



## Automatic Voter Registration Act

S.373 (Sen. Cynthia Creem) and H.2091 (Rep. Peter Kocot)

All eligible Massachusetts residents have the constitutional right to participate in our elections. Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) will automatically register eligible citizens to vote when they interact with key state agencies. It shifts voter registration from an opt-in to an opt-out system. AVR will modernize our voter registration system to make it more accurate, secure and cost-effective.

### How Automatic Voter Registration Works:

- ✓ AVR makes registration more convenient by seamlessly integrating voter registration into the Registry of Motor Vehicles and other state agencies that already provide voter registration under the federal Motor Voter Law.
- ✓ A citizen's information is electronically transferred to the central voter database and local registrars without additional forms or paperwork.
- ✓ Local registrars add those eligible to vote and not already registered to their official voting rolls.
- ✓ Voters can choose a political party or decline to be registered.
- ✓ Massachusetts would also join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a national clearinghouse that collects registration information and compares it with other state and federal databases to assure accuracy and security of voting lists.
- ✓ The AVR legislation under consideration imposes a criminal penalty of up to a \$10,000 fine and/or 5 years' imprisonment for anyone who knowingly provides false registration information.

### Why We Need AVR:

- ✓ 680,000 eligible Massachusetts citizens are not currently registered.
- ✓ AVR will improve the accuracy and security of our voter rolls.
- ✓ AVR will eliminate much of the human error that comes with paper forms, more frequently update records when people move, and eliminate duplicate records.
- ✓ AVR could save Massachusetts money in the long run.
- ✓ The Massachusetts Town Clerks Association has testified it approves of AVR provided funds are available for implementation.

### Success in Other States:

- ✓ AVR has passed in 10 other states—Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia, plus the District of Columbia.
- ✓ Over 30 additional states are currently considering AVR legislation.
- ✓ After AVR passed in Oregon, over 230,000 new voters were added to the state's rolls in six months. Over 97,000 of these new Oregon voters participated in the 2016 election. And AVR updated 570,000 inaccurate Oregon addresses.

**Action Needed:** The AVR bill is currently in the Joint Committee on Election Laws. State Representatives are urged to ask the House leadership to bring this bill to the House for a vote.