

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MASSACHUSETTS

March 9, 2020

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
McCormack Building
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Secretary Galvin:

Most of Massachusetts' 351 towns will hold local elections for town officials and school committee members this spring.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is concerned that fears of contracting COVID-19, the coronavirus, might keep voters, particularly those in high-risk demographic groups, away from the polls.

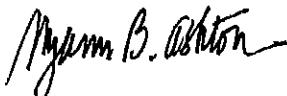
The League urges you to take steps to suspend the requirements for obtaining an absentee ballot for the duration of the coronavirus outbreak so that anyone who wishes to vote by absentee ballot in local elections this spring, and in later elections if necessary, can do so.

Such a temporary change in the requirements for absentee voting will make it safer for certain populations to vote in their local elections and may also improve the safety of election workers by providing an alternative way to vote for voters who might have a cold or other symptoms.

We understand that the restrictions on absentee voting are a provision of the Massachusetts Constitution, but we ask that you explore every possible way to temporarily lift those restrictions for this unprecedented public health situation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Ashton
Co-Presidents



Judy Zaunbrecher

CC: Michelle Tassinari, Director and Legal Counsel