



## Formerly Incarcerated Voters

**You are eligible to register to vote immediately upon release from incarceration**, whether or not you are on parole or probation, as long as you are:

- A U.S. Citizen
- A resident of Massachusetts
- 16 years or older (you may vote if you will be 18 on or before Election Day)

### How to Register

If you are not already registered to vote, you can either register online, by mail, or in person. To register online, visit [VoteinMA.com](https://VoteinMA.com).

To register by mail, you will need to print, fill out, and sign this [form](#). Once you have completed the form, mail the signed form to your local election office. You can find your location election office at: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voter-resources/find-my-local-election-office.htm>

To register in-person, visit one of these offices:

- Your election official's office.
- The Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth Elections Division, located at 1 Ashburton Place, Room 1705, Boston, MA 02108.
- The Secretary of the Commonwealth's regional offices, located at:
  - Southeastern District Office: 18 South Main St., Suite 206, Fall River, MA 02721
  - Western District Office, 436 Dwight St., Room 102, Springfield, MA 01103

If you are unsure if or where you are registered, you can check your status at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx>

You must register or make changes to your registration at least 10 days before Election Day. That means that the deadline to register or change your registration for the November 5, 2024 election is Saturday, October 26. You cannot register to vote on Election Day.

### Important Dates

- **October 19, 2024** – First day of in-person early voting in Massachusetts
- **October 26, 2024** – Last day to register to vote for November 5 election
- **October 29, 2024** – Last day to submit vote by mail applications
- **November 1, 2024** – Last day of in-person early voting in Massachusetts
- **November 5, 2024** – Election Day
- **November 5, 2024** – Deadline to mail or drop off vote by mail ballots



## How to Vote

- **Vote Early by Mail.** Apply for a mail-in early voting ballot online at [VoteinMA.com](https://VoteinMA.com) or complete and submit the application that was mailed to you. Your application must reach election officials by 5PM on October 29th. Return your ballot by mail or deliver it in person to your local election office, an official ballot return drop box in your city or town, or any early voting location in your city or town during early voting hours. If returning your ballot by mail, it is recommended to mail at least 7 days before Election Day. Your ballot must be postmarked or dropped-off by 8PM on Election Day. Track your ballot or look up drop-off locations at [VoteinMA.com](https://VoteinMA.com).
- **Vote Early in Person.** Go to an early voting location in your city or town from October 19th – November 1st. Early voting locations and hours will be posted by October 11th on [VoteinMA.com](https://VoteinMA.com).
- **Vote in Person on Election Day.** On November 5th, vote at your polling location between 7AM – 8PM. If you are in line by 8PM, you have the right to vote. Confirm your polling location at [VoteinMA.com](https://VoteinMA.com).

## Why is there a police officer at my polling location?

State and federal law protects your right to vote safely in elections, free from intimidation. Massachusetts state law requires that local police officers be at polling places to assist local election officials and to ensure that voters are not obstructed from voting (Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 54, § 72).

## What are poll observers allowed to do?

Massachusetts law provides that elections must be conducted in a manner that is open to public observation. Poll observers are allowed inside the polling place, unless they are disorderly or obstruct the access of voters (950 CMR 52.03(22); 950 CMR 54.04(22)).

Poll watchers may observe polling place operations but they cannot intimidate, threaten, coerce or otherwise interfere with your right to cast your ballot (950 CMR 52.03(22); 950 CMR 54.04(22)).

If you have questions or become aware of efforts to interfere in the upcoming election or to intimidate voters, please contact the Secretary of State at 1-800-462-VOTE or the Attorney General's Office at 617-727-2200.



### **Are political activities allowed at polling locations?**

Under Massachusetts law, electioneering, campaigning, signature-gathering, and other specific political activities are prohibited within 150 feet of a voting location. The 150-foot rule applies to polling locations on Election Day and early voting sites during voting hours (950 CMR § 52.03(22)(c) and 54.04(22)(c)).

This rule extends to voters, too, in that voters may not carry or wear into a voting location any items designed to aid or defeat a candidate or question being voted on in that location. For example, this includes clothing bearing a candidate's name, slogan or image, the name of a candidate's policy proposal, or a political party name.

If you have questions or experience impermissible electioneering or campaigning at your polling location, please contact the Secretary of State at 1-800-462-VOTE or the Attorney General's Office at 617-727-2200.

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