

Form Name:
Submission Time:

Citizens Commission
February 11, 2019 11:38 am

Name	Akshay Desai
Address	
Phone	
Email	
Citizenship Affirmation	I am a U.S. Citizen
Residency Affirmation	I am a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Statement of Intent	I intend to comply with and advance the policy established by this Act.

Statement of Interest

I am currently a high school senior. My interest in serving on this Commission was sparked by several things. I was unable to vote in this year's midterm, my first election, because I was three weeks underage. I understand why only 18 year olds may vote in an election, but th simply reinforced my belief that everyone should be able to voice their opinion about their government just as equally as any other citizen. While the viewpoint of experts in this matter, and therefore far older than I, will obviously be necessary, the viewpoint of young voters is also crucial in the process of restoring our democracy. I have extensively studied how our government works in both my school and advocacy work, and participation in this Commission will be yet another way to participate in the process of government firsthand.

I also wish to be a civil rights lawyer in the future. Having not only an available but equitable right to vote is the cornerstone of civil rights.

My interest in this Commission is, however, sparked by more than just my future.

The forests and water of my town will be polluted with carcinogenic chemicals by a powerful energy company; my elected officials have done little to stop them.

After fighting against this company and those like them, and lobbying to make voting in Massachusetts far more available to the powerless, I am ready to spread this dream across the nation.

Résumé or Summary of Qualifications Upload	https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/477067449/71887710_machusetts_citizens_commission_qualifications.docx
Political Party Affiliation, if any, over the previous five years	Democratic
Clty or Town where you reside	HUDSON
Employment Status	Unemployed

Qualifications

*I served as a speaker for a local environmental group representing my town, known as Protect Hudson, which was protesting an environmentally devastating powerline project. I attempted to channel and convey the frustration I and my fellow citizens felt when I spoke. If there's anything that my experience as part of that group made clear, rich corporations will always trump citizens-unless our government does something about it.

*I participate as a volunteer for the American Civil Liberties Union. As part of the Yes on 3 Coalition, I aided voters in making plans to find ways to the polls. I was especially proud of my efforts to pass House Bill 6091, which enacted automatic voter registration in Massachusetts. I lobbied State Representatives. I aided Representative Hogan in researching the policy, an experience I hope to use in aiding the Commission. While there were other laws that the ACLU was lobbying for during that legislative session, I chose automatic voter registration because of my aforementioned experience not being able to vote; more importantly, I supported the law because automatic voter registration, which comes into effect after interaction with the MA RMV or MassHealth, would make voter registration far more easier, making one form of participation in our democracy far easier, particularly for the poor and homeless.

*I have studied Citizen's United, the process to amending the United States Constitution, and the general practices of legal argument and drafting laws and policy in my Constitutional Law and Advanced Placement Government classes. Obviously, my experience in these matters will be remotely nowhere near that of experts with degrees, but I regardless have a basic understanding of the process and ardor necessary to create and pass a Constitutional Amendment and properly defending it in court.