

INITIATIVE PETITION FOR A LAW

Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority:

An Act Expanding Opportunities for Voter Registration

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence: "A person otherwise qualified to vote for national or state officers, but who has not registered in accordance with the provisions of section 26 of this chapter shall be eligible to register under section 34A."

SECTION 2. Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out Section 3 and inserting in place thereof the following section:

"Section 3. For all elections and primaries, a person shall be registered and may vote in the voting precinct where he resides; provided, however, that any registered voter of a city or town who moves to any other precinct in said city or town or to another city or town may register to vote at his new address by making written application to the city or town clerk no later than the close of registration or in accordance with the provisions of section 34A of this chapter. A new resident of the city or town may also, upon like application, be registered at the new address by making written application to the city or town clerk no later than the close of registration or in accordance with the provisions of section 34A. The city or town clerk shall forthwith notify each voter making any such written application that the same has been received and that he may vote, subject to the provision of this section regarding the close of registration, in the precinct into which he has moved or in accordance with provisions of section 34A."

1. DA 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. MSS 10. _____
11. _____ 12. _____ 13. _____ 14. SCH 15. M/L 16. _____ 17. _____ 18. CAG 19. DO
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SECTION 3. Section 26 of Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following: "The registrars, for the purpose of registering voters, shall hold such day and evening sessions as the town, by by-law, or the city, by ordinance, shall prescribe and such other sessions at locations as they deem necessary to allow voters to register and they may for such purposes, use mobile registration units; provided, however, that except as provided in sections thirty-four, thirty-four A, and fifty, registration for the next election shall take place no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Friday preceding such election."

SECTION 4. Section 26 of Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by striking out the last sentence.

SECTION 5. Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out Section 28 and inserting in place thereof the following section: "Section 28. Registrars shall hold a continuous session from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on the last day for registration established under section 26."

SECTION 6. Section 34 of Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following: "Except as otherwise provided in Section 34A of this Chapter, after 12:00 p.m. of the Friday preceding an election, the registrars shall not register any person to vote in the next election, except that they shall furnish, or cause to be furnished, to each person waiting in line at the hour of 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of being registered, a card or slip of identification bearing such person's name and shall, before registration ceases, permit such person to register."

1. DSA 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. MSS 10. _____
11. _____ 12. _____ 13. _____ 14. SCH 15. MY 16. _____ 17. _____ 18. CAG 19. AS
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SECTION 7. Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by inserting after Section 34 the following section:

“Section 34A. (a) An individual who is eligible to vote may register on the day of an election by appearing in person at the appropriate polling place for the precinct in which they reside, during the hours in which polls are open for voting, by completing a registration application in a form prescribed by the state secretary which complies with identity requirements of 52 U.S.C. section 21083, by presenting to the appropriate election official proof of residency and by making a written oath which shall be as follows: I certify that I: am a citizen of the United States; am at least 18 years old; am not under guardianship that prohibits me from registering and/or voting or otherwise prohibited from voting; am not temporarily or permanently disqualified by law because of corrupt practices in respect to elections; have not and will not vote in any other location within the Commonwealth or elsewhere; have read and understand this statement: I further understand that giving false information is a felony punishable by not more than 5 years imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term “proof of residence” shall mean 1 of the following, so long as it includes the name of the applicant and the address from which he or she is registering:

(i) a valid photo identification including, but not limited to, a Massachusetts driver’s license or other state-issued identification card; or

1. DSA 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. MSS 10. _____
11. _____ 12. _____ 13. _____ 14. SKH 15. MZ 16. _____ 17. _____ 18. CAR 19. DC
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(ii) other documentation demonstrating the name and address where the applicant maintains residence and seeks to register including, but not limited to, a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, residential lease agreement, wireless telephone statement, paycheck, other government document or correspondence, a current student fee statement or other document from a post-secondary educational institution that verifies the student's current address.

(c) Upon meeting the identity requirements of subsection (a), production of proof of residence, and the making of an oath sufficient to support registration, the ballot clerk or his designee shall permit the applicant to vote in that election. Any person who registers to vote on the day of an election in accordance with this section shall, absent disqualification, be registered to vote at all subsequent primaries and elections.

(d) A registrant who fails to present suitable identification shall be permitted to cast a provisional ballot pursuant to the provisions of section 76C of chapter 54, but shall be required to return within two business days after a state primary or municipal election or within six days following a state election to present sufficient identification to the local election officials in order for the local election officials to determine that the registrant is qualified to vote in such election and whether to count the provisional ballot.

(e) Not less than seven days prior to any election, the registrars for each city or town shall publish all polling locations and the applicable dates and hours. Notice shall be conspicuously posted in the office of the local election officials or on the principal

1. DSA 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. MSS 10. _____
11. _____ 12. _____ 13. _____ 14. SCH 15. MZ 16. _____ 17. _____ 18. CAG 19. CS
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official bulletin board of each city or town, on any other public building considered necessary, on the city or town's website, if any, and on the website of the state secretary.

(f) The state secretary shall make available to the election officers at each polling location, to the extent possible, access to the statewide list of registered voters as contained in the central registry of voters set forth in section 47C.

(g) The local election officials may correct information supplied by the registrant to the extent necessary to maintain the integrity of their records. If an affidavit is incomplete or if it appears from the facts set forth in the affidavit that the registrant is not qualified to register as a voter, the local election officials shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of section forty-seven.

(h) As soon as practicable after the election, but not more than thirty days after the election, the registrars shall add the registrant's name, address and effective date of registration to the annual register of voters.

(i) This section shall not apply to an individual seeking to register to vote in any town for the purposes of voting at annual town meeting or special town meeting.

(j) A registered voter shall not re-register on the day of a primary or election for the exclusive purpose of altering his party affiliation.

(k) The right to assistance in voting under section 79 of chapter 54 shall apply to individuals registering as voters under this section.

1. DA 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. MSS 10. _____
11. _____ 12. _____ 13. _____ 14. SCA 15. M 16. _____ 17. _____ 18. CAG 19. OK
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(l) The state secretary shall adopt regulations to implement the relevant provisions of this chapter.

(m) Upon credible information or allegation of illegal voter registration, or credible information or allegation of illegal multiple voting, there shall be an investigation upon the merits of said information or allegation by the attorney general, or by the district attorney having jurisdiction over the municipality in which the alleged illegal registration or illegal multiple voting occurred. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as excluding enforcement of this section by any means otherwise provided by law.

(n) Violations of this section shall be punishable under sections 8, 26 and 27, of chapter 56.”

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect August 1, 2025, and applies to all elections held on or after that date.

1. DA 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. MS 10. _____
11. _____ 12. _____ 13. _____ 14. CH 15. ML 16. _____ 17. _____ 18. CAG 19. Ad
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The undersigned qualified voters of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have personally reviewed the final text of this initiative petition, fully subscribe to its contents, agree to be one of its original signers and have signaled that agreement by initialing each page, and hereby submit the measure for approval by the people pursuant to Article 48 of the articles of amendment of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as amended by Article 74 of said articles of amendment.

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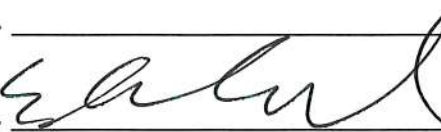
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