

## Massachusetts Voters' Bill of Rights

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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 7am and 8pm 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 pm, you have the right to vote.
15. You have the right to bring your children into the voting booth with you.



## Voter Registration and Status

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### **Register to Vote Online**

Please visit the [online voter registration page](#) to register to vote today.

### **Check Your Registration Status**

To check your registration status, please visit [this page](#).

Only first-time voters in Massachusetts are required some type of identification to their polling place when they go to vote. This does not need to be a photo identification card. Acceptable forms of identification include: a Massachusetts driver's license or state ID card; a utility bill; a government-issued check; or any other official document bearing the voter's name and address.

## Polling Locations and Absentee Ballots

### Polling Locations

- To find your polling location, please visit the Secretary of State's [website](#).

### Absentee Ballots

#### Eligibility

In order to be eligible to vote by absentee ballot in Massachusetts, a voter must be prevented from voting at their polling place on Election Day, due to:

- Absence from the voter's city or town on Election Day; or
- Physical disability; or
- Religious belief.

Early voting is available for biennial state elections. The next election for which early voting will be available is the November 6, 2018 State Election.

#### Applying for Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots must be requested in writing by either the voter or the voter's family member. For convenience, absentee ballot applications may be downloaded from this page; however, any written communication evidencing a desire for an absentee ballot is acceptable. If you would like to request an absentee ballot, you may submit an application or a signed letter to your local election official. If you are requesting an absentee ballot for a family member, be sure to submit the request to the voter's local election official.

When completing the application, you may indicate whether you are requesting a ballot for a specific election, or if you will be needing a ballot for all elections this year. Please note that absentee ballot applications expire at the end of each calendar year. If you are a voter with a permanent physical disability, you may file a note from your doctor to that effect with your local election official. Voters with permanent physical disabilities are sent completed

applications at the beginning of each year, to be signed and returned to their local election official.

All requests for absentee ballots must be received by your local election official no later than 12 p.m. on the day before the election for which the ballot is being requested. Applications may be submitted in person, by mail, fax, or by e-mail; however, the local election official must be able to view the signature of the person requesting the ballot. If the application is being submitted by e-mail, a scanned copy of the request must be submitted.

Contact information for local election officials may be found [here](#).

#### Voting

If you are voting by mail, you should be sure to submit your application in a timely manner. Please allow enough time for the ballot to be mailed to you and for you to return the ballot by Election Day. All ballots being mailed from inside the United States must be received by your local election official no later than the close of polls on Election Day.

If you would like to vote in person, you may do so in the office of your local election official. In-person absentee voting should be arranged ahead of time.

#### When Absentee Ballots are Counted

Except for ballots which are rejected as defective, all absentee ballots are cast and counted by the poll workers on Election Day. Absentee ballots are included in the final tallies, and are counted whether or not an election contains a close race.

#### Download an absentee ballot application

[Absentee Ballot Application](#) (PDF)

[Petición de Voto en Ausencia](#)(PDF)

[ពាក្យសុំ សន្លឹកឆ្នោត សម្រាប់ អ្នក បោះឆ្នោត អវត្តមាន](#) (PDF)

[缺席選票申請](#) (PDF)



## Mark Your Calendars!

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**Wednesday, August 15th:** Last Day to Register to Vote in the Primary Election

**Tuesday, September 4th, 2018:** State Primary Elections

**Wednesday, October 17th, 2018:** Last Day to Register to Vote in the General Election

**October 22nd-November 22nd:** Early Voting for General Election

**Tuesday, November 6th, 2018:** State General Election