

Top Reasons Why You Should Vote

□ **Voting is a way to speak your mind and let your voice be heard!**

Your vote is your voice. When we vote, we are actually telling elected officials and lawmakers how we feel about education, public safety, social security, health care, and other important issues.

□ **One voice, one vote really does count!**

Remember: there is power in numbers, and when we vote and get our family members to vote, we can truly make a difference. If you don't vote for what you believe in, others will – and you may not like the outcome.

□ **Our children are depending on us to represent their voices too!**

Because our children can't vote, we have to do it for them. That's how we make our concerns about schools, safety, housing, and other issues heard. When we vote, we are looking out for our kids, and their futures.

□ **Voting changes communities!**

Do you ever wonder why one neighborhood gets passed over for things it needs, while another seems to get it all? One big reason is voting. When we vote, we can get results that we can actually see.

□ **Vote to effect change!**

It was through elections that we voted in officials who were champions for civil rights. Voting is our chance to make a difference in our own lives and within the world.

□ **Believe it or not, voting is a way of honoring our history!**

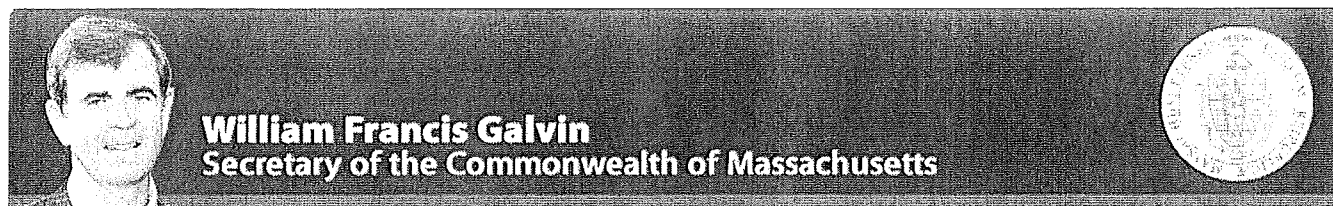
As long as our country has existed, there have been people who didn't want us to vote. There were several freedom fighters that stood up for the right to vote. Well, those times may seem ancient, but there are still people today who don't want us to vote. It's now our turn to stand up and vote to preserve the honor of those who went before us.

□ **Last but not least, because it gives you credibility!**

Often times, we voice our concerns to elected officials, but if we aren't voting, our concerns *may not matter at all* to them. Voting can actually give you the credibility to make your concerns a top priority for legislators.

REMEMBER! People with past felony convictions ARE entitled to vote in Oregon! Get registered today!

For additional information about voting rights, please call
Partnership for Safety and Justice at (503) 335-8449, www.safetyandjustice.org

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The Voting Process

Where to vote...

Every precinct in Massachusetts is assigned a specific polling place. When you register to vote, you should receive an acknowledgement notice from your local election official informing you of your polling place. If you are casting your ballot in person, you must do so at the polling place assigned to your precinct. In towns, polling places are designated by the selectmen; in cities, polling places are designated by the city council. You may find your polling place [here](#).

When to vote...

In all state elections and primaries, polling places must be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m., though towns are allowed to open as early as 5:45 a.m. Voters who are in line when polls are closed at 8 p.m. must be allowed to vote. For municipal elections, polling hours will vary by city and town. 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. Some polling places may house more than one precinct, so be sure to check that you are in line for the correct precinct. When you approach the check-in table, you will be asked to state your address and then your name. If you are an unenrolled (commonly referred to as independent) voter or a member of a political designation and you are voting in a primary, you will also be asked which party's ballot you wish to choose. Poll workers are required to repeat this information back to you.

There are a few reasons that you may be required to show identification when you check-in. If you registered by mail and it is your first time voting in a federal election in Massachusetts, you may be required to show identification under the [Help America Vote Act of 2002](#). You may also be asked to show identification if you are an inactive voter, you are casting a challenged ballot, or you are casting a provisional ballot. Please see "Showing Identification" below, for more information on these types of ballots.

Mark Your Ballot

After a poll worker has checked you in, you will be handed your ballot. If you are voting on a ballot which will be inserted into an optical scan machine, you will also be handed a secrecy sleeve with which to cover your marked ballot. You may proceed to an available voting booth where you may mark your ballot in private. Ballots are marked by the voter filling in ovals, connecting arrows, or marking an X next to candidates and questions. Read the top of your ballot for instructions on how to fill it out properly.

If you require assistance marking your ballot due to physical disability, inability to read or inability to read English, you may bring anyone of your choosing into the voting booth with you. Alternatively, you may ask for the assistance of two poll workers (by law, the poll workers assisting you should be of different political parties). If you would prefer to mark your ballot independently, you may use the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal, which is available in every polling place. The AutoMARK will read the ballot to you and mark the choices that you indicate. For more information on using the AutoMARK, please see [here](#).

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. Again, if you are and unenrolled (commonly referred to as independent) voter or a member of a political designation and you are voting in a primary, you will be asked to inform the poll worker of the ballot that you chose. The poll worker must repeat all of this information back to you.

Cast Your Ballot

Once you have checked out, you may proceed to the ballot box, where you will insert your ballot. Most cities and towns in Massachusetts use optical scan ballots, which means that you will likely be inserting your paper ballot into a machine which will tally your ballot. If your town continues to use paper ballots which are tallied by hand at the end of the night, you will fold your ballot as indicated and insert it into the ballot box. In either case, a poll worker will be stationed near the ballot box to instruct you on how to cast your ballot.

At the close of polls, poll workers will remove the ballots from the locked ballot box. In communities which hand count their ballots, tellers will tally the votes by hand. In communities which use optical scan machines, poll workers will print out the machine tally, hand count any write-in ballots or ballots which could not be counted by the machine, and compile an unofficial tally. In all communities, the ballots must then be sealed in containers and the tally must be announced. This entire process is open to public viewing.

Showing Identification...

You may be asked to show identification at the check-in table for any of the following reasons:

- You are voting for the first time in Massachusetts in a federal election;
- You are an inactive voter;
- You are casting a provisional or challenged ballot;
- The poll worker has a reasonable suspicion that leads them to request identification.

You will not be required to present photo identification. For a full listing of acceptable forms of identification, please see our page on [Identification](#).

Voting from a Previous Address

State law allows voters who have moved within Massachusetts to vote in state elections and primaries from a previous address for up to six months, as long as they have not registered at a new address. If you have moved from one community in Massachusetts to another, and you have not registered to vote at your new address, you may vote at your previous polling place. Please note that this does not apply to local elections.

Not on the List of Voters...

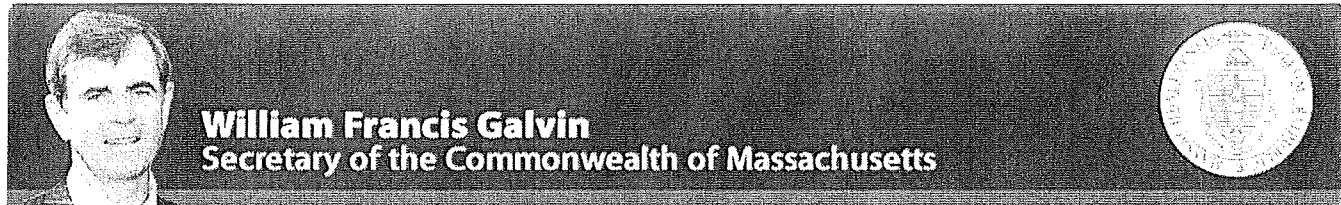
If your name does not appear on the list of voters and your registration cannot be verified, you have the right to cast a provisional ballot. For more information, see our page on [provisional voting](#).

Questions or Concerns...

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).

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Registering to Vote

You may register to vote in Massachusetts if:

- You are a citizen of the United States; and
- You will be at least 18 years of age on or before the next election; and
- You are a resident of Massachusetts; and
- You are not currently incarcerated by reason of a felony conviction.

If you meet the above requirements, you may register to vote 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. The deadline to register to vote in a special town meeting is ten (10) days prior to the special town meeting.

Download a Voter Registration form

[Voter Registration form](#) (PDF)

[Formulario de inscripción de votante por correo oficial de Massachusetts](#) (PDF) – Spanish

[麻州官方 選民郵寄登記表](#) (PDF) – Chinese

If you do not have a pdf reader, please download and install [Adobe Reader](#) in order to view and print the above applications.

Registering online:

In order to register to vote online, you must have a signature on file with the Registry of Motor Vehicles. If you currently have a Massachusetts driver's license or state ID card, you may use the [online voter registration application](#) to register, update your address, or change your party affiliation. Voter registration forms submitted online must be submitted by midnight on the date of the voter registration deadline.

Registering by mail:

If you do not qualify to register to vote online, or if you would prefer to register by mail, you may download the voter registration form by using the link provided in the box to the right. The form must be completed, signed, and delivered to your [local election official](#). Voter registration forms submitted by mail must be postmarked no later than the voter registration deadline.

Registering in-person:

If you would like to register in-person, you may do so at any [local election office](#), as well as the [Elections Division](#) of the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office. Voter registration is also available as part of every transaction at the Registry of Motor Vehicles and at certain public assistance agencies. Voter registration forms completed in-person are valid as of the day that they are signed.

Changing Your Address

You must update your voter registration every time you move. If you have moved, you may update your registration by filling out a new voter registration form. If you move after the deadline to register to vote in a state election or primary, you should wait to update your registration until after the date of the election or primary, and return to vote at your previous polling place in Massachusetts. State law allows you to vote from a previous address in a state election for up to six months after you have moved, as long as you have not registered elsewhere.

Political Parties

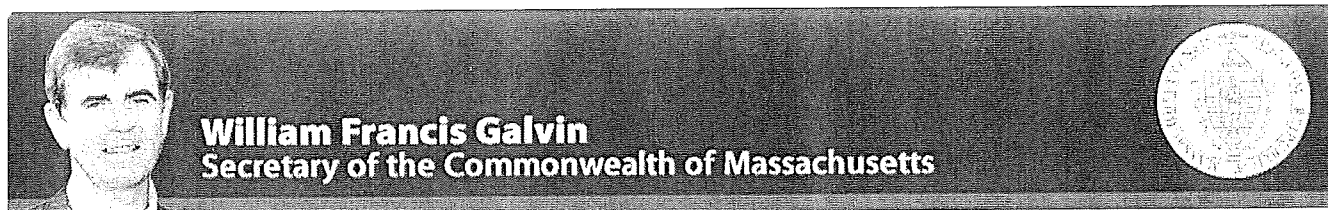
If you wish to change your party enrollment, you may do so by filling out a new voter registration form. Members of political parties may vote only in their own party's primary elections. Unenrolled voters (commonly referred to as "Independents") and members of political designations or minor parties may vote in the party primary of their choice. Choosing to vote in a particular party's primary does NOT enroll you as a member of that party.

A full list of political parties and designations may be found [here](#).

Identification Requirements

Certain voters must submit a copy of their identification with their voter registration or present it at their polling place on Election Day. For more information on identification requirements, please see our page on [Identification Requirements](#).

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Absentee Voting

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 will be available for biennial November state elections only, beginning with the November 8, 2016 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 \(PDF\)](#)

Note: A family member of a person qualified to vote by absentee ballot may apply in the same manner for you. Download and use the application below.

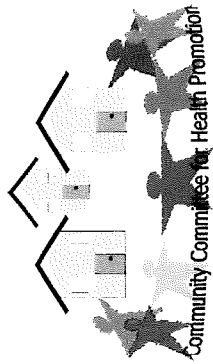
[Absentee Ballot Application by a Family Member \(PDF\)](#)

[Petición de Voto en Ausencia para un Familiar \(PDF\)](#)

If you do not have a pdf reader, please download and install [Adobe Reader](#) in order to view and print the above applications.

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Representatives as of July 2016

Representative Name	Ward #	Precinct #	Development	City and Zip Code
Sonia Chang-Diaz (D)	4	9	Alice H. Taylor	Boston 02120
Elizabeth A. Malia (D)	19	11	Archdale	Roslindale 02131
Sonia Chang-Diaz (D)	10	7	Bromley-Heath	Jamaica Plain 02130
Daniel J. Ryan (D)	2	4	Bunker Hill	Charlestown 02129
Sonia Chang-Diaz (D)	8	1	Cathedral	Boston 02118
Kevin G. Honan (D)	21	10	Commonwealth	Brighton 02135
Angelo M. Scaccia (D)	18	17	Fairmount	Hyde Park 02136
Kevin G. Honan (D)	22	12	Faneuil	Boston 02135
Sonia Chang-Diaz	14	10	Franklin Field	Dorchester 02124
Sonia Chang-Diaz	14	9	Franklin Hill	Dorchester 02124
Daniel Cullinane	18	1	Gallivan	Dorchester 02126
Sonia Chang-Diaz	9	3	Lenox/Camden	Boston 02118
Nick Collins	7	7	Mary Ellen McCormack	South Boston 02127
Joseph A. Boncore	1	3	Maverick	East Boston 02128
Sonia Chang-Diaz	10	1	Mission Main	Roxbury 02120
Nick Collins (D)	7	6	Old Colony	South Boston 02127
Sonia Chang-Diaz	8	5	Orchard Gardens	Roxbury 02119
Adrian Madaro (D)	1		Orient Heights	East Boston 02128
Sonia Chang-Diaz	11	10	South Street	Jamaica Plain 02130
Angelo M. Scaccia (D)	18	11	Washington Beech	Roslindale 02131
Nick Collins	7	4	West Broadway	South Boston 02127
Sonia Chang-Diaz	9	4	Whittier Street	Roxbury 02120

