



Early voting starts October 24, 2016

The Law

The early voting law will allow Massachusetts voters to cast their ballots up to 11 days before the election, starting on October 24, 2016. Cities and towns across the state are required to have at least one voting site open during normal business hours during the early voting period. Anything beyond that is up to their discretion.



Going Beyond the Law

The minimum requirements of the early voting law will not be enough to provide an equal level of voting access for citizens in many municipalities. To guarantee enhanced voting opportunity for all, the Election Modernization Coalition has promoted evening and weekend hours and extra voting sites in larger communities.

Why is this important?

Early voting will modernize elections and increase political participation. It promises to shorten long lines at busy polling locations, especially during Presidential years, improve the voting experience, and give those with busy work, school, and childcare schedules greater opportunity to vote. This can only be achieved if the policy is robustly implemented.



The Early Voting Challenge

The Election Modernization Coalition issued the Early Voting Challenge to encourage full implementation of the new law. The Coalition is awarding gold and silver medals to cities and towns that adhere to the following recommended standards, drawn from a Common Cause report on early voting best practices from 32 other early voting states.

	Gold Medal	Silver Medal
Goals of the Early Voting Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have at least 1 early voting site for every 35,000 people.* Have evening hours at least 2 times per week during early voting. Have 6 or more hours of weekend time available during early voting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have at least 1 early voting site for every 35,000 people.* Have evening hours at least 1 time per week during early voting. Have at least 4 hours of weekend time available during early voting.

