

# VOTING WHILE INCARCERATED

## YOU CAN VOTE IF YOU ARE:

- A U.S. citizen
- A Massachusetts resident
- 18+ years old
- Not disqualified by law (due to corrupt election-related practices)
- Not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction

This means if you are in pre-trial detention, serving time on a misdemeanor, or civilly committed you can register and vote in Massachusetts so long as you are otherwise qualified to vote.

## HOW TO VOTE

- 1** If you are incarcerated for a reason other than a felony conviction and eligible to vote, you can vote by absentee ballot as a "specially qualified voter." You do not need to be registered. Absentee ballots can be obtained by submitting an absentee ballot request form or by requesting in writing. Follow the instructions below.

### ABSENTEE APPLICATION

- Complete an absentee ballot application, which is available to print online at [bit.ly/massabsenteeballotapp](https://bit.ly/massabsenteeballotapp).
- On the application, check the box to indicate you are incarcerated but not for a felony conviction, if this applies to you.
- Include the address where you are 1) registered to vote (check at [RegisterToVoteMA.com](https://RegisterToVoteMA.com)); or 2) qualified to vote from. Your residence is usually the city or town where you lived before incarceration (and not the city or town where the correctional facility is located). However, you may be able to use the city or town of the correction facility as your residence if you can provide evidence such as nearby work release activities or a local bank account.
- Include the mailing address where you want your ballot to be sent.
- Sign the form.

### WRITTEN REQUEST

- Send a request in writing to your local election official in the city or town of residence.
- In writing, note that you are incarcerated but not on a felony conviction and are a "specially qualified voter."
- Include the mailing address where you want your ballot to be sent.
- Sign the request.

- 2** Mail your application or written request to your local election official in the city or town where you are registered to vote or qualified to vote from. Contact info for local election officials is available online at [bit.ly/massdirectory](https://bit.ly/massdirectory) or by calling 1-800-462-8683 (this number is for Massachusetts residents only).

- 3** After you receive your ballot, fill it out following the instructions. Put your marked ballot into the yellow envelope and seal. Read and sign the affirmation on the yellow envelope, print your name and address below your signature, and then place into the mailing envelope (pre-addressed and postage prepaid). Mail your ballot.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### OCTOBER 28, 2020

Absentee ballot applications must be received by local election officials by this date.

### NOVEMBER 3, 2020 (ELECTION DAY)

Absentee ballots must be postmarked by this date. Mail your ballot early to make sure your ballot is received by the deadline.

### NOVEMBER 6, 2020

Absentee ballots postmarked by 11/3 must be received by local election officials by this date to be eligible to be counted.

