



A Guide to Voter Registration

Thank you for volunteering to help register voters! You are contributing to the civic health of your community and encouraging active citizenship by providing the opportunity to register to vote.

Please remember **this is a nonpartisan activity**. This means volunteers may not speak for or against a candidate or political party when registering voters. Volunteers also cannot wear or display a shirt, button or other item that identifies support for or opposition to candidates or parties.

This packet contains information on filling out the Massachusetts state voter registration form, frequently asked questions, and phone numbers to call for more assistance.



**Massachusetts Official
Mail-In Voter Registration Form**

How to use this form

1. Check all the boxes that apply to you.
2. Print your name: last name, first name, middle name or initial.
3. Print your former name, if applicable.
4. Print the address where you live now: number and street name or rural route number and box number (do not provide a post office box number), apartment number, city or town and full zip code. Use the map¹ at right if you cannot otherwise identify your address.
5. Print the address where you receive all your mail, if it is different from the address entered on #4.
6. Print your date of birth: month, day and year.
7. Federal law requires that you provide your driver's license number to register to vote. If you do not have a current and valid Massachusetts driver's license, you must provide the last four digits of your social security number. If you have neither, you must write "none" in the box.
8. It is optional to provide your telephone number. If you include your telephone number and do not check "unlisted" it will be a public record.
9. Check a party, "no party" or print a political designation (not a party).
10. Print the address where you were last registered to vote.
11. If a person is helping you because you are physically unable to sign this form, that assisting person must print his or her name and address and has the option to print his or her telephone number.
12. Read the oath.
13. Print today's date.
14. Sign your name.

This form may be mailed or hand-delivered to your city or town hall. If mailed, fold the form, tape it closed, place a first class stamp on it, print your city or town name and zip code for that city or town hall and drop into any mailbox.

Print all information in black ink. Follow above instructions for proper delivery. Do not use a photocopy of this form - use the original only!



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

You can use this form to:

- register to vote in Massachusetts; and/or
- change your name or address for voter registration only; and/or
- join a party, change from one party to another or leave a party.

To register to vote in Massachusetts you must:

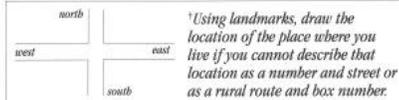
- **BE A U.S. CITIZEN;** and
- be a Massachusetts resident; and
- be at least 18 years old on or before the next election.

Penalty for Illegal Registration: Fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years or both.

-Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 56 section 8.

Identification To Be Provided

Section 7 requires you to include your driver's license number or the last 4 digits of your social security number on this application. This information will be verified through the Registry of Motor Vehicles and the Commissioner of Social Security. If the information cannot be verified or you do not provide this information, you must provide identification either with this application or at your polling location when you go to vote. Sufficient identification includes a copy of a current and valid photo identification, current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document showing your name and address.



¹Using landmarks, draw the location of the place where you live if you cannot describe that location as a number and street or as a rural route and box number.

When registering to vote make sure to read the form carefully and fill out ALL the necessary fields!

1- Are you 18 and a U.S. Citizen? Then check off both boxes.

2- Circle a title and write in Last, First, then Middle name.

4- Write in your full address; street, number, city or town, & zip

6- Do not forget to write in your birthday.

9- Have you got a political party preference? If so, check it off.

13- Almost done, just write in today's date.

7- Write in either your Driver's License number or JUST the LAST 4 digits of your SSN. If you have neither, write "none".

14- This is it, all we need is your signature to register you to vote!

1	Check all that apply: Are you a Citizen of the United States of America? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Will you be 18 years of age or older on or before Election Day? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2	Full name: last name first name middle name or initial Jr. Sr. II III IV (circle one if appropriate) Miss Ms. Mrs. Mr.
3	Former name (if applicable): last name first name middle name or initial Jr. Sr. II III IV (circle one if appropriate) Miss Ms. Mrs. Mr.
4	Address where you live now (street number, street name, rural route number and box number): street number / street name / rural route number and box number apartment number city or town zip code + 4-digit
5	Address where you receive all your mail (if different from #4): street number / street name / rural route number and box number apartment number city or town zip code + 4-digit
6	Date of birth: month day year
7	Identification #: license # or last four digits of your Social Security #
8	Telephone (optional): <input type="checkbox"/> Check if unlisted () -
9	Party enrollment or designation (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Libertarian <input type="checkbox"/> No Party (unenrolled) <input type="checkbox"/> Political Designation (not a political party):
10	Address at which you were last registered to vote: street number / street name / rural route number and box number / post office box apartment number city or town state zip code + 4-digit
11	If the applicant is unable to sign this form, give the name, address and telephone number (optional) of the person helping the applicant: name address telephone number (optional)
12	I hereby swear (affirm) that I am the person named above, that the above information is true, that I AM A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, that I am not a person under a guardianship which prohibits my registering to vote, that I am not temporarily or permanently disqualified by law from voting because of corrupt practices in respect to elections, that I am not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction, and that I consider this residence to be my home. Signed under the penalty of perjury.
13	Today's date: month day year
14	Signed: Sign your name here

How to fill out the Massachusetts Voter Registration Form

- ⇒ The numbers next to the instructions below correspond to the numbers on the registration form.
 - ⇒ **Numbers shaded in bold are mandatory.** The form will be rejected if any of these fields are not completed.
 - ⇒ Other numbers are optional and responses will depend on the voter.
 - ⇒ **Only an original form can be submitted**—copies will NOT be accepted.
- 1.** Check the two boxes if you are a U.S. citizen and if you are at least 18 years old. If these boxes are not marked, the form will be rejected and you will not be registered.
 - 2.** Print your full name: Last, First, and Middle.
 3. Print your former name. This does not apply to everyone and can be left blank.
 - 4.** Print your full address *where you live*. It must be your street address—including apartment number, if any. If it is completed with a P.O. Box number, the form will be rejected.
 5. If you do not receive mail at the address listed above in section 4, then print your mailing address (such as a P.O. Box). This does not apply to everyone and can be left blank.
 - 6.** Enter your date of birth.
 - 7.** Enter either your Massachusetts driver’s license number or the last four digits of your social security number. If you have neither, write “none.” If this box is left blank the form will be rejected.
 8. Your telephone number is optional. If you include it and do not check the box, it will be a public record.
 - 9.** Choose a party affiliation or if you prefer not to affiliate with a party choose “unenrolled”. In Massachusetts “unenrolled” is the term used for people who wish to be independents – not affiliated with any party. *For questions about choosing a party or being unenrolled, see “Questions about Party Affiliation or Unenrolled” in this packet.*
 10. Only fill out this section if you have previously been registered to vote. This will cancel your registration at the former address.

11. If you are unable to sign the form, the person helping you must enter their information. This does not apply to everyone and can be left blank.
12. Double check your information because you are agreeing that what you wrote is correct.
- 13.** Don't forget to write in today's date!
- 14.** Now sign it!

Congratulations! You can expect to receive confirmation of your registration in the mail in the next few weeks.

After someone has completed the form, scan it briefly to make sure they have filled in all of the required information.

Questions about Party Affiliation or Being Unenrolled

What does it mean to choose a party affiliation like Democrat or Republican?

- a. It is a show of support for that party.
- b. If affiliated with a party, the person may participate in party activities such as joining a ward or town committee, attending the party's convention as a delegate, or running for office as a member of that party.
- c. Voters registered in one party must re-register to vote if they wish to vote in another party's primary. This must be done by the registration deadline and cannot be done on Election Day.

What does it mean to be "unenrolled"?

Voters who want to be independent or not affiliated with a party choose "unenrolled".

Can "unenrolled" voters vote in party primaries?

Yes. In Massachusetts, an unenrolled voter may vote in the party primary of their choice. However, they can only vote in one party's primary in any one election. Casting a ballot in a party primary does not change a voter's "unenrolled" status.

What is a political designation?

Political designations are small, unofficial parties established when 50 or more voters file a form with the state requesting that they may change their registration to such designation. Designations are often formed around a particular cause or ideology. Political designation members may NOT participate in primary elections. A list of these political designations can be found on the website of the Elections Division of the Secretary of State - www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm

FAQs About Registering to Vote in Massachusetts

People use the voter registration card to **register to vote** or to **re-register to vote** if they have moved, changed their name, or wish to change their party affiliation.

1. Eligibility

You can register someone to vote with this form if they are:

- 1) A U.S. citizen,
- 2) A resident of Massachusetts, and
- 3) 18 years old – or will be 18 years old by the date of the next election.

If any of these statements are not true they are not eligible to register to vote.

2. Moved recently

You have to submit a new registration any time you move to a new address within your city or town or to another place in Massachusetts. (If you've moved within your city and forgot to re-register at your new address, you still can vote at your old polling location for up to six months. Check with your local election office for details.)

3. Key 2012 election dates and registration deadlines

2012 State Primary	Thursday, September 6
<i>Deadline to register</i>	<i>Friday, August 17</i>

2012 General Election	Tuesday November 6
<i>Deadline to register</i>	<i>Wednesday October 17</i>

4. Obtaining voter registration forms

Blank voter registration forms can be downloaded and printed or photocopied from the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/>. You may also request voter registration forms for pick up or to be delivered by mail by contacting the Secretary of State at 617-727-2828. These cardstock forms cannot be photocopied.

5. Meeting the registration deadlines

Registration forms must be submitted or postmarked by the deadline.

6. ID required at the polls (*particularly for first time voters*)

In Massachusetts, voter ID is required of first-time voters who registered by mail. However, it is a good idea for ALL voters to bring ID to the polls in case of a challenge or problem. Acceptable identification must include your name and the address at which you are registered to vote. In Massachusetts ID includes:

- a current and valid driver's license,
- other photo identification with your name and current address (Massachusetts state ID, student ID with address, military ID, passport, etc),
- current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document showing your name and address.

7. Registration notification

Once the registration form is submitted, newly registered voters can expect to receive confirmation in the mail within a few weeks. If they don't or if they have questions about their registration status they can call their city election office or town clerk.

8. Important phone numbers

If you have a question that is not covered in the material, please contact either:

- The staff at MassVOTE 617-542-8683
- The Secretary of State's Election office 617-727-2828