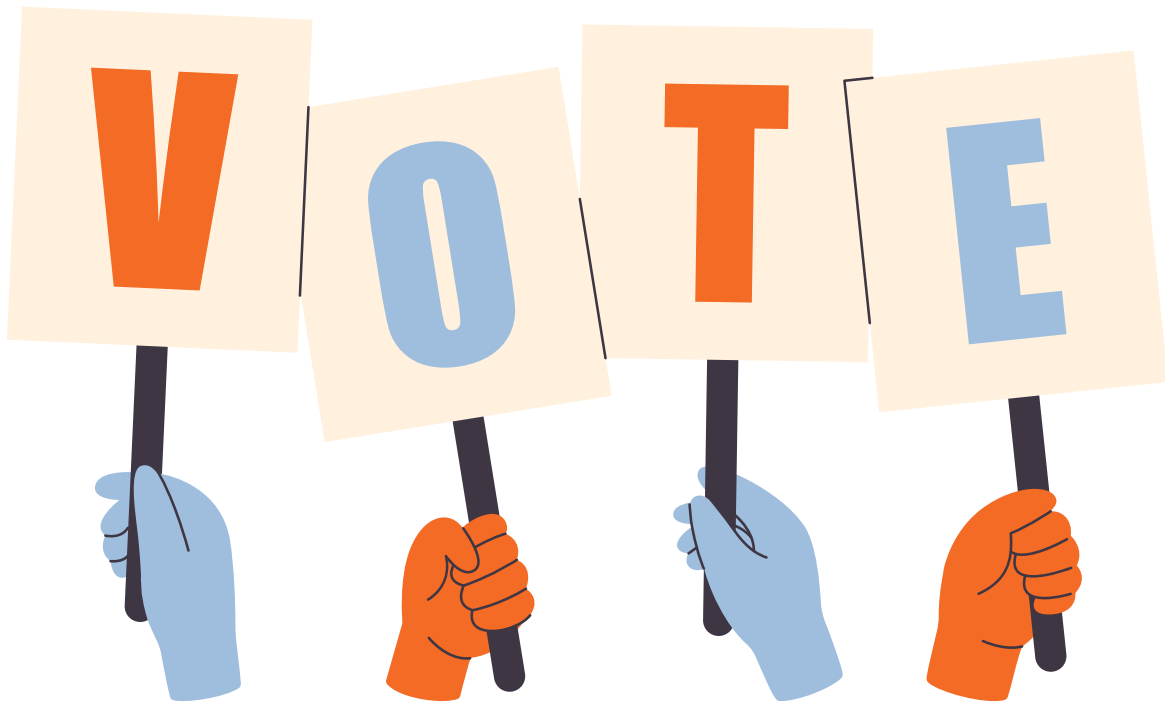


VOTING IN MASSACHUSETTS FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



This guide includes:

- Important Dates and Deadlines
- Registering to Vote
 - Voter Registration for Unhoused and Sheltered Survivors
- Voting as a Formerly or Currently Incarcerated Survivor
 - Eligibility Requirements
 - Voting as a Currently Incarcerated Survivor
- In-Person Voting vs. Mail-In Voting
- Survivor Safety and Confidentiality
- Accessibility and Accommodations While Voting
- Voting FAQ's

Important Dates and Deadlines

State Election: November 3, 2026

Registration deadline for State Election: October 24, 2026

Vote by Mail Application Deadline: October 27, 2026

Early voting period: October 17-30, 2026



Election Day Registration (EDR) is a straightforward, secure, and proven reform to increase voter turnout and strengthen our democracy by allowing eligible voters to register to vote and cast a ballot on Election Day. To learn more about ballot question 4, visit yes4edr.org and read the [Yes 4 Election day Registration infographic](#).

Registering to Vote

To register in Massachusetts, you must:

1. Be a citizen of the United States and have a current residence in Massachusetts;
2. Be at least 16 years old (though you must be at least 18 years old to vote in most elections); and
3. Not currently be incarcerated by reason of a felony conviction.

You only have to register to vote once in your state to be eligible for all municipal, state, and federal elections. You can check your voter registration status at <https://www.vote.org>.



Ways to Register to Vote

1. Online through the Secretary of State
2. In-person at city or town hall election division office
3. By mail in form that must be delivered to your local election office
4. Through Massachusetts Automatic Voter Registration

REGISTER



To register to vote in Massachusetts, you should provide one of the following forms of identification:

- Last four digits of your social security number
- Your Massachusetts Driver's License number
- Your Massachusetts ID number



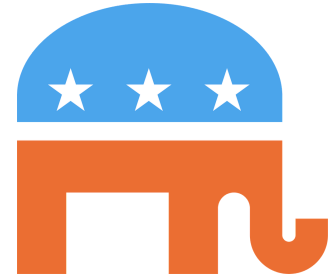
If you do not have any of these IDs, you can provide a copy of one of the following with your registration application:

- Current and valid photo ID
- Government issued document that shows your current name and address
- Utility bill
- Government check
- Bank statement
- Paycheck that shows your current name and address

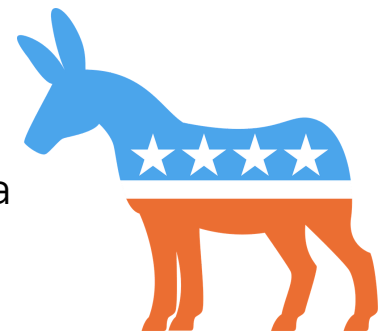


Do I need to register with a political party?

No! In Massachusetts, strict party affiliation is not required to vote in a primary or general election; however, you can only vote in one (1) party's primary, not both.



To vote in a party primary, you need to visit your polling place on the date of the primary election. They will ask which primary you want to vote in, and there you can request your intended party's ballot to cast your vote. Choosing to vote in a particular party's primary does not enroll you as a member of that party.



******When requesting an absentee ballot for a primary election you will be asked to write which party you would like to receive a ballot for.

How does automatic voter registration work?

Anyone who updates their driver's license at a Registry of Motor Vehicles location or applies for MassHealth and is an adult U.S. citizen will have their name automatically registered in the Commonwealth's voter database unless they choose to opt out.

Learn more about automatic voter registration [here](#)

Voter Registration for Unhoused or Sheltered Survivors

In Massachusetts, when registering to vote, it's important to provide a residence address, not a mailing address. You cannot use a P.O. Box.

For survivors who do not have a permanent home, you can draw a map on the voter registration form to show your primary location. This map should include nearby streets and landmarks like schools, churches, and stores, with an “X” marking your main spot. This helps the local election officials verify your residence for registration purposes.



Voting as a Formerly or Currently Incarcerated Survivor

Eligibility

In Massachusetts, you can vote immediately upon release from incarceration regardless of if you are on parole or probation.

If you are currently incarcerated, you are still eligible to vote if:

- You are civically committed and not serving any felony sentence
- You are serving a misdemeanor sentence and not serving any felony sentence
- You are pre-trial and not serving any felony sentence



Incarcerated individuals do not need to register to vote and can instead vote by absentee ballot as a “specially qualified voter”

Absentee ballots can be obtained by submitting an absentee ballot request form or by requesting an absentee ballot in writing.

Voting as a Currently Incarcerated Survivor

Absentee Ballot Request Form

- On the application, you should check the box to indicate that you are incarcerated but not for a felony conviction, if applicable
- Include the address where you are 1) registered to vote or 2) qualified to vote from
- Include the mailing address where you want your ballot to be sent

Sending a Written Request

- You can send your request in writing to your local election official in your 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 and sign the request

Your residence is usually the city or town you lived in prior to being incarcerated. You may also 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.

- After you receive your ballot, fill it out following the instructions
- Put your marked ballot into the yellow envelope and seal it
- Read and sign the affirmation on the yellow envelope and print your name and address below your signature
- Place the ballot into the mailing envelope (pre-addressed and postage prepaid). The ballot is ready to be mailed.

Voting By Mail

All voters in Massachusetts have the option to cast their ballots by mail, with no excuse required. Registered voters will receive notices in the mail sent from the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division in Boston. Instructions on how to complete the form are provided in English and Spanish.

To request a mail-in ballot, the Elections Division urges voters to check the address listed in their voter registration. If voters want their ballot to arrive at a different address, they are encouraged to write it on the form at the bottom of the notice.

Registered voters can also request a mail-in ballot via an [online application](#) on the secretary's website.



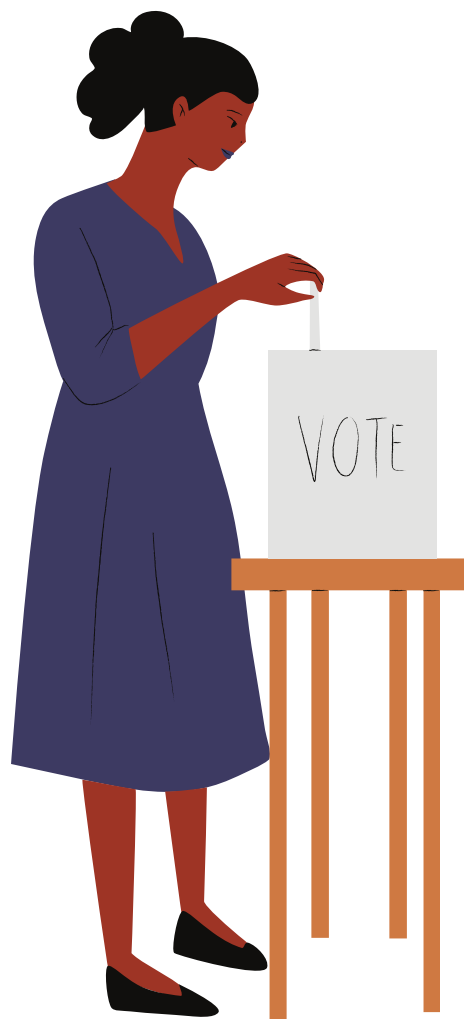
Voting In-Person

Find your polling place here:
<https://www.vote.org/polling-place-locator/>

For some survivors, especially those still living with their abusers, completing a ballot at home and mailing it may not be safe or free from the abuser's interference. Therefore, voting in-person may be a better option.

If you vote in-person, you will vote in the precinct in which your mailing address or cross-street diagram is located.

Generally, voters do not have to show an ID to vote in Massachusetts. However, if you did not verify your identity when you applied, you will be asked to show identification the first time you vote for the President or Congress. If you lack proper identification, mail-in voting may be the most suitable option.



Survivor Safety and Confidentiality

When a person registers to vote, their name, date of birth, and zip code are entered into the state's voter database and the person's full residential address is listed and becomes publicly available.

Survivors of DV/SA who are trying to protect their location should be advised of this vulnerability and given information regarding the option for confidential voter registration.

Massachusetts law provides for some individuals to have certain information withheld from the public as it relates to voter registration.

Confidential voter registration ensures that the name and residence of persons who have one of the following materials are protected:

- A court granting protection- voter must present the registrar with the order to qualify for confidential voter registration.
- Evidence of Residency in a Shelter- voter must provide a letter to the registrar from the director of the shelter stating that the voter is a resident to qualify for confidential registration
- An affidavit of Police Chief or their Designee stating why they are entitled to have certain information withheld from the public

NOTE: If you are enrolled in the [ACP program](#), please follow up with the confidentiality registration process to ensure you are enrolled in the confidential voter registration program. If you need further assistance, please contact policy@janedoe.org

Voting Accessibility and Accommodations

If you are a voter with a disability, you have the right to:

1. An accessible polling place

- This includes having accessible parking, accessible entrances, and ramps wherever there are stairs
- Read more about polling location accessibility requirements [here](#)

2. Accessible, available, and operational voting systems and features

- All polling locations in Massachusetts must have at least one AutoMARK Assistant Terminal available
- AutoMARK machines display the ballot in high-contrast, magnified text with additional audio cues
- There is the option for AutoMARK to read your ballot before you print and submit it
- [Watch this video](#) for more information on voting with AutoMARK



3. Have your service animal accompany you inside the polling place
4. Have a person of your choice accompany you inside the polling place and/or assist with voting
 - This person can be a friend, family member, or poll worker
 - This person cannot be your boss, union agent, or someone who has authority over you at work
 - If you have a poll worker assist you, a minimum of two election workers must assist you to ensure your vote is submitted correctly and without coercion
5. Receive assistance with voting equipment
 - Poll workers are required to assist you at any time you ask, even if you have entered the voting booth (MGL Ch. 54 §33C)



Voting FAQ's

Q: If I'm in line when the polls close, can I still vote?

A: Yes! You have the right to vote if you are in line by 8 p.m. when the polls close (Massachusetts Voters' Bill of Rights).

Q: Can I wear campaign apparel when going to vote?

A: No! Massachusetts regulations prohibit electioneering within a 150 feet boundary from the entrance of a polling place. There are often ropes or some other form of marking to indicate this boundary (MGL Ch. 54 §65)

Q: What if I believe I am registered, but a poll worker says I am not?

A: Ask the poll worker to contact the local registrar. If the registrar is unavailable or cannot find your name, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if your name is not on the voter list. However, know that your ballot may not be counted if the Board of Elections finds no record of your registration (MGL Ch. 54 §76C).

Voting FAQ's

Q: What should I do if I make a mistake on a paper ballot, or the machine malfunctions?

A: Do not cast your ballot! Ask for a replacement ballot immediately. You have a right to receive up to two (2) replacement ballots if you make a mistake on your ballot (Massachusetts Voters' Bill of Rights).

Q: What if I move?

A: You must update your voter registration every time you move. If you have moved, you may update your registration by filling out a new voter registration form. If you move after the deadline to register to vote in a state election or primary, you should wait to update your registration until after the date of the election or primary and return to vote at your previous polling place in Massachusetts. State law allows you to vote from previous polling place in a state election

Q: What if I need language assistance?

A: You have the right to be assisted by any person you designate (MGL Ch. 54 §79). Alternatively, you can request that two election officers, each of a different political party, accompany you into the voting booth to assist in casting your ballot (MGL Ch. 54 §4). The Secretary of State must also provide forms in additional languages as required by law or deemed necessary by the secretary of state (MGL Ch. 51 § 36)

Additional Resources for Voters

- [Review what will be on your ballot](#)
- [Massachusetts Voters' Bill of Rights](#)
- [Information on Massachusetts 2026 Ballot Measures](#)



On November 3rd, **vote YES on question 9 to protect Massachusetts' strong gun laws** — so we can build a Commonwealth where every community is free from gun violence.

Learn more about the campaign at yesforasafema.com