

WATCH CDC PRESENTS



A GUIDE TO VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING IN 2020

Included here is:

- [Beginners Guide to Voting in MA](#)
- [How to Register to Vote in MA in 2020](#)
- [Reasons to Register](#)
- [FAQs - Registering to Vote in MA in 2020](#)
- [How to Vote in MA in 2020](#)
- [FAQs - Voting in MA in 2020](#)





BEGINNERS GUIDE TO VOTING IN MA IN 2020

1

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION STATUS

Use [this link](#) to check to see if you are already registered in MA.

2

IF NOT REGISTERED, REGISTER

Use [this link](#) to register online, you must have a MA driver's license or a state ID card to register online. If you do not, then register by mail [here](#).

3

VOTE - BY MAIL OR IN PERSON

Request a vote-by-mail ballot [here](#).

If you want to vote in person, check www.MassEarlyVote.com one week before the election to find voting locations.

4

URGE YOUR FRIENDS TO DO THE SAME

Share these resources with your friends. The more people who vote the more representation your community receives.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE BELOW

How to register to vote in MA



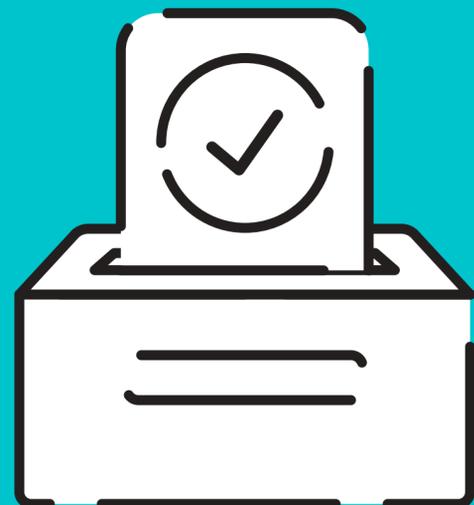
Registration Deadlines

- **You must register at least 10 days before the election**
- Aug. 22 for the State Primary on Sept. 1
- Oct. 24th for the General Election on Nov. 3

How to Register Online

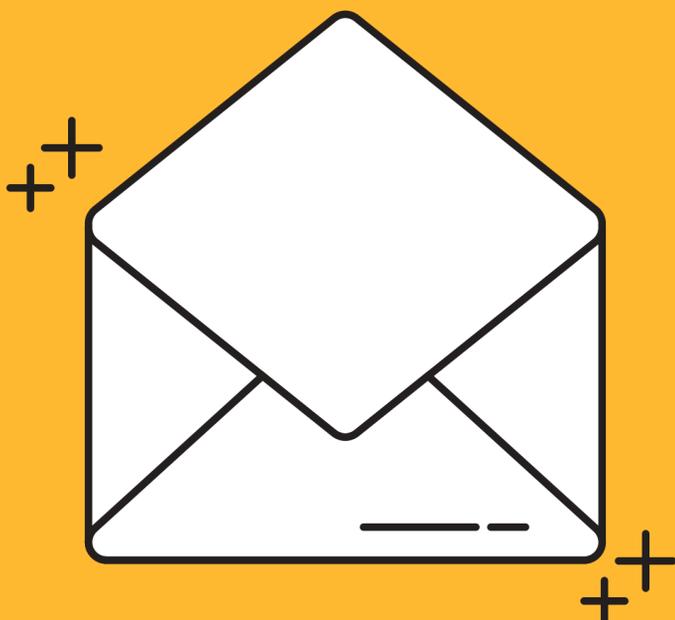
Register online [here](#)

To register online you must have a MA driver's license or a state ID card



How to Register by Mail

1. Complete a register by mail application [here](#)
2. Complete, sign, and deliver the application to your [local election office](#)
 - a. must be postmarked no later than the registration deadline



REASONS TO REGISTER TO VOTE



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ON ISSUES AND CANDIDATES

Don't let others decide who wins and what issues matter.



FOR YOUR KIDS

People under 18 can't vote. Our children or youth depend on us to represent their voices too! When we vote, we are looking out for their futures.



FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Communities that vote get more attention from candidates and office holders. They are less likely to listen to communities that don't participate in elections.



YOUR VOTE MATTERS

Every vote does count and there is power in numbers. Some elections are won by less than 100 votes.

Frequently Asked Questions

Registering to vote in Massachusetts in 2020

What is the deadline to register?



- You must register 10 days before the election.
- For the Sept. 1 state primary you must register by Aug 22.
- For the Nov. 3 general election you must register by Oct. 24.

How do I know if I am already registered or not?

Check your voter registration status at [this link](#).

If I move do I need to update my voter registration?

- 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.
- You should return to vote at your previous polling place in MA. State law allows you to vote from a previous address in a state election for up to six months after you have moved, as long as you have not registered elsewhere.

Can I register online ?

Yes! You can register online using [this link](#). If you do not have a MA driver's license or state ID card you must register by mail.



Can I put a PO box as my permanent address?

No, you must put a physical address. Your application will not be processed unless you put a physical address.



What if I do not want my address to be publicly available for safety reasons?

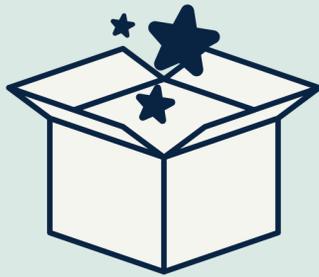
Click [this link](#) to find out more information about the Address Confidentiality Program. This program is established to protect survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. ACP provides a means by which victims may use a confidential address in order to stay safe. For more information call this number: 617-727-3261.

Frequently Asked Questions

Registering to vote in Massachusetts in 2020

I just moved to MA, can I register to vote?

Yes, you can register to vote as soon as you move. There is no residency waiting period in MA.



If I am living on campus can I register to vote?

Yes, you can list your school and dorm as your address.



If I don't have a home address or am experiencing homelessness can I register to vote?

Yes! It is recommended homeless registrants list a shelter address as their voting address where they could receive mail. Alternatively, homeless registrants may denote a street corner or a park as their residence, in lieu of a traditional home address.

I was previously convicted of a felony, can I register to vote?

Yes, you may register to vote once you are released from prison.



I did not vote in the last election, do I need to re-register to vote?

No. You do not need to re-register. However, if you move to a different address or have not voted in the last several elections, you may be placed on an "inactive voter" list. Inactive voters may still vote, but will first be asked to show identification and will be required to fill out an affirmation of current and continuous residence.

Do I have to be 18 to register to vote?

You must be 18 to vote in MA. However, when you are 16 you can pre-register to vote. When you are 18 you can vote.



How do I change my party enrollment?

- To change your party enrollment just fill out a new voter registration form. In order to vote in a party's primary election you must belong to that party.
- Unenrolled voters (or independents) and members of minor parties may vote in the party primary of their choice (choosing to vote in a particular party's primary does not enroll you as a member of that party)

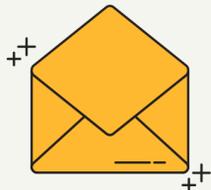
How to vote in MA in 2020

Vote by Mail

Vote by mail ballots were mailed out in July to all eligible registered voters.

You can request a vote by mail ballot online using [this link](#). You should request this at least 2-3 weeks before the election.

Ballots are pre-addressed so you can leave it in your mailbox, or you can drop it off at local election office or in secure drop boxes in city.



Ballots must be **received by 8pm on Sept 1**, not just postmarked by then. For general election they must be postmarked by Nov 3 and reach election office by Nov 6, if you hand deliver they must be returned by 8pm Nov 3rd.

Vote in Person

MA is expanding early voting days. Early voting schedules and locations will be posted at www.MassEarlyVote.com at least one week before early voting begins.

There are seven days of early voting for Sept. 1 election, running Saturday, Aug. 22 to Friday, Aug. 28.

There are 14 days of early voting ahead of the Nov. 3 general election, from Saturday Oct. 17 to Friday Oct. 30.

To find your voting location and more election information [click here](#).



Emergency Ballot

If you have been admitted to a healthcare facility within 7 days of an election, or you have been instructed by a medical professional or public health official to self-quarantine in your home within 7 days of an election, you may use the [absentee ballot application](#) to designate someone to pick up your emergency absentee ballot, deliver it to you, and return it to your local election official.



HOW TO VOTE BY MAIL IN 2020

- 01** Vote by mail ballots were mailed out in July to all eligible registered voters.
- 02** If you have not received a vote-by-mail ballot you can request a vote-by-mail ballot online using [this link](#). You should send or deliver your application to your [local election office](#). You should request this at least 2-3 weeks before the election.
- 03** When you receive your vote-by-mail ballot fill it out and return it to your [local election office](#).
- 04** Ballots are pre-addressed so you can leave it in your mailbox. You can also drop it off at your [local election office](#) or in secure drop boxes in city. Track your ballot [here](#).
- 05** Ballots must be received by 8pm on Sept 1, not just postmarked by then. If mailing in your ballot you should send it at least a few days before. If dropping it off in a secure drop box or delivering to your election office they must be dropped off by 8pm Sept 1.
- 06** For the Nov general election they must be postmarked by Nov 3 and reach the election office by Nov 6. If you hand deliver they must be returned by 8pm Nov 3rd.



Frequently Asked Questions

Voting in Massachusetts in 2020

When do I vote?

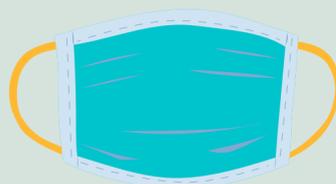
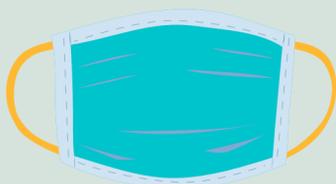
MA primaries are on September 1st. The General Election is on Nov. 3. There will be early voting for both elections - schedules and locations will be posted at www.MassEarlyVote.com at least one week before early voting begins.

I am going to be out of town for the election, how do I vote?

Request an absentee ballot to be sent to you, [click here](#).

Is in-person voting safe considering COVID?

- Every voter has the option to vote by mail in 2020
- If you vote in person, additional safeguards are in place to ensure voters' safety
- More early voting days have been added to spread out the number of people who cast their ballot in person at one time
- Secretary of State Bill Galvin has purchased PPE to distribute to cities and towns
- Social distancing, cleaning, and other safeguards will be in place



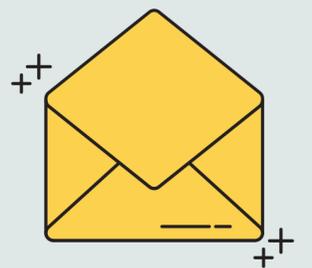
Where do I vote?

If voting in person, you must vote at the polling location designated for your address. To find your voting location [click here](#). You can also vote by mail, see below.



Can I vote by mail?

YES! You can request a vote by mail ballot online using [this link](#). You should request this at least 2-3 weeks before the election.



If I apply for a vote-by-mail ballot am I required to vote by mail? Can I change my mind and vote in-person?

No you are not required to vote by mail, you can still vote in person.

What do I do if I lose or damage my mail-in ballot once I receive it? Can I get another one?

Yes, you can get a new one. Return the damaged ballot to your local election office with a note indicating that you need a new one sent to you.

Frequently Asked Questions

Voting in Massachusetts in 2020

What does it mean to be "inactive"?

This means the voter failed to respond to the city census. Before you may vote, you will be required to complete an affirmation of current and continuous residence. This will be mailed to inactive voters. If you fail to sign and return it via the mail you will be required to do so at your polling place before you vote.

You will also be asked to present identification which shows your name and the address at which you are registered to vote.

If I vote in person will I be required to show ID?

You may be asked to show identification when you check-in at your polling place for any of the following reasons:

- You are voting for the first time in Massachusetts in a federal election
- You are an inactive voter
- You are casting a provisional or challenged ballot
- The poll worker has a reasonable suspicion that leads them to request identification

How do I know if my mail-in ballot was received?

You can track your mail in ballot using [this link here](#).



How do primaries work in MA?

A primary election is when registered voters choose a candidate that they want as a political party's candidate for elected office to run in the general election. Primaries take place before a general election. Massachusetts uses a semi-closed primary system. This means that voters must vote in their party's primary. An unaffiliated voter is allowed to vote in the primary election of their choice.

What does it mean to be "unenrolled"?

This means that you are registered to vote but not a member of a party, also known as "independent". You may still vote in a primary without affecting your "unenrolled" status.



What is acceptable ID if asked to show ID at in-person voting?

Acceptable identification must include your name and the address at which you are registered to vote.

Examples of acceptable identification include: a driver's license, state-issued ID card, recent utility bill, rent receipt, lease, a copy of a voter registration affidavit, or any other printed identification which contains the voter's name and address.