

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

## Information on Federal and State Laws that Prohibit Fraud and Misrepresentation:

The following lists the principal election law violations under federal and/or state law:

- Persons must not make any false statement or claim that they are citizens of the United States in order to register or vote in any Federal, State, or local election.
- Persons must not procure or submit materially false, fraudulent or fictitious voter registration applications in any election that includes a federal candidate.
- Persons must not submit false information as to name, address or period of residence in a voting district for the purpose of establishing eligibility to register or vote in any election that includes a federal candidate.
- Persons must not procure, cast or tabulate materially false, fraudulent or fictitious ballots in any election that includes a federal candidate.
- Persons must not pay, offer to pay or accept payment for voting, registering to vote, withholding their vote, or voting for or against any candidate in any election that includes a federal candidate.
- Persons must not tamper with or injure or attempt to tamper with or injure any voting machine to be used or being used in an election or prevent the correct operation of such machine.
- Persons must not hinder, delay or interfere with or aid in hindering, delaying or interfering with a voter while on their way to vote in a primary, caucus or election, while within the guardrail, while marking their ballot or while voting or attempting to vote, or endeavor to induce a voter, before depositing their ballot, to disclose how they marked their ballot.
- Persons must not remove a ballot from the space enclosed by the guard rail before the close of the polls.
- Persons must not vote or attempt to vote in any place knowing that they are not a qualified voter therein.
- Persons must not vote or attempt to vote more than once at the same election.
- Persons must not vote or attempt to vote on any name other than their own.
- Persons must not aid or abet a person who is not entitled to vote in voting or attempting to vote or in voting or attempting to vote in a name other than their own or in casting or attempting to cast more than one ballot.
- Persons must not place any distinguishing marks upon their ballot, make any false statements as to their ability to mark their ballot, allow the marking of their ballot to be seen by a person for any purpose not authorized by law, or give a false answer to or make a false oath to an election officer.
- Persons must not behave in a disorderly manner.
- Persons must obey the lawful command of the election officials.
- Persons must not obstruct the voting.
- Persons must not challenge a qualified voter for the purpose of intimidation or for ascertaining how they voted or for any other illegal purpose.

**Violation of any of these laws may result in fines and/or imprisonment.**



*William Francis Galvin*  
William Francis Galvin  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Elections Division

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin

Secretary of the Commonwealth

## Massachusetts Voters' Bill of Rights

Your voting rights are protected. These rights are guaranteed to qualified registered voters.

1. You have the right to vote if you are a qualified registered voter.
2. You have the right to cast your ballot in a manner that ensures privacy. You have the right to vote without any person trying to influence your vote and to vote in a booth that prevents others from watching you mark your ballot.
3. You have the right to remain in the voting booth for five (5) minutes if there are other voters waiting and for ten (10) minutes if there are no other voters waiting.
4. You have the right to receive up to two (2) replacement ballots if you make a mistake and spoil your ballot.
5. You have the right to request assistance when voting from anyone of your choice. If you do not bring someone with you, you have the right to have two (2) poll workers assist you.
6. You have the right to vote if you are disabled. The polling place must be accessible, and there must be an accessible voting booth.
7. You have the right to vote if you cannot read or write or cannot read or write English.
8. You have the right to vote but must show identification if: you are a first-time voter who registered to vote by mail and did not submit identification with the voter registration form; or your name is on the inactive voter list; or your vote is being challenged; or if requested by a poll worker. Acceptable forms of identification are: Massachusetts driver's license, other printed documentation containing your name and address such as a recent utility bill, rent receipt on landlord's letterhead, lease, or a copy of a voter registration acknowledgment or receipt.
9. You have the right to vote by absentee ballot if: you will be absent from your city or town on Election Day; or if you have a physical disability that prevents your voting at the polling place; or if you cannot vote at the polls due to religious belief.
10. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot if you believe you are a qualified registered voter but a poll worker tells you that you are ineligible to vote.
11. You have the right to follow up any challenge to your right to vote through the complaint process.
12. You have the right to vote if you are not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction and have registered as a voter after your release.
13. You have the right to take this Voters' Bill of Rights or any other papers, including a sample ballot, voter guide or campaign material into the voting booth with you. Please remember to remove all papers when you leave the booth.
14. You have the right to vote at your polling place any time between 7am and 8pm for state and federal elections—hours may vary for local elections. If you are in line at your polling place when the polls close at 8pm, you have the right to vote.
15. You have the right to bring your children into the voting booth with you.

If you feel that your right to vote has been violated in any way, call the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division at 1-800-462-VOTE (8683). This call is free within Massachusetts.



*William Francis Galvin*

**William Francis Galvin**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Elections Division

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin Secretary of the Commonwealth

## Presidential Primary Instructions to Voters

### Before Voting

Give your address and name to an election officer. If you are not enrolled in a party, indicate your party choice. If you need assistance because of blindness, physical disability, inability to read or to read English, you may seek help from either a person of your choice or from two election officers of different political parties. Enter a voting compartment and mark your ballot. You will have ten minutes to vote; but if others are waiting, you have only five minutes. If you need help from the election officers after you enter the compartment, ask for further instruction before voting. You may not re-enter the compartment after marking your ballot and leaving the compartment.

### Identification

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 requires that if you registered to vote by mail, you will be required to show identification when you vote for the first time in a federal election. Acceptable identification must include your name and the address at which you are registered to vote, for example: a current and valid photo identification, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document showing your name and address. If you do not provide such identification, the Help America Vote Act of 2002 requires that you may only cast a provisional ballot which will be counted later, but only after your eligibility to vote has been determined.

### If you are not allowed to vote

If you have registered but your name has been omitted from the voting list, or listed incorrectly, you may seek to vote either by appearing before the municipal election official at city/town hall or you may vote by PROVISIONAL BALLOT. To cast a provisional ballot, you must execute a provisional ballot affirmation before a precinct officer at the polling place declaring that you are a registered voter in the city or town and reside within the geographical boundaries of said precinct. All provisional voters must show suitable identification.

### To vote for candidates

Fill in the oval to the right of the name of the candidate for whom you wish to vote. Continue the process until you have voted for all candidates of your choice.  
**Presidential Preference:** Fill in the oval  to the right of the name of the candidate for whom you wish to vote or to the right of the words "No Preference." If you wish to vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, write the name or insert a sticker in the write-in space below the words "No Preference" and fill in the oval. You cannot vote for "No Preference" and also cast a write-in vote. Do not over-vote; vote only for one listed candidate or for a write-in candidate.  
**State Committee:** Fill in the oval to the right of the name of no more than one candidate for state committee man and no more than one candidate for state committee woman.  
**Ward or Town Committee:** Vote for candidates, up to the number allowed, as stated on the ballot. If you wish to vote for a group or slate, fill in the oval at the top of the group. If you wish to vote for individuals, fill in the oval to the right of each name.  
 Do not vote for more candidates than the total number allowed.

### Spoiled ballots

If you make a mistake marking your ballot, return it to the ballot clerk who will give you another; but no more than a total of three.

### To write-in a vote

If you wish to vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, write that person's name and address or insert a pre-printed sticker in the blank space following the list of candidates for the office, and fill in the oval to the right.

### After voting

Before you leave the voting compartment, check to see if you have voted for all the candidates you wish to vote for. Place your ballot in the secrecy sleeve provided until you place it in the ballot box. DO NOT FOLD OR BEND OR DAMAGE THE BALLOT IN ANY WAY. It must go through an optical scanner. Do not show anyone how you have marked your ballot. Go to the ballot box and give your address and name to one of the ballot box officers. Put your ballot in the box.



*William Francis Galvin*

**William Francis Galvin**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Elections Division