

## **Election Modernization Coalition**

Steering Committee Members: American Civil Liberties Union of MA • Common Cause • Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Economic Justice • League of Women Voters of Massachusetts • MassVOTE • MA Voter Table • MA Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition • Progressive Massachusetts

PRESS ADVISORY  
April 2, 2013

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### **Voting Rights Advocates to Weigh In on Legislative Reforms** *Legislation Largest Election Modernization Proposal in Decades*

Boston, MA – Members of the Massachusetts Election Modernization Coalition are preparing for the April 3 2:00 pm Hearing, before the Joint Committee on Election Laws where Senate Bill 327 – An Act Reforming Election Laws – will be discussed. Senate Bill 327, introduced by Committee Chair Senator Barry Finegold, proposes to modernize the voter registration process, introduce early voting, and improve election integrity with greater transparency, random audits, and training for elections officials.

**WHAT: Hearing on An Act Reforming Election Laws**

**WHEN: April 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2:00 pm**

**WHERE: MA State House – Hearing Room A-1**

***Contact Whitney Taylor 617-335-1841 to set up an interview with coalition members.***

“Our outdated election laws undermine the right to vote,” stated Gavi Wolfe, ACLU of MA. “In high-tech Massachusetts, it’s crazy that we don’t have online voter registration. And thirty-two other states have early voting, but what do we have? Long lines on Election Day that discourage even the most committed voters. We need to move Massachusetts elections into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

“Senate Bill 327 is an important step to ensure that Massachusetts has a modern voting system that reduces barriers for all citizens, especially young people. Allowing 16 and 17 year-olds to pre-register so they are ready to vote the day they turn 18 is one way we can encourage youth participation,” said Sara Brady, MassVOTE.

“Early voting increases access to voting and is already widely used around the country,” said Eva Valentine, president, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts. “The demands of family, jobs and education can make it impossible for all eligible citizens to vote on one specific day.”

“It's unacceptable that so many Massachusetts voters waited up to three hours in line on Election Day 2012,” said Pam Wimot, Common Cause. “Massachusetts is behind many other states in passing common sense reforms that will shorten lines and ensure that elections are run smoothly. This legislation would allow us to become leaders rather than laggards in election administration reform.”

Rahsaan Hall of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Economic Justice emphasizes, “The need to remove barriers to voting has become apparent in the last several statewide elections. Our polling places need to be able to accommodate all voters in a timely manner and those communities that do not provide easy access must be held accountable”.

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