



REGISTERING AND VOTING *in Massachusetts*

Registering to Vote

Voting is a fundamental right. You may register or pre-register to vote in Massachusetts if:

- You are a citizen of the United States; and
- You are at least 16 years old; and
- You are a Massachusetts resident.

If you meet the above requirements, you may apply online, by mail, or in-person.

The deadline to register to vote in any election or regular town meeting is twenty (20) days prior to the date of the election or meeting.

Pre-registering to vote

Though you must be 18 years old to vote, you may pre-register to vote when you are 16 years old. If you are 16 or 17 years old, you may submit a voter registration form to your local election official. Your name will then be placed on the list of pre-registrants. You will receive a pre-registration notice by mail, confirming receipt of your application. Pre-registration may be done online, by mail, or in person at any voter registration location. Once you become old enough to vote, your local election official will mail you an acknowledgement notice, which is confirmation that your name has been moved from the list of pre-registrants to the list of registered voters.

Registering online

If you currently have a Massachusetts driver's license or other RMV-issued identification, you may register, update your address, or change your party affiliation at www.RegisterToVoteMA.com.

Registering by mail

Mail-in voter registration forms are available from the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office and may be printed at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele.

Registering in person

If you would like to register in person, you may do so at your city or town hall. Voter registration is also available as part of every transaction at the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Updating your registration

You must update your voter registration every time you move, change your name, or if you wish to change your party enrollment. You may update your registration by filling out a new voter registration form.

Identification requirements

If you are registering by mail, it is recommended that you submit a copy of your identification with your form. If you do not provide identification with your form, you may be asked to present it the first time you vote.

Voting

Where to vote

Every precinct in Massachusetts is assigned a specific polling place. You may find your polling place at www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com.

When to vote

In all state elections and primaries, polling places must be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Check with your local election official for polling hours for your municipal election.

How to vote

Check-In

When you enter your polling place, you must get in line to check-in. When you approach the check-in table, you will be asked to state your address and then your name. If you are required to show identification, you will do so when checking-in.

Mark Your Ballot

Once you check-in, you will be handed your ballot. You may proceed to a voting booth where you may mark your ballot in private. Instructions on marking your ballot are printed on each ballot.

Check-Out

When you have finished marking your ballot, you must proceed to the check-out table, where you will once again be asked for your address and then your name.

Cast Your Ballot

Once you have checked out, you may proceed to the ballot box, where you will insert your ballot.

Showing identification

You may be asked to show identification at the check-in table if you are voting for the first time in Massachusetts, if you are an inactive voter, or if you are casting a provisional or challenged ballot. You will not be required to present photo identification. Acceptable identification includes a driver's license or state ID card; utility bill; pay stub; bank statement; rent receipt; or other official document which bears your name and the address at which you are registered.

Not on the list of voters

If your name does not appear on the list of voters and your registration cannot be verified, you have the right to cast a provisional ballot. Your local election official

will conduct an investigation and if it is determined that your name should have appeared on the list, your ballot will be counted.

Absentee Voting

Eligibility

In order to be eligible to vote by absentee ballot in Massachusetts, you must be prevented from voting at your polling place due to absence from your city or town; physical disability; or religious belief.

Early voting is available for biennial November state elections. No excuse is required in order to vote early.

Applying for absentee ballots

Absentee ballots must be requested in writing by either the voter or the voter's family member. Absentee ballot applications are available at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele. Completed applications must be submitted to your 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. Absentee ballot applications expire at the end of each calendar year.

Voting

If you are voting by mail, you should be sure to submit your application with 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.



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Elections Division
One Ashburton Place, Room 1705
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
617-727-2828 or 800-462-VOTE