



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Charles D. Baker, Governor ♦ Karyn E. Polito, Lt. Governor ♦ Chrystal Kornegay, Undersecretary

Public Housing Notice 2015-26

To: Local Housing Authorities

From: Sarah Glassman, Associate Director, Division of Public Housing & Rental Assistance

Subject: Tenant Board Member Elections

Date: October 6, 2015

DHCD is in the process of drafting new regulations per section 5A of Chapter 235, "An Act Relative to Local Housing Authorities".

Section 5A reads as follows:

- Section 5A. The department shall promulgate regulations establishing election procedures for tenants to elect a tenant as a member of the housing authority in the town and regulations establishing appointment by the board of selectmen of the town, if no election may be held; provided, however, that 1 member of the housing authority board shall be a tenant. The department shall provide regulations creating waiver of this section if federal law requires the town to maintain a tenant member as 1 of the 5 members or if a tenant has been elected under section 5.

New regulations are scheduled to be filed with the Secretary of State in early 2016, which means that the new regulation will most likely not be in place until the spring of 2017. Furthermore, we expect to give LHAs one year from when the regulation is promulgated to implement the new requirement. Given the expected timeline, DHCD recognizes that many LHAs will hold elections before the regulations are in place. LHAs should go forward with the routine election processes and procedures as they normally would. When the new regulations regarding election processes and procedures are complete, Local Housing Authorities will be notified by DHCD.

Please direct any questions or comments regarding this notice to Cate Mingoya at Cate.Mingoya@state.ma.us or 617.573.1190.