

How do I return a mail ballot?

When you receive your mail ballot, fill it out, and put it in the yellow envelope. You **MUST** sign the yellow envelope for your ballot to be accepted. Then put the yellow envelope inside the white prepaid postage envelope. You can mail the ballot, return it in person to your local election office, or deposit it in a ballot dropbox.

You can find ballot dropbox locations at www.voteinMA.com. You cannot return a mail ballot to a polling place on Election Day; use a ballot dropbox. You can track your mail ballot at www.voteinMA.com. Your ballot must reach your local election office or be deposited in a ballot dropbox by close of polls on Election Day to be counted. The only exception is for ballots returned by mail in the biennial state election in November, when three extra days are allowed for ballots postmarked by Election Day to arrive in the mail.

I have a mail ballot, can I still vote in person on Election Day?

You can still vote in person if:

- You applied to vote by mail, but never returned your ballot.
- You mailed your ballot back, but it hasn't reached your local election office.
- Your ballot was received by your local election office, but it was rejected.

You can't vote in person if your ballot has reached your local election office and was accepted. Once your ballot is accepted, you have voted.

When can I vote early in person?

Early voting is available for biennial statewide primaries and general elections. For primaries, there are seven days of early voting starting 11 days before the election. For November elections, there are 14 days of early voting starting 17 days before the election. Check with your town's election official for early voting locations and hours.

What if my name does not appear on the voters' list?

If your name isn't on the voters' list or inactive voters' list or is listed incorrectly, you can still vote. You can go to your local election office to further investigate your eligibility. If proof that you have registered is found, the official will issue you a certificate.

You can vote at the election office by absentee ballot or take the certificate back to your polling place to vote. Or you can vote by provisional ballot.

Do I have to show identification to vote?

You generally don't have to show identification. However, you may be asked to show identification when you check in at your voting place if:

- You are voting in Massachusetts for the first time
- The identification number on your voter registration form could not be verified
- You are an inactive voter
- You are casting a provisional or challenged ballot*
- A poll worker has reasonable suspicion about your identity.

Suitable identification, which must show your name and address, includes a copy of current and valid photo identification with address, current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document. Passports, most student IDs, and other forms of identification that do not include your home address are not valid for voter identification. You do not have to show a photo ID.

*For more information on provisional ballots, go to www.sec.state.ma.us.

Who do I call if I have a problem voting?

If you feel your right to vote has been violated in any way, please call our Election Protection hotline: 866-OUR-VOTE.



VOTING IN MASSACHUSETTS



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When are elections held?

Presidential elections occur every four years, with the primaries held early in the year and the general election in November. Elections for governor and other statewide officials are held every four years, in the even-numbered year that is not a presidential election year, with the primary in September and general election in November. State senator and representative and congressional elections occur in every even-numbered year, with the primary in September and the general election in November. Each town sets its own dates for local elections; these usually occur annually in the spring. City elections occur in odd-numbered years; preliminary elections are held in September or October and the elections occur in November. For state and federal elections, the polls must be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Who is eligible to register to vote?

You may submit an application to register or pre-register to vote in Massachusetts if: 1) you are a citizen of the United States 2) a resident of Massachusetts and 3) you are 16 years of age or older and 4) you are not currently incarcerated by reason of a felony conviction. There is no waiting period to register if you have just moved to Massachusetts.

Can I register to vote if I am under 18?

If you are 16 or 17 and a Massachusetts resident, you can pre-register to vote at the Registry of Motor Vehicles OR online if you have a driver's license or state-issued ID (www.registertovoteMA.com) OR by using a paper voter registration form. You will receive notification and automatically be added to the voter rolls when you turn 18.

Where and how do I register to vote?

You can register to vote in person at any registration event OR online OR by mail OR in your local election office OR at certain state agencies. In Massachusetts, the last day to register to vote for any election is 10 days before the election. The one exception is for

Massachusetts residents who become U.S. citizens after the voter registration deadline has passed; they may register to vote at their town or city hall until 4 p.m. on the day before an election.

Can I register to vote at the polls?

No.

How do I register to vote online?

Anyone with a Massachusetts driver's license or a state-issued ID card can register to vote, update an address, or change a party affiliation at www.voteinMA.com. Online voter registration forms must be submitted by midnight on the date of the voter registration deadline.

How do I register to vote by paper form?

If you don't have a driver's license or state-issued ID, mail-in voter registration forms are available at all local election offices and many post offices and libraries. Or you can download a form from www.voteinMA.com. Registration forms submitted by mail must be postmarked no later than the voter registration deadline. They can also be hand-delivered to your local election office by the deadline.

Do I enroll in a political party when I register?

At the time you register, you can choose to enroll in a political party or you can choose to be "unenrolled" --that is, not signed up in any party. Members of political parties may vote only in their own party's primary elections. Unenrolled voters and members of political designations or minor parties may vote in the party primary of their choice and remain unenrolled.

Where do I vote?

To find your polling place, you can visit www.voteinMA.com or call your town or city clerk's office.

Who needs an absentee ballot?

No-excuse mail ballots have almost completely replaced absentee ballots in Massachusetts. You might need an absentee ballot if you will be out of town for a local election when your town has opted out of mail voting, for example. For information on when absentee ballots might be used and how to apply for one, see the Secretary of State's website.

How do I vote by mail?

Massachusetts now allows anyone to vote by mail without an excuse. You have to apply for a mail ballot, which will be sent to you by local election officials. Then you must return the ballot.

How do I apply for a mail ballot?

The Secretary of State's office sends a postcard application for a mail ballot to all registered voters 45 days before statewide elections. If you want a mail ballot, fill in the application and mail it to your local election office. You can use the application to request a mail ballot for every election in a calendar year. You can also request that your ballot be sent to a different address, for example if you are a college student in a different state. Note that mail ballots may not be available for local elections; check with your local election office.

You can also apply for a mail ballot online at www.voteinMA.com.

Before an election, check the application and return deadlines for mail ballots with your local election office. Apply for a mail ballot well in advance of an election to allow time for your application to be received, for a ballot to be mailed to you, and for your ballot to be returned.