

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.



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