballot, they must confirm you are a voter and record your application. When your local election official receives your ballot, they will check to make sure you have signed the ballot envelope and compare the signature to the one they

have on file. This is important, because ballots must be rejected if the envelope is not signed. If your ballot has been accepted, you will be checked off on the list of voters and your ballot will be securely stored by the local election official until it can be counted.

### What is the deadline to return my mail-in ballot?

In order for your ballot to be counted, it must be postmarked by **November 3, 2020** and received no later than **November 6, 2020**. The postal service recommends mailing your ballot back at least one week before Election Day.

### How can I check if my ballot was received?

You can check the status of your ballot online at [www.TrackMyBallotMA.com](http://www.TrackMyBallotMA.com). This shows when your application is received, the date the local election official mailed your ballot to you, and the date your ballot reaches the local election office.

### Are all Vote by Mail ballots counted?

All ballots received on time will be counted if they are properly executed. Remember to sign your ballot envelope so your ballot can be counted! All ballot counting is transparent and open to public observation.

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## VOTING IN PERSON

### When can I vote in person?

You can vote in-person during the early voting period or on Election Day. The early voting period will begin on **October 17** and end on **October 30**. You can check the dates, times and locations at [www.MassEarlyVote.com](http://www.MassEarlyVote.com).

On **Election Day, November 3**, polling places will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Visit [www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com](http://www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com) to find your polling place. You may also call the Elections Division at 1-800-462- VOTE (8683) for help finding your polling place.

### How do I find out what offices and candidates are on my ballot?

Sample ballots as well as instruction cards are posted at the polls on Election Day. You will also be able to view a sample ballot at [www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com](http://www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com).

### I registered to vote, but my name is not on the voting list—what do I do?

If you registered to vote, but your name is not on the voting list, ask the election officer in charge of the polling place

to check your registration with the city or town clerk to see if you may be registered in another precinct in that municipality. If they still can't find your name, you may cast a provisional ballot at the polling place. After the election, the local election official will search for records to confirm your voter registration. If your eligibility is confirmed, your ballot will be counted. If your eligibility cannot be confirmed, your ballot will remain sealed in an envelope.

### What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

If you make a mistake on your ballot, you may request a new one. You may request up to two new ballots.

### Can I bring materials into the polling place?

Yes, you may bring materials into the voting booth. You can bring pre-printed brochures or pamphlets or your own notes, but you cannot display those materials while in the polling location. You must take any materials with you when you leave the voting booth.

# Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like the flu and COVID-19:



**Wash your hands often** with soap and warm water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



**Avoid touching** your eyes, nose and mouth.



**Clean things that are frequently touched** (like doorknobs and countertops) with household cleaning spray or wipes.



**Cover your mouth** when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your inner elbow, not your hands.



**Stay home if you are sick** and avoid close contact with others.



**Think ahead** about how to take care of yourself and your loved ones. Visit [mass.gov/KnowPlanPrepare](https://www.mass.gov/KnowPlanPrepare) for preparedness tips.

For more, visit: [www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus](https://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus)



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

3/9/2020

# Be a Poll Worker!

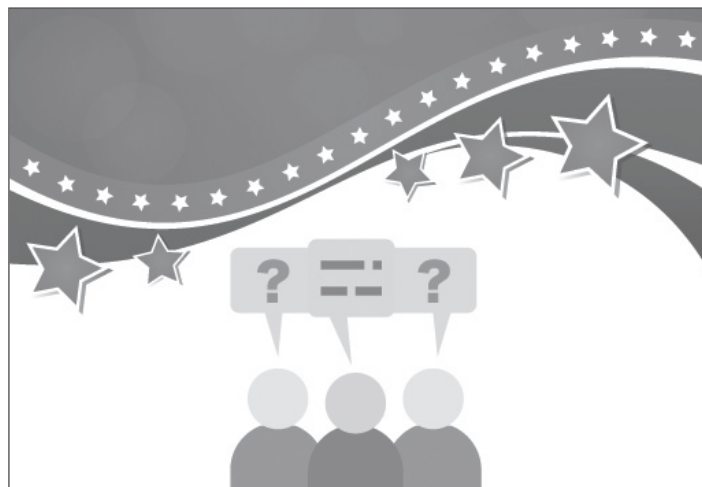
One of the best ways that you can help make sure Massachusetts holds successful elections this year is by offering your time to be a poll worker.

Poll workers are needed across the Commonwealth on November 3, and many communities will also need workers to assist with early voting.

Poll workers are hired by local election officials to help check-in voters, distribute ballots, tally votes, and assist voters in the polling place. This year, poll workers will also be needed to help sanitize booths and pens, direct voters, and monitor social distancing in the polling places.

Having enough poll workers for every precinct is the best way to keep lines short and reduce crowding in polling places.

Generally, poll workers must be registered voters of the Commonwealth, though up to 2 poll workers per precinct may be 16 or 17 years old. This year, if a city or town cannot find enough poll workers, they have the option of hiring workers regardless of their registration status or political party affiliation.



If you are able to offer your time to be a poll worker, please visit the Elections Division's website, [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele), where you can find a listing of cities and towns in need of election workers. You do not need to be a resident of a city or town in order to be a poll worker there.

## *Military and Overseas Voters*

In Massachusetts, members of the Uniformed Services serving on **active duty**, their families, and U.S. citizens residing overseas are eligible to vote in all elections.

These voters **do not need to register to vote to request an absentee ballot**. Absentee ballots can be requested using the Federal Post Card Application or any form of written communication, or a **family member can request** that an absentee ballot be sent to the voter.

These voters can request that their absentee ballots be sent to them either by mail, fax, or e-mail; ballots may also be returned to the local election officials by any of these methods.

Massachusetts also allows military and overseas voters to vote absentee in all elections by using the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). The FWAB can be used to vote any time before an election, even if the voter did not apply for an absentee ballot. After voting on the FWAB, the voter may submit it by mail or electronically. Both the Federal Post Card Application and the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot may be found on the website of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov).





## ***If you have been the victim of investment fraud, The Secretary of State's office might be able to help!***

Secretary Galvin's office regulates and enforces laws relating to risk investments of all kinds that are offered or sold in Massachusetts.

The Secretary's office has been successful in returning millions of dollars directly back to defrauded investors.

### **See if some of these situations where we were able to help are similar to yours:**

An elderly widow went to her local bank branch to deposit money from the sale of property and was persuaded by the broker to invest in stock market funds and a market-linked CD. The customer was confused as to the nature of the investments because they were sold to her within the bank branch and the broker went against her express wishes not to have exposure to the stock market by placing her in those products. The customer contacted the Secretary's office and was able to reverse the transactions and recover all of her money.

Two rogue brokers from a broker-dealer engaged in excessive trading in an elderly man's account in order to generate substantial commissions for themselves. The agents concealed the amount charged to the customer so he would not detect the churning of his account. The customer contacted the Secretary's office and was able to recover some of the excessive fees charged to his account and the brokerage firm was permanently barred from doing business in Massachusetts.

An older couple contacted the Secretary's office because all of their money had been put into an annuity by their broker and they could not access their money without incurring substantial fees. The office was able to get them out of the annuity without having to pay the fees.

An individual preyed on his elder relatives to obtain total control over their brokerage accounts and steal their money to use for personal expenses. They notified the Secretary's office when he admitted what he did and the office was able to get the brokerage firm to reimburse the stolen funds.

A retired couple hired an investment adviser to help them with their finances. He put them into a product for which he earned a large commission, but the product was unsuitable for their needs and the couple incurred substantial fees. The office was able to help get them out of the product and get the fees reimbursed to them.

A large broker-dealer failed to provide adequate disclosures and documents to older customers regarding surrender charges they incurred when the customers switched variable annuities. The Secretary's office was able to have the broker-dealer reimburse the surrender charges to Massachusetts senior citizens.

A company paid an individual to advertise and sell its unregistered promissory notes related to real estate to Massachusetts residents. The Secretary's office was able to get the company to offer reimbursements to all Massachusetts investors and stop the note sales in Massachusetts. Further, his office prevented the individual from being able to get into the securities industry in the future.

If you need help you can reach the Secretary's office toll-free at 1-800-269-5428.

# Services of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Citizen Information Service** functions as the primary information and referral agency for the state, offering information on state programs and agencies. CIS attempts to answer all requests, by providing either direct assistance or an immediate referral to the appropriate agency. As part of its goal to make state government more accessible to the public, CIS has established a publication series on specific topics of interest, including:

- The Citizens' Guide to State Services: A Selective Listing of Government Agencies and Programs, with addresses, phone numbers and agency descriptions. Price: \$22.00 (\$15 plus \$7.00 shipping cost). Free online at [www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/ciscig/guide.html](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/ciscig/guide.html). Available from the State House Bookstore.
- Welcome to Massachusetts: A Practical Guide to Living in the State - free.
- Automobile Excise Tax - free.
- Property Tax Exemptions for Elders, Surviving Spouses and Minors - free.
- Safe and Sanitary Housing for Massachusetts Residents - free.
- Veterans Laws and Benefits Guide - free.
- Massachusetts Facts: A Review of the History, Government and Symbols of the State, for junior high to high school age students - free.

Telephone: 617-727-7030 or 1-800-392-6090 (toll-free in Massachusetts only)

Website: [www.sec.state.ma.us/cis](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis)

Email: [cis@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:cis@sec.state.ma.us)

**The Elections Division** administers all state elections, provides information on voting, and supplies election materials to the public, candidates, and government officials.

Telephone: 617-727-2828 or 1-800-462-VOTE (8683)

Website: [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele)

Email: [elections@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:elections@sec.state.ma.us)

**The Securities Division** works to protect Massachusetts investors by registering broker-dealers and investment advisers, requiring that high-risk securities be registered, investigating complaints, and taking appropriate enforcement and disciplinary actions.

Telephone: 617-727-3548 or 1-800-269-5428

Website: [www.sec.state.ma.us/sct](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/sct)

Email: [securities@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:securities@sec.state.ma.us)

**The Public Records Division** administers the Public Records Law, assists agencies and municipalities with records management, certifies documents for use abroad, performs oaths of office, and maintains records of gubernatorial appointments and commissions.

Telephone: 617-727-2832

Website: [www.sec.state.ma.us/pre](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/pre)

Email: [pre@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:pre@sec.state.ma.us)

**Real Estate Records.** Foreclosure and Homestead Information - Massachusetts is divided into 21 registry districts with an elected Register of Deeds responsible for each office. Documents related to the ownership of real estate within the district are recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

Website: [www.masslandrecords.com](http://www.masslandrecords.com)

**The Massachusetts Archives** collects, catalogs, and preserves records of enduring value from nearly 400 years of state government. It serves as a vital resource to scholars, genealogists, and students and as an advisor to the historical records community in Massachusetts.

Telephone: 617-727-2816

Website: [www.sec.state.ma.us/arc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc)

Email: [archives@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:archives@sec.state.ma.us)

**The Commonwealth Museum** brings Massachusetts history alive through exhibits, outreach and student programs and publications.

Telephone: 617-727-9268

Website: [www.commonwealthmuseum.org](http://www.commonwealthmuseum.org)

**The Massachusetts Historical Commission** is the state agency responsible for historical preservation in the Commonwealth. It offers assistance to communities in listing properties with the National Register of Historic Places and establishing local historic districts.

Telephone: 617-727-8470

Website: [www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

Email: [mhc@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:mhc@sec.state.ma.us)

**The State Bookstore** offers a wide range of books and pamphlets published by the Secretary of the Commonwealth and other state agencies, including the Code of Massachusetts Regulations. A free Bookstore Catalog is available.

Telephone: 617-727-2834

Website: [www.sec.state.ma.us/spr](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/spr)

Email: [bookstore@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:bookstore@sec.state.ma.us)

**The Regional Offices** in Springfield and Fall River offer many of the services provided by the Boston office and bring state government closer to the citizens of Massachusetts.

Springfield: 413-784-1376

Fall River: 508-646-1374

Website: [www.sec.state.ma.us/wso](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/wso)

**The Corporations Division** is responsible for registering all Massachusetts profit and non-profit business entities and providing immediate summary information about almost 400,000 entities doing business in the state.

Telephone: 617-727-2850 or 617-727-9640

Website: [www.sec.state.ma.us/cor](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cor)

Email: [corpinfo@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:corpinfo@sec.state.ma.us)

### **Other Divisions Include:**

#### **Lobbyist:**

Telephone: 617-727-9122

Website: [www.sec.state.ma.us/lob](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/lob)

Email: [lob@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:lob@sec.state.ma.us)

#### **State Publications and Regulations**

Telephone: 617-727-2831

Website: [www.sec.state.ma.us/spr](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/spr)

Email: [regs@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:regs@sec.state.ma.us)

#### **State House Tours:**

Telephone: 617-727-3676

Website: [www.sec.state.ma.us/trs](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/trs)

Email: [mastatehousetours@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:mastatehousetours@sec.state.ma.us)

## **Help for Victims of Domestic Violence**

Massachusetts tries to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking by helping them establish new confidential addresses to prevent perpetrators of violence from finding relocated victims.

This program, called the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP), is administered by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

In order to be certified as a program participant, an applicant must show that disclosure of his or her address threatens the safety of the applicant or the applicant's children. ACP permits program participants to use a substitute mailing address when interacting with government agencies. The substitute address is used as the program participant's legal residence, as well as work and/or school address. Consequently, government records may be disclosed to the public without identifying the victim's new location.

Low-income families in need of relocation assistance

who otherwise qualify for ACP may be eligible to apply for Residential Assistance for Families In Transition (RAFT) program funds, a program administered through the Department of Housing and Community Development that can help with the short-term financial costs of moving such as first and last month's rent and security deposits up to \$4000.

#### **How do I locate an application assistant to initiate the application process?**

You may call ACP at 1-866-SAFE-ADD in order to locate an application assistant. You may also contact an agency or non-profit program that provides counseling, referral, shelter or other specialized services to victims of domestic abuse, rape, sexual assault, or stalking. Appropriate social distancing practices have been incorporated into the ACP application process for the safety of DV advocates taking applications as well as the victims they assist during this period of COVID19.

# Massachusetts Voters' Bill of Rights

**Your voting rights are protected. These rights are guaranteed to qualified registered voters.**

1. You have the right to vote if you are a qualified registered voter.
2. You have the right to cast your ballot in a manner that ensures privacy. You have the right to vote without any person trying to influence your vote and to vote in a booth that prevents others from watching you mark your ballot.
3. You have the right to remain in the voting booth for five (5) minutes if there are other voters waiting and for ten (10) minutes if there are no other voters waiting.
4. You have the right to receive up to two (2) replacement ballots if you make a mistake and spoil your ballot.
5. You have the right to request assistance when voting from anyone of your choice. If you do not bring someone with you, you have the right to have two (2) poll workers assist you.
6. You have the right to vote if you are disabled. The polling place must be accessible, and there must be an accessible voting booth.
7. You have the right to vote if you cannot read or write or cannot read or write English.
8. You have the right to vote but must show identification if: you are a first-time voter who registered to vote by mail and did not submit identification with the voter registration form; or your name is on the inactive voter list; or your vote is being challenged; or if requested by a poll worker. Acceptable forms of identification are: Massachusetts driver's license, other printed documentation containing your name and address such as a recent utility bill, rent receipt on landlord's letterhead, lease, or a copy of a voter registration acknowledgment or receipt.
9. You have the right to vote by absentee ballot if: you will be absent from your city or town on Election Day; or if you have a physical disability that prevents your voting at the polling place; or if you cannot vote at the polls due to religious belief.
10. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot if you believe you are a qualified registered voter but a poll worker tells you that you are ineligible to vote.
11. You have the right to follow up any challenge to your right to vote through the complaint process.
12. You have the right to vote if you are not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction and have registered as a voter after your release.
13. You have the right to take this Voters' Bill of Rights or any other papers, including a sample ballot, voter guide or campaign material into the voting booth with you. Please remember to remove all papers when you leave the booth.
14. You have the right to vote at your polling place any time between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. for state and federal elections—hours may vary for local elections. If you are in line at your polling place when the polls close at 8 p.m., you have the right to vote.
15. You have the right to bring your children into the voting booth with you.

If you feel that your right to vote has been violated in any way, call the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division at 1-800-462-VOTE (8683). This call is free within Massachusetts.



# Voter Checklist

Tear out and take to the polls.

**BALLOT QUESTIONS**

Question 1  Yes  No

Question 2  Yes  No

**BALLOT OFFICES**

Offices on the ballot in 2020 appear in the following order:

President/Vice President \_\_\_\_\_

Senator in Congress \_\_\_\_\_

Representative in Congress \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor \_\_\_\_\_

Senator in General Court \_\_\_\_\_

Representative in General Court \_\_\_\_\_

Register of Probate \_\_\_\_\_

County Commissioner (select counties) \_\_\_\_\_

County Treasurer (select counties) \_\_\_\_\_

Sheriff (Norfolk County only – to fill a vacancy) \_\_\_\_\_





**William Francis Galvin**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
One Ashburton Place, Room 1705  
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# ***Residential Customer*** **VOTERS**

**INFORMATION FOR VOTERS** is sent to voters by mail to residential addresses, to voters residing in group quarters and to convenient public locations throughout the Commonwealth. Limited additional copies may be obtained at local city and town halls and some libraries, or by calling Secretary Galvin's Elections Division at 617-727-2828 or 1-800-462-VOTE (8683); or Citizen Information Service at 617-727-7030 or 1-800-392-6090. TTY users may call MassRelay at 800-720-3480. Be sure to visit our website at [www.sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us). Spanish, Chinese and Khmer editions of Information for Voters and a large print edition for the visually impaired are also available at the same phone numbers. An audio edition is also available from the Braille and Talking Book Library in Watertown at 1-800-852-3133.