



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAWS  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

## Joint Committee on Election Laws

Rep. Daniel J. Hunt  
House Chair

Sen. John F. Keenan  
Senate Chair

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

**Date of Hearing:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025

**Time:** 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

**Location:** B-1 and Virtual

Voting Access, Local and Late File Bills

All matters filed in the House that are listed above are required to be reported on by November 15, 2025, subject to extensions consistent with House Rule 27.

The Chairs will limit testimony to three minutes per individual and ten minutes per panel. The Chairs reserve the right to call public officials out of turn. The public is invited to participate in this hybrid hearing, which will be live streamed on the Massachusetts Legislature website. To register to testify, you must provide contact information through [THIS FORM](#) by **5:00 PM on Monday, September 15, 2025**. Written testimony may be submitted to the Joint Committee on Election Laws at 24 Beacon Street, Room 413-F, Boston, MA 02133, or by e-mail to [Emerson.Gagnon@masenate.gov](mailto:Emerson.Gagnon@masenate.gov) and [Erin.Walsh@mahouse.gov](mailto:Erin.Walsh@mahouse.gov).

Please note that all written submissions may be made available to the public upon request. If you have any questions, please email [Emerson.Gagnon@masenate.gov](mailto:Emerson.Gagnon@masenate.gov) or [Erin.Walsh@mahouse.gov](mailto:Erin.Walsh@mahouse.gov).

Please be advised that the schedule and agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the chairs.

Bill No.	Sponsor	Title
H799	Arriaga, Shirley B. (HOU)	An Act decoupling the municipal census from voter registration
H800	Ayers, Bruce J. (HOU)	An Act assuring that polling places are accessible to elderly and physically challenged voters
H820	Donaghue, Kate (HOU)	An Act enforcing accessibility for voters with disabilities

Bill No.	Sponsor	Title
H834	Gentile, Carmine Lawrence (HOU)	An Act establishing same day registration of voters
H836	Haggerty, Richard M. (HOU)	An Act expanding ballot access for regional school district votes
H839	Holmes, Russell E. (HOU)	An Act increasing voter registration and participation to help prevent recidivism
H849	LeBoeuf, David Henry Argosky (HOU)	An Act relative to inactive voters and municipal census administration
H857	Murphy, James M. (HOU)	An Act increasing voter participation in primary elections
H863	Ramos, Orlando (HOU)	An Act establishing same-day voter registration
H865	Rogers, David M. (HOU)	An Act relative to the qualification of voters
H873	Tyler, Chynah (HOU)	An Act relative to voting rights
H874	Uyterhoeven, Erika (HOU)	An Act relative to voting rights restoration
H3918	Barber, Christine P. (HOU)	An Act granting the city of Somerville the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for City of Somerville residents aged 16 and 17 years old
H4033	Uyterhoeven, Erika (HOU)	An Act providing for legal voting rights in municipal elections for non-citizen residents of the city of Somerville
H4095	Blais, Natalie M. (HOU)	An Act granting the town of Conway the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for town of Conway residents aged 16 and 17 years old
H4096	Sabadosa, Lindsay N. (HOU)	An Act amending the special act charter of the city of Northampton to allow residents sixteen years of age or older to vote in preliminary and city elections
H4097	Sabadosa, Lindsay N. (HOU)	An Act amending the special act charter of the city of Northampton to allow resident non-citizens to vote in preliminary and city elections
H4132	Ciccolo, Michelle L. (HOU)	An Act to grant the town of Lexington the authority to endow legal residents with local voting rights in municipal elections
H4148	Saunders, Aaron L. (HOU)	An Act relative to lawful noncitizen permanent resident voting in the town of Shutesbury
H4190	Domb, Mindy (HOU)	An Act authorizing extending local voting rights for lawful permanent residents residing in the city known as the town of Amherst
H4209	Blais, Natalie M. (HOU)	An Act granting the town of Sunderland the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for town of Sunderland residents aged 16 and 17 years old

Bill No.	Sponsor	Title
H4223	Garballey, Sean (HOU)	An Act lowering the voting age in municipal elections in the town of Arlington
H4241	Blais, Natalie M. (HOU)	An Act granting the town of Whately the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for town of Whately residents aged 16 and 17 years old
H4242	Davis, Leigh (HOU)	An Act providing for recall elections in the town of Dalton
S498	Brady, Michael D. (SEN)	An Act relative to Election Day registration at polling places
S499	Brownsberger, William N. (SEN)	An Act relative to early voting and dates for voter registration
S500	Collins, Nick (SEN)	An Act relative to specially qualified voters
S503	Creem, Cynthia Stone (SEN)	An Act decoupling the municipal census from voter registration
S504	Creem, Cynthia Stone (SEN)	An Act enforcing accessibility for voters with disabilities
S505	Creem, Cynthia Stone (SEN)	An Act establishing same day voter registration
S524	Miranda, Liz (SEN)	An Act relative to voting rights restoration
S2552	Dooner, Kelly A. (SEN)	An Act authorizing the town of Berkley to recall elected officials

Please be advised that the schedule and agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the chair per committee rules.

You may contact committee staff with any questions at (617) 722-2460 or (617) 722-1494.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 799**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Shirley B. Arriaga***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act decoupling the municipal census from voter registration.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Shirley B. Arriaga</i>	<i>8th Hampden</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>3/4/2025</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/4/2025</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/4/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/4/2025</i>
<i>Steven Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/4/2025</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/4/2025</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>3/4/2025</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/4/2025</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/4/2025</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/4/2025</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/4/2025</i>
<i>Adrienne Pusateri Ramos</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>3/13/2025</i>
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>3/13/2025</i>
<i>Tara T. Hong</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/13/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>3/20/2025</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>Amy Mah Sangiolo</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/28/2025</i>

<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/28/2025</i>
<i>Orlando Ramos</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>4/9/2025</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/14/2025</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>6/13/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 799**

By Representative Arriaga of Chicopee, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 799) of Shirley B. Arriaga and others for legislation to further regulate voter registration rolls. Election Laws.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**

An Act decoupling the municipal census from voter registration.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION A. Subsection (c) of section 4 of chapter 51 of the General Laws, as  
2 appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the words “for 2  
3 consecutive years shall result in removal from the active voting list and may result in removal  
4 from the voter registration rolls” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- may result  
5 in a fine.

6 SECTION B. Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out sections  
7 37, 37A and 38, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following 2 sections:-

8 Section 37. (a) The registrars shall maintain a register of voters, in this chapter sometimes  
9 called the register or the annual register, which shall contain the names and residential addresses  
10 of all registered voters in their city or town and reflect the names and residential addresses  
11 contained in the central registry of voters maintained by the state secretary under section 47C.  
12 The registrars shall add to the register the name and residential address of every person

13 registering to vote under section 33A or 42 or automatically registered under sections 42G½ and  
14 65. The registrars shall correct any error in the register after due investigation; provided,  
15 however, that the registrars shall only remove a name from the register in a manner consistent  
16 with the requirements of subsection (c).

17 (b) The register shall not include the name of a voter who provides the registrars with a  
18 copy of a court order granting protection, evidence of residence in a protective shelter or an  
19 affidavit signed by a chief of police or designee that the voter is entitled to have certain  
20 information withheld from the public inspection under section 24C of chapter 265.

21 (c) The registrars shall remove a voter's name and address from the register if and only if:

22 (i) the voter so requests in writing;

23 (ii) the registrars receive notice from the city or town clerk under section 14, or a death  
24 record from the department of public health, indicating that the voter has died;

25 (iii) the registrars receive official written notice that the voter is: (a) incarcerated for a  
26 felony conviction; (b) disqualified by law because of corrupt practices in respect to elections; or

27 (c) under guardianship that prohibits voting;

28 (iv) the registrars receive official written notice that the voter is registered to vote in  
29 another jurisdiction;

30 (v) the registrars determine that the voter is illegally or incorrectly registered after  
31 complaint, notice and hearing under sections 48 and 49; or

32 (vi) the registrars determine that that voter no longer resides in their city or town under  
33 section 38.

34 (d) The state secretary shall adopt regulations to implement this section. To the extent  
35 feasible, the state secretary shall automate processes using the central registry of voters under  
36 section 47C.

37 Section 38. (a) The registrars shall maintain an inactive voters list. The registrars shall  
38 remove a voter's name and address from the register of voters and add it to the inactive voters  
39 list the registrars receive information that the voter no longer resides in their city or town from:  
40 (i) permanent change-of-address information supplied by the United States Postal Service or its  
41 licensee; or (ii) the Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc. under section 47C.

42 (b) Registrars receiving information under subsection (a) showing that the voter has  
43 changed residence within their city or town shall update the voter's address in the register  
44 accordingly and notify the voter in writing.

45 (c) Whenever the registrars remove a voter's name and address from the register of voters  
46 and add it to the inactive voters list under subsection (a), the registrars shall mail to the voter at  
47 the address in the register a notice that the name of the voter may be removed from the voting list  
48 if the voter fails to respond to such notice and does not vote during the period ending with the  
49 second biennial state election following the mailing of the notice. The notice shall: (i) be postage  
50 prepaid; (ii) contain a return card preaddressed to the city or town clerk with return postage  
51 guaranteed; (iii) be sent by forwardable mail; (iv) instruct the voter to return the card before the  
52 last day to register if the voter did not change residence from the city or town; and (v) contain  
53 additional information about remaining eligible to vote, as prescribed by the state secretary.

54 (d) A voter whose name is on the inactive voters list may vote in the voter's assigned  
55 precinct on a regular ballot upon the voter's written affirmation of continued residence in the city  
56 or town.

57 (e) The registrars shall restore to the register of voters the name and address of a voter on  
58 the inactive voters list who notifies the registrars in writing of continued residence in the city or  
59 town or who votes in any primary or election, applies for a mail ballot, signs a nomination paper  
60 or petition for a ballot question using an address in their city of town or performs acts governed  
61 by this chapter or chapters 52, 53 or 54 that require such use of an address in their city or town.

62 (f) The registrars shall remove from the inactive voters list the name of a voter that has  
63 not been restored to the register under subsection (e) after 2 biennial state elections following the  
64 mailing of the notice under subsection (c). The registrars shall mail forwardable notice to the  
65 voter that the voter's name has been removed from the inactive voters list; provided, however,  
66 that such notice shall also include information about remaining eligible to vote, as prescribed by  
67 the state secretary.

68 (g) The state secretary shall adopt regulations to implement this section. To the extent  
69 feasible, the state secretary shall automate processes using the central registry of voters under  
70 section 47C.

71 SECTION C. Section 42 of said chapter 51, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
72 striking out the second sentence.

73 SECTION D. Whenever the term "annual register of voters" or "annual register,"  
74 meaning the annual register of voters, appears in any statute, charter, regulation, contract, or

75 other document, that term means the register of voters established in section 37 of chapter 51 of  
76 the General Laws.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 800**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Bruce J. Ayers*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act assuring that polling places are accessible to elderly and physically challenged voters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 800**

---

By Representative Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 800) of Bruce J. Ayers for legislation to ensure that polling places are accessible to handicapped and elderly voters. Election Laws.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 657 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
—————

An Act assuring that polling places are accessible to elderly and physically challenged voters.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 10 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 35W the following new section:—

3           Section 35X. There is hereby established on the books of the commonwealth a separate  
4 fund known as the Polling Location Accessibility Fund, to promote improved involvement in the  
5 electoral process by physically-challenged and elderly individuals. Said fund shall consist of all  
6 monies appropriated therefore in each fiscal year and any funds donated to the commonwealth  
7 and designated for this purpose. All monies appropriated to said fund shall be made available for  
8 distribution upon appropriation.

9 All revenues credited under this section shall remain in said Polling Location  
10 Accessibility Fund to assist cities and towns of the commonwealth in paying all or part of any  
11 costs associated with local initiatives to improve the physical condition of polling locations that  
12 may contain obstacles to access, or impediments to movement for elderly and physically-  
13 challenged residents wishing to vote. Said fund may also be distributed to fund all or part of the  
14 costs associated with programs designed to increase the number of overall percentage of elderly  
15 and physically-challenged voters casting ballots at a state or federal election. All grants from this  
16 fund shall be made on a competitive basis pursuant to rules and regulations published by the  
17 office of the state secretary and all monetary awards shall be granted only at the discretion of the  
18 state secretary.

19 The state treasurer shall deposit the fund in such a manner that will secure the highest  
20 interest rate available consistent with the safety of the fund and the requirement that all amounts  
21 on deposit be available for immediate withdrawal. All monies appropriated to said fund but  
22 unexpended at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain  
23 designated within said fund and be available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years for use  
24 consistent with this section. The fund shall be expended only for the purposes herein stated at the  
25 direction of the state secretary.

26 SECTION 2. Chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
27 section 10 the following new section: —Section 10A: The state secretary is hereby authorized  
28 and directed to establish a grant program for the purpose of assisting cities and towns in paying  
29 all or part of any costs associated with local initiatives to improve the physical condition of  
30 polling locations that may contain obstacles to access, or impediments to movement for elderly  
31 and physically-challenged residents wishing to vote. Grants made pursuant to this section shall

32 include but not be limited to the substantial alteration and remodeling of a polling location for  
33 the specific purpose of better accommodating elderly and physically-challenged residents  
34 exercising their right to vote on election day. The state secretary may also make grants to  
35 increase the number or overall percentage of elderly and physically-challenged voters casting  
36 ballots at a state or federal election. All grants from this fund shall be made on a competitive  
37 basis pursuant to rules and regulations published by the office of the state secretary and all  
38 monetary awards shall be granted only at the discretion of the state secretary subject to available  
39 appropriations in the Polling Location Accessibility Fund established pursuant to section 35R of  
40 chapter 10 of the General Laws.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 820**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Kate Donaghue and Frank A. Moran***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act enforcing accessibility for voters with disabilities.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kate Donaghue</i>	<i>19th Worcester</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/7/2025</i>
<i>Erika Uytterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2025</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/7/2025</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2025</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/20/2025</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/20/2025</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/20/2025</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/20/2025</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>Adrienne Pusateri Ramos</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>Tara T. Hong</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>4/1/2025</i>
<i>Amy Mah Sangiolo</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/1/2025</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>4/7/2025</i>

*Samantha Montaño*  
*Natalie M. Higgins*

*15th Suffolk*  
*4th Worcester*

*6/9/2025*  
*7/29/2025*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 820**

By Representatives Donaghue of Westborough and Moran of Lawrence, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 820) of Kate Donaghue, Frank A. Moran and others for legislation to ensure access to polling places for voters with disabilities. Election Laws.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 701 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act enforcing accessibility for voters with disabilities.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 24 the  
2 following section:-

3 Section 24A. To ensure compliance with federal and state laws concerning accessibility  
4 for voters with disabilities including the state secretary’s polling place accessibility regulations,  
5 an agent of the state secretary shall inspect, at least once every four years, each polling place  
6 most recently designated under section 24 and each early voting site most recently designated  
7 under subsection (b) of section 25B. The inspecting agent shall promptly and specifically report  
8 in writing to the state secretary and the city or town clerk every failure to comply with state and  
9 federal accessibility laws, and the responsible officials of the city or town shall take immediate  
10 action to ensure access for voters with disabilities and within 5 days submit to the state secretary

11 a written plan to comply. If the city or town fails to take such immediate action or to submit a  
12 written plan to provide access to voters with disabilities, the state secretary may order the city or  
13 town to comply with the law. Not later than December 31 each year, the state secretary shall  
14 report in writing to the clerks of the senate and house of representatives on all activities under  
15 this section. The attorney general may bring a civil action in the superior court to enforce  
16 compliance with those accessibility laws, with a written plan, or with the state secretary's order.  
17 The actions provided in this section shall not limit the availability of judicial remedies to any  
18 person, official, commission or board.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 834**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Carmin Lawrence Gentile***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing same day registration of voters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carmin Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/12/2025</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/26/2025</i>
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>3/10/2025</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/14/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/27/2025</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>6/9/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>2/8/2025</i>
<i>Tara T. Hong</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/27/2025</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>3/4/2025</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>4/7/2025</i>
<i>Thomas W. Moakley</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>4/3/2025</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/5/2025</i>
<i>Steven Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/27/2025</i>
<i>Orlando Ramos</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>5/23/2025</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/22/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/21/2025</i>
<i>Amy Mah Sangiolo</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/26/2025</i>

<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/27/2025</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>6/11/2025</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/21/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 834**

By Representative Gentile of Sudbury, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 834) of Carmine Lawrence Gentile and others relative to same day voter registration. Election Laws.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 688 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act establishing same day registration of voters.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 34 the  
2 following section:-

3 Section 34A. (a) An individual who is eligible to vote may register as a voter by  
4 appearing in person at the polling place for the precinct in which the individual resides, or by  
5 appearing in person at an early voting site for the city or town in which the individual resides,  
6 during the hours it is open for voting, by presenting proof of residence and by completing and  
7 signing an affidavit of registration in the form prescribed by the state secretary, which shall  
8 include substantially this oath: I certify that I am a citizen of the United States; am at least 18  
9 years old; am not under guardianship that prohibits me from voting; am not temporarily or  
10 permanently disqualified by law because of corrupt practices in respect to elections; have not and

11 will not vote in any other location within the commonwealth or elsewhere; and understand that  
12 giving false information is punishable by not more than 5 years imprisonment or a fine of not  
13 more than \$5,000, or both. The right to assistance in voting under section 79 of chapter 54 shall  
14 apply to individuals registering as voters under this section.

15 (b) As used in this section, the term “proof of residence” means one of the following, so  
16 long as it includes the name of the registrant and the address from which the registrant is  
17 registering:

18 (i) a valid photo identification including, but not limited to, a Massachusetts driver’s  
19 license or other state-issued identification card; or

20 (ii) other documentation demonstrating the name and address where the registrant resides  
21 and seeks to register including, but not limited to, a copy of a current utility

22 bill, bank statement, government check, residential lease agreement, wireless telephone  
23 statement, paycheck, other government document or correspondence, a current student fee  
24 statement or other document from a post-secondary educational institution that verifies the  
25 student’s current address.

26 (c) Upon compliance with subsection (a), an election officer shall permit the registrant to  
27 vote at that primary or election. Any person who registers to vote under this section shall be  
28 registered as a voter at all later primaries and elections, subject to this chapter.

29 (d) A registrant who fails to present proof of residence shall be permitted to deposit a  
30 provisional ballot under section 76C of chapter 54, but shall within 2 business days after the  
31 primary or within 6 days after the election present proof of residence to the city or town clerk.

32 (e) The registrars may correct information supplied by the registrant to the extent  
33 necessary to maintain the integrity of their records. If an affidavit is incomplete or if it appears  
34 from the facts set forth in the affidavit that the registrant is not qualified to register as a voter, the  
35 registrars shall proceed in accordance with section 47.

36 (f) As soon as practicable after the primary or election, the registrars shall add the  
37 registrant's name, address and effective date of registration to the register of voters.

38 (g) A voter shall not change party enrollment at a primary under this section.

39 (h) Upon credible information or allegation of illegal voter registration, or credible  
40 information or allegation of illegal multiple voting, the registrars shall proceed under section 48,  
41 and the attorney general or the appropriate district attorney shall investigate the information or  
42 allegation. Nothing in this subsection shall exclude enforcement by any means otherwise  
43 provided by law.

44 (i) Violations of this section shall be punished under sections 8, 26 and 27 of chapter 56.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 836**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED BY:

***Richard M. Haggerty and Kate Lipper-Garabedian***

\_\_\_\_\_

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act expanding ballot access for regional school district votes.**

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Richard M. Haggerty</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 836**

---

---

By Representatives Haggerty of Woburn and Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 836) of Richard M. Haggerty relative to ballot access for regional school district votes. Election Laws.

---

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 690 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act expanding ballot access for regional school district votes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           Section 16 of Chapter 71 is hereby amended by striking out Section 16 (n) and inserting in  
2 place thereof the following section:

3           "The number and location of the polling place, or places, in each town shall be  
4 determined by the district committee after consultation with the select board or city council  
5 thereof; and the hours during which all the polls in the district are open shall be uniform  
6 throughout the district and shall be 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m."

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 839**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED BY:

***Russell E. Holmes***

\_\_\_\_\_

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act increasing voter registration and participation to help prevent recidivism.

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 839**

---

---

By Representative Holmes of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 839) of Russell E. Holmes relative to increasing voter registration and participation of people incarcerated for felony convictions to help prevent recidivism. Election Laws.

---

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 694 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act increasing voter registration and participation to help prevent recidivism.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The General Court finds and declares that:

2 (1) Suffrage is the vanguard of civil rights and liberties and the cornerstone of  
3 democracy. It is both a fundamental right and a civic responsibility. Reinstating the right to  
4 suffrage fortifies our democracy by boosting voter turn-outs and helps ex-offenders upon their  
5 release to reintegrate into society. Voting is an essential part to reassuming the duties of full  
6 citizenship. Though Massachusetts recognizes these facts, Congress can do more to increase  
7 voter participation by protecting eligible voters while incarcerated. Congress can also do more to  
8 enhance voter registration among returning citizens and thereby help deter recidivism.

9 (2) Massachusetts people incarcerated for felony convictions cannot vote in any elections  
10 in the state while incarcerated. As a result, approximately 8,234 people in Massachusetts are  
11 currently denied the right to vote. Unfortunately the majority of these disfranchised citizens  
12 come from the same communities, diminishing the voting power of these communities. From  
13 2015 to 2018 over 60 per cent of those who received new criminal sentences were from just 4  
14 counties: Suffolk county, Essex county, Middlesex county and Hampden county.

15 (3) Massachusetts disparately incarcerates people of color as well, so while people of  
16 color make up 18.2 per cent of the state's population, 58 per cent (or 4,982) of people  
17 disfranchised due to imprisonment are people of color. People incarcerated in prison for other  
18 reasons, such as pre-trial detention or civil commitments, are allowed to vote by absentee ballot.

19 (4) Maine and Vermont are the only states that allow all incarcerated citizens to vote.

20 (5) Most of the approximately 9,800 people incarcerated in Massachusetts county jails  
21 and houses of correction can vote in all federal, state, and municipal elections by absentee ballot  
22 - as long as they are 18 years of age or older, United States citizens and are not incarcerated for  
23 felony convictions or voter fraud. However, many jails and houses of correction across the state  
24 do not help incarcerated people obtain absentee ballots, and in fact some give false information  
25 regarding their voting eligibility. Even when incarcerated people have the funds and knowledge  
26 to request an absentee ballot, some city and town clerks illegally reject these ballots, leaving  
27 incarcerated people with little recourse.

28 (6) Massachusetts is one of 14 states that prohibit people from voting while incarcerated  
29 in prison but return the right to vote immediately upon release, considered the least restrictive

30 category of offender disfranchisement. However, evidence suggest that many people assume  
31 they remain disfranchised upon release.

32 (7) This bill would, though it requires the cooperation of different government agencies,  
33 concentrate within the department of correction and houses of correction, the responsibility of  
34 helping eligible voters in their custody obtain absentee ballots and the responsibility of initiating  
35 the restoration by helping ineligible voters get pre-registered upon anticipation of their release.  
36 Streamlining these processes conserves government resources and saves taxpayer dollars. This  
37 act will also require the secretary of state to train city and town clerks on the laws relevant to this  
38 act.

39 SECTION 2. Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following  
40 section:—

41 Section 65. (a) A correctional facility, as defined in section 1 of chapter 125, shall be a  
42 designated agency for the registration of voters pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 20506. Upon request, a  
43 correctional facility shall provide voter absentee ballot applications to eligible voters within the  
44 custody of the facility.

45 (b) The correctional facility shall either provide requesters with a sufficient size envelope  
46 and postage stamps, or transmit the completed voter absentee ballot application to the  
47 appropriate city or town clerk responsible for processing absentee ballot request applications in  
48 the county where the requester claims residence.

49 (c) As part of the release process leading to the discharge of a person who has been  
50 disfranchised because of a felony conviction, the correctional facility shall provide that person  
51 with a voter registration form and a declination form, and offer that person assistance in filling

52 out the appropriate form. Unless the registrant refuses to permit it to do so, the correctional  
53 facility shall provide registrant with a sufficient size envelope and postage stamps, or transmit  
54 the completed voter registration form to the city or town in the county where the registrant  
55 claims residence.

56 SECTION 3. Chapter 127 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
57 section 150 the following section:—

58 Section 150A. (a) Prior to the expiration of a prisoner’s term, the superintendent or  
59 administrator of the state or county correctional facility shall, in writing, notify the prisoner  
60 whose term expires that his or her voting rights shall be restored upon discharge; provided, that  
61 such person’s right to vote was suspended while incarcerated pursuant to Article III of the  
62 Articles of Amendment of the Constitution.

63 (d) Each superintendent of a state correctional facility and each administrator of a county  
64 correctional facility shall, on or before the fifteenth day of each month, transmit to the secretary  
65 of the commonwealth 2 lists. The first list shall contain the following information about persons  
66 convicted of a felony who, during the preceding period, have become ineligible to vote because  
67 of their incarceration; the second list shall contain the following information about persons  
68 convicted of a felony who, during the preceding period, have become eligible to vote because of  
69 their discharge from incarceration:

- 70 (i) name;
- 71 (ii) date of birth;
- 72 (iii) date of entry of judgement of conviction;

73 (iv) sentence; and

74 (v) last 4 digits of social security number, or driver's license number, if available.

75 (e) The state secretary shall ensure that the names of persons who are eligible and  
76 registered to vote following their discharge from incarceration are added to the statewide voter  
77 registration database in the same manner as all other names are added to that database.

78 (f) The state secretary shall ensure that persons who have become eligible to vote because  
79 of their discharge from incarceration face no continued barriers to registration or voting resulting  
80 from their felony convictions.

81 (g) The state secretary shall ensure that registrants who submitted registration forms upon  
82 anticipation of release shall be pre-registered until finally discharged.

83 (h) The state secretary shall develop and implement a program to educate: attorneys;  
84 judges; election officials; each superintendent of a state correctional facility and each  
85 administrator of a county correctional facility; the department of correction and corrections  
86 officials; including parole and probation officers; and members of the public about the  
87 requirements of this section, ensuring that:

88 (i) Judges are informed of their obligation to notify defendants facing disfranchisement of  
89 the potential loss and restoration of their voting rights, in accordance with section 29E of chapter  
90 278;

91 (ii) The department of correction and county correctional facilities are prepared to help  
92 eligible voters in their custody obtain absentee ballots, including providing sufficient size  
93 envelopes and postage stamps for mailing, or by forwarding their completed absentee ballot

94 application to the appropriate elections official. The department of correction and county  
95 correctional facilities are also prepared to assist those convicted of a felony with registration to  
96 vote in anticipation of their discharge, including providing the registrant with sufficient size  
97 envelope and postage stamps or by forwarding his or her completed voter registration forms to  
98 the appropriate registration agency;

99 (iii) The language on voter registration forms makes clear that people who have been  
100 disqualified from voting because of felony convictions regain the right to vote when they are  
101 discharged from incarceration;

102 (iv) The department of correction is prepared to transmit to the state secretary the  
103 information specified in this section;

104 (v) Probation and parole officers are informed and prepared to notify probationers that  
105 their right to vote is restored; and

106 (vi) Accurate and complete information about the voting rights of people who have been  
107 charged with or convicted of crimes; whether disfranchising or not, is made available through a  
108 single publication to government officials and the public.

109 SECTION 4. Chapter 278 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
110 section 29D the following section:–

111 Section 29E. The court shall not accept a plea of guilty, a plea of nolo contendere, or an  
112 admission to sufficient facts from any defendant in any criminal proceeding unless the court  
113 advises such defendant of the following: “You are hereby advised that the acceptance by this  
114 court of your plea of guilty, plea of nolo contendere, or admission to sufficient facts will result in

115 loss of the right to vote only if and for as long as you are incarcerated and your voting rights are  
116 restarted upon discharge.” The court shall advise such defendant during every plea colloquy at  
117 which the defendant is proffering a plea of guilty, a plea of nolo contendere, or an admission to  
118 sufficient facts in any matter considered to be a felony pursuant to Article III of the Articles of  
119 Amendments of the Constitution.

120           If the court fails so to advise the defendant, and the defendant later at any time shows that  
121 the defendant’s plea and conviction may have or has had the enumerated consequence, the court,  
122 on the defendant's motion, shall vacate the judgment, and permit the defendant to withdraw the  
123 plea of guilty, plea of nolo contendere, or admission of sufficient facts, and enter a plea of not  
124 guilty. Absent an official record or a contemporaneously written record kept in the court file that  
125 the court provided the advisement as prescribed in this section, including but not limited to a  
126 docket sheet that accurately reflects that the notice was given as required by this section, the  
127 defendant shall be presumed not to have received advisement. An advisement previously or  
128 subsequently provided the defendant during another plea colloquy shall not satisfy the  
129 advisement required by this section.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 849**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf and Steven Owens*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act relative to inactive voters and municipal census administration.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>1/6/2025</i>
<i>Steven Owens</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/11/2025</i>
<i>Steven J. Ouellette</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>	<i>7/25/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 849**

---

---

By Representatives LeBoeuf of Worcester and Owens of Watertown, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 849) of David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf and Steven Owens relative to inactive voters and municipal census administration. Election Laws.

---

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 702 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
—————

An Act relative to inactive voters and municipal census administration.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1 Section 37 of chapter 51 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
- 2 is hereby amended by striking out the words “of the current year”, in line 29, and inserting in
- 3 place thereof the following words:- for 2 consecutive years.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 857**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***James M. Murphy***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act increasing voter participation in primary elections.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 857**

---

By Representative Murphy of Weymouth, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 857) of James M. Murphy for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to investigate ways to increase voter participation in primary elections. Election Laws.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 710 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
—————

An Act increasing voter participation in primary elections.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           A special commission is hereby established pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 for the  
2 purpose of making an investigation and study relative to increasing voter participation in primary  
3 elections. Said commission shall specifically investigate the implementation of a “Top Two  
4 Primary system” as well as party convention rules relative to party nominations of candidates,  
5 primary election dates, and the elimination of the current party primary election system. The  
6 commission shall consist of 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the  
7 Senate President, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader, 1 of whom shall act as  
8 co-chairperson; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the  
9 speaker of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader 1, 1  
10 of whom shall act as co-chairperson; the secretary of the commonwealth or their designee; the

11 president of the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association or their designee; the president of the  
12 Massachusetts City Clerks' Association or their designee; the executive director of Common  
13 Cause Massachusetts or their designee; and 1 person from each of the political parties as defined  
14 in section 1 of chapter 50 of the General Laws eligible to conduct primary elections at the next  
15 following biennial state election.

16 Said commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study  
17 and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its  
18 recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the  
19 House of Representatives six months after the enactment of this legislation.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 863**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Orlando Ramos***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing same-day voter registration.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Orlando Ramos</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 863**

---

By Representative Ramos of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 863) of Orlando Ramos for legislation to establish same-day voter registration. Election Laws.

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act establishing same-day voter registration.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Section 26 of chapter 51 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
2   Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 10, the words “tenth day preceding”,  
3   and inserting in place thereof the following words:- day of.

4           SECTION 2. Said section 26 of said chapter 51, as so appearing, is hereby further  
5   amended by striking out, in line 11, the words “tenth day preceding”, and inserting in place  
6   thereof the following words:- day of.

7           SECTION 3. Section 31 of said chapter 51 is hereby repealed.

8           SECTION 4. Section 50 of said chapter 51 is hereby repealed.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 865**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*David M. Rogers*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the qualification of voters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 865**

---

By Representative Rogers of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 865) of David M. Rogers for legislation to further define felony convictions as relates to the disqualification of voters. Election Laws.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 713 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to the qualification of voters.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           Section 1 of chapter 51 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is  
2 hereby amended by inserting after the word “conviction”, in line 3, the following words:- for a  
3 violation of section 13, 13b, 13b ½, 16 or 24 of chapter 265 or for which the person may be  
4 punished by imprisonment in a state prison for life.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 873**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Chynah Tyler*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to voting rights.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/10/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 873**

---

By Representative Tyler of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 873) of Chynah Tyler relative to voting rights for convicted felons. Election Laws.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 721 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to voting rights.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 50 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 138 and 139, the following words:-  
3 “, except if by reason of a felony conviction”.

4           SECTION 2. Section 1 of chapter 51 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
5 amended by striking out, in lines 2 and 3, the following words:- “or incarcerated in a correctional  
6 facility due to a felony conviction,”.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 874**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED BY:

*Erika Uytterhoeven*

\_\_\_\_\_

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to voting rights restoration.

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Erika Uytterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/9/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>3/18/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 874**

---

---

By Representative Uyterhoeven of Somerville, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 874) of Erika Uyterhoeven for legislation to restore voting rights to incarcerated felons. Election Laws.

---

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to voting rights restoration.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to restore voting rights to incarcerated felons, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 50 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 138 and 139, the following words:-  
3 “, except if by reason of a felony conviction”.

4           SECTION 2. Section 1 of chapter 51 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
5 amended by striking out, in lines 2 and 3, the following words:- “or incarcerated in a correctional  
6 facility due to a felony conviction,”.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3918**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED BY:

***Christine P. Barber***

\_\_\_\_\_

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act granting the city of Somerville the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for City of Somerville residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/7/2025</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/9/2025</i>
<i>Erika Uytterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/11/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3918**

---

By Representative Barber of Somerville, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3918) of Christine P. Barber (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Somerville be authorized to provide voting rights in municipal elections for certain residents aged 16 and 17 years old. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3742 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
—————

An Act granting the city of Somerville the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for City of Somerville residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of chapter 51 of the General  
2 Laws or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, any individual aged  
3 16 or 17 years old residing in the City of Somerville, who is ineligible to vote due to age under  
4 state law, but who is otherwise eligible to vote under state law, may upon application have their  
5 names entered on a list of voters established by the board of election commissioners for the City  
6 of Somerville. Such individuals on the list of voters may vote in any election for local offices and  
7 local ballot questions in accordance with this Act. For the purposes of this Act, "local voters" are  
8 anyone who is eligible to vote pursuant to this Act in a local election or upon a local ballot  
9 question in the City of Somerville.

10 SECTION 2. Said board of election commissioners shall establish a separate registration  
11 list for local voters who shall fill out an alternative registration form. Upon turning eighteen,  
12 each local voter shall be taken off the separate list and notified that he or she must register as a  
13 regular voter in accordance with state law, regulations, and guidelines, in order to be eligible to  
14 vote. Said board shall create and print, at the city of Somerville's expense, the special registration  
15 form needed for the purpose of registering local voters.

16 SECTION 3. Said board is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations, guidelines and  
17 forms to implement the purpose of this act.

18 SECTION 4. If a local ballot question appears on a state election ballot, the board shall  
19 print a separate ballot for the local ballot question at the expense of the City of Somerville.

20 SECTION 5. The City of Somerville is hereby authorized to pass ordinances to  
21 implement the purpose of this act subject to all the provisions of the Somerville city charter.

22 SECTION 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon local voters the right to  
23 vote for any state or federal office or any state or federal ballot questions.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4033**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED BY:

*Erika Uytterhoeven and Mike Connolly*

\_\_\_\_\_

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act providing for legal voting rights in municipal elections for non-citizen residents of the city of Somerville.

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Erika Uytterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/9/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4033**

By Representatives Uytterhoeven of Somerville and Connolly of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4033) of Erika Uytterhoeven (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to providing for legal voting rights in municipal elections for non-citizen residents of the city of Somerville. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**

An Act providing for legal voting rights in municipal elections for non-citizen residents of the city of Somerville.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of chapter 51 of the General  
2 Laws or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, any non-citizen  
3 residing in the City of Somerville, who is ineligible to vote due to citizenship status under state  
4 law, but who is otherwise eligible to vote under state law, may upon application have their names  
5 entered on a list of voters established by the board of election commissioners for the city of  
6 Somerville and may thereafter vote in any election for local offices and local ballot questions in  
7 accordance with this Act. Such non-citizen residents shall remain eligible to vote in in any  
8 election for local offices and local ballot questions in the City of Somerville for so long as they  
9 remain domiciled in the City of Somerville. For the purposes of this Act, “local voters” are  
10 anyone who is eligible to vote pursuant to this act in a local election or upon a local ballot  
11 question in the City of Somerville.

12 SECTION 2. Said board of election commissioners shall establish a separate registration  
13 list for local voters who shall fill out an alternative registration form. Said board shall create and  
14 print, at the city of Somerville's expense, the special registration form needed for the purpose of  
15 registering local voters.

16 SECTION 3. Said board is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations, guidelines and  
17 forms to implement the purpose of this act. The voter registration forms shall include a  
18 declaration to be signed under pains and penalties of perjury by the voter applicant that they are a  
19 resident of the city of Somerville.

20 SECTION 4. The City of Somerville is hereby authorized to pass ordinances to  
21 implement the purpose of this act subject to all the provisions of the Somerville city charter.

22 SECTION 5. If a local ballot question appears on a state election ballot, the board shall  
23 print a separate ballot for the local ballot question at the expense of the City of Somerville.

24 SECTION 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon local voters the right to  
25 vote for any state or federal office or any state or federal ballot questions.

26 SECTION 7. Any local voter who becomes eligible to vote in an election in accordance  
27 with the provisions of section 1 of chapter 51 of the General Laws shall be taken off the separate  
28 registration list and notified that he or she may register as a regular voter in accordance with state  
29 law, regulations, and guidelines.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4095**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Natalie M. Blais and Paul W. Mark*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act granting the town of Conway the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for town of Conway residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>4/25/2025</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i>	<i>4/25/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4095**

By Representative Blais of Deerfield and Senator Mark, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4095) of Natalie M. Blais and Paul W. Mark (by vote of the town) that the town of Conway be authorized to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for residents of said town aged 16 and 17 years old. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**

An Act granting the town of Conway the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for town of Conway residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of chapter 51 of the General  
2   Laws or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, any individual aged  
3   16 or 17 years old residing in the town of Conway, who is ineligible to vote due to age under  
4   state law, but who is otherwise eligible to vote under state law, may upon application have their  
5   names entered on a list of voters established by the board of registrars of voters in the town of  
6   Conway. Such individuals on the list of voters may vote in any election for local offices and  
7   local ballot questions in accordance with this Act. For the purposes of this Act, "local voters" are  
8   anyone who is eligible to vote pursuant to this Act in a local election or upon a local ballot  
9   question in the town of Conway.

10           SECTION 2. Said board of registrars of voters shall establish a separate registration list  
11   for local voters who shall fill out an alternative registration form. Upon turning eighteen, each

12 local voter shall be taken off the separate list and notified that he or she must register as a regular  
13 voter in accordance with state law, regulations, and guidelines, in order to be eligible to vote.  
14 Said board shall create and print, at the town of Conway's expense, the special registration form  
15 needed for the purpose of registering local voters.

16 SECTION 3. Said board is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations, guidelines and  
17 forms to implement the purpose of this act.

18 SECTION 4. If a local ballot question appears on a state election ballot, the board shall  
19 print a separate ballot for the local ballot question at the expense of the town of Conway.

20 SECTION 5. The town of Conway is hereby authorized to pass ordinances to implement  
21 the purpose of this act subject to all the provisions of the Conway town charter.

22 SECTION 6. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to confer upon local voters the right  
23 to vote for any state or federal office or any state or federal ballot questions.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4096**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Joanne M. Comerford*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act amending the special act charter of the city of Northampton to allow residents sixteen years of age or older to vote in preliminary and city elections.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/9/2025</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/9/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4096**

---

By Representative Sabadosa of Northampton and Senator Comerford, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4096) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Joanne M. Comerford (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to amending the charter of the city of Northampton to authorize residents sixteen years or age or older to vote in preliminary and city elections. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
—————

An Act amending the special act charter of the city of Northampton to allow residents sixteen years of age or older to vote in preliminary and city elections.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 277 of the Acts of 2012, shall be amended as follows:

2 SECTION 1. Amend article 8 by inserting as article 8-6 the following:

3 “QUALIFICATION FOR VOTING. Every resident of the city or, in the case of an election for  
4 ward councilor or ward school committee member, every resident of the ward, sixteen years of  
5 age or older, who is not otherwise disqualified from voting under state law, shall be qualified to  
6 vote in all preliminary elections, special elections and regular city elections" and by renumbering  
7 article 8-6 to 8-7 and article 8-7 to 8-8.

8 This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4097**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Joanne M. Comerford*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act amending the special act charter of the city of Northampton to allow resident non-citizens to vote in preliminary and city elections.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/9/2025</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/9/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4097**

---

By Representative Sabadosa of Northampton and Senator Comerford, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4097) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Joanne M. Comerford (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to amending the charter of the city of Northampton to authorize resident non-citizens to vote in preliminary and city elections. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
—————

An Act amending the special act charter of the city of Northampton to allow resident non-citizens to vote in preliminary and city elections.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 277 of the Acts of 2012, shall be amended as follows:

2 SECTION 1. Amend article 8 by inserting as article 8-6 the following:

3 “QUALIFICATION FOR VOTING. Every resident of the city or, in the case of an election for  
4 ward councilor or ward school committee member, every resident of the ward, whether a citizen  
5 or noncitizen, who is not otherwise disqualified from voting under state law, shall be qualified to  
6 vote in all preliminary elections, special elections and regular city elections.”, and by  
7 renumbering article 8-6 to 8-7 and article 8-7 to 8-8.

8 This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4132**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED BY:

***Michelle L. Ciccolo***

\_\_\_\_\_

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to grant the town of Lexington the authority to endow legal residents with local voting rights in municipal elections.

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/7/2025</i>
<i>Cindy F. Friedman</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>	<i>7/11/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4132**

By Representative Ciccolo of Lexington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4132) of Michelle L. Ciccolo (by vote of the town) that the town of Lexington be authorized to grant legal residents with local voting rights in municipal elections. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**

An Act to grant the town of Lexington the authority to endow legal residents with local voting rights in municipal elections.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding section one of chapter fifty-one of the General Laws, or  
2 any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, any lawful permanent  
3 resident- otherwise known as a green card holder- of the Town of Lexington, Massachusetts, that  
4 is otherwise eligible under all provision for voters in section of of said chapter fifty one, other  
5 than citizenship under the laws of the United States of America, shall be considered a qualified  
6 local voter (henceforth, "local voter") of the town for the purposes of voting in all town  
7 municipal elections, and shall be eligible to stand for and participate as a member in Town  
8 Meetings, and sign all nominating, warrant, and other petitions authorized by Town bylaws,  
9 including school committee referendum or other municipal elections.

10 SECTION 2. Said office of the Town Clerk shall establish a separate registration list for  
11 local voters who shall fill out an alternative registration form. Upon becoming a U.S, citizen,

12 each local voter shall be taken off said list and notified that they must register as a regular voter  
13 in accordance with state law, regulations, and guidelines, in order to be eligible to vote. Said  
14 office shall create and print, at the Town of Lexington's expense, the special registration form  
15 needed for the purpose of registering local voters.

16 SECTION 3. Said Select Board is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations,  
17 guidelines, and forms to implement the purpose of this act.

18 SECTION 4. If a local ballot question appears on a state election ballot, the office of the  
19 Town Clerk shall print a separate ballot for the local ballot question at the expense of the Town  
20 of Lexington to ensure that local voters are able to vote on the local question and not partake in  
21 statewide elections.

22 SECTION 5. The Town of Lexington is hereby authorized to enact bylaws or regulations  
23 to implement the purpose of this act subject to all provisions of Chapter 215, Acts of 1929 and  
24 Chapter 753, Acts of 1968, as amended.

25 SECTION 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon local voters the right to  
26 vote for any state or federal office or any state or federal ballot questions.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4148**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Aaron L. Saunders and Joanne M. Comerford*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to lawful noncitizen permanent resident voting in the town of Shutesbury.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Aaron L. Saunders</i>	<i>7th Hampden</i>	<i>5/15/2025</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>5/15/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4148**

By Representative Saunders of Belchertown and Senator Comerford, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4148) of Aaron L. Saunders and Joanne M. Comerford (by vote of the town) relative to lawful noncitizen permanent resident voting in the town of Shutesbury. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)

An Act relative to lawful noncitizen permanent resident voting in the town of Shutesbury.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1 of Chapter 51 of the General  
2 Laws, or any other general or special law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, lawful permanent  
3 residents 18 years or older who reside in Shutesbury may, upon application, have their name  
4 entered on a list of registered voters established by the Town Clerk for the town known as the  
5 Town of Shutesbury and may thereafter vote in all Shutesbury town meeting, elections and  
6 actions, and serve on elected and appointed Shutesbury municipal board, commissions and  
7 committees.

8 SECTION 2. The Selectboard of the town known as the Town of Shutesbury may  
9 formulate regulations and guidelines to implement to purpose of this act.

10           SECTION 3. Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon lawful permanent  
11 residents the right to vote for any state or federal office or any state or federal ballot question or  
12 take any action relative thereto.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4190**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Mindy Domb and Joanne M. Comerford***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act authorizing extending local voting rights for lawful permanent residents residing in the city known as the town of Amherst.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>5/30/2025</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>5/30/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4190**

By Representative Domb of Amherst and Senator Comerford, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4190) of Mindy Domb and Joanne M. Comerford (with the approval of the town council) that the city known as the town of Amherst be authorized to extend local voting rights for lawful permanent residents residing in said town. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3840 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act authorizing extending local voting rights for lawful permanent residents residing in the city known as the town of Amherst.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of chapter 51 of the General  
2           Laws, or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, lawful permanent  
3           residents 18 years or older who reside in Amherst may, upon application, have their name  
4           entered on a list of registered voters established by the town clerk for the city known as the town  
5           of Amherst and may thereafter vote in any election for local offices or local ballot questions.

6           SECTION 2. The town council of the city known as the town of Amherst may formulate  
7           regulations and guidelines to implement the purpose of this act.

8           SECTION 3. Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon lawful permanent  
9 residents the right to vote for any state or federal office or any state or federal ballot question.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4209**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Natalie M. Blais and Joanne M. Comerford*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act granting the town of Sunderland the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for town of Sunderland residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>5/30/2025</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>5/30/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4209**

By Representative Blais of Deerfield and Senator Comerford, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4209) of Natalie M. Blais and Joanne M. Comerford (by vote of the town) that the town of Sunderland be authorized to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for residents of said town aged 16 and 17 years old. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)

An Act granting the town of Sunderland the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for town of Sunderland residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of chapter 51 of the General  
2 Laws or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, any individual aged  
3 16 or 17 years old residing in the town of Sunderland, who is ineligible to vote due to age under  
4 state law, but who is otherwise eligible to vote under state law, may upon application have their  
5 names entered on a list of voters established by the office of the Town Clerk for the town of  
6 Sunderland. Such individuals on the list of voters may vote in any election for local offices and  
7 local ballot questions in accordance with this Act. For the purposes of this Act, "local voters" are  
8 anyone who is eligible to vote pursuant to this Act in a local election or upon a local ballot  
9 question in the town of Sunderland.

10 SECTION 2. Said office of the Town Clerk shall establish a separate registration list for  
11 local voters who shall fill out an alternative registration form. Upon turning eighteen, each local

12 voter shall be taken off the separate list and notified that he or she must register as a regular voter  
13 in accordance with state law, regulations, and guidelines, in order to be eligible to vote. Said  
14 office shall create and print, at the town of Sunderland's expense, the special registration form  
15 needed for the purpose of registering local voters.

16 SECTION 3. Said office is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations, guidelines and  
17 forms to implement the purpose of this act.

18 SECTION 4. If a local ballot question appears on a state election ballot, the office of the  
19 Town Clerk shall print a separate ballot for the local ballot question at the expense of the town of  
20 Sunderland.

21 SECTION 5. The town of Sunderland is hereby authorized to pass ordinances to  
22 implement the purpose of this act.

23 SECTION 6. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to confer upon local voters the right  
24 to vote for any state or federal office or any state or federal ballot questions.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4223**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED BY:

***Sean Garballey and Cindy F. Friedman***

\_\_\_\_\_

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act lowering the voting age in municipal elections in the town of Arlington.

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>6/12/2025</i>
<i>Cindy F. Friedman</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>	<i>6/12/2025</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/12/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4223**

By Representative Garballey of Arlington and Senator Friedman, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4223) of Sean Garballey, Cindy F. Friedman and David M. Rogers (by vote of the town) that the town of Arlington be authorized to grant legal voting rights in municipal elections to town residents aged 16 and 17 years old. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**

An Act lowering the voting age in municipal elections in the town of Arlington.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding section 1 of chapter 51 of the General Laws or any other  
2 general or special law to the contrary, any individual aged 16 or 17 years old residing in the  
3 Town of Arlington, who is ineligible to vote due to age under state law, but who is otherwise  
4 eligible, may apply to have their names entered on a list of voters established by the town clerk  
5 of the town of Arlington. Such individuals on the list of voters may vote in any election for local  
6 offices, local ballot questions, and town meeting in accordance with this act. For the purposes of  
7 this act, “local voters” shall be any individual who is eligible to vote pursuant to this act in a  
8 local election or upon a local ballot question in the Town of Arlington.

9 SECTION 2. The town clerk of the town of Arlington shall require local voters to  
10 complete an alternative registration form and shall establish a separate registration list for local  
11 voters. Upon turning 18, each local voter shall be taken off the separate registration list and

12 notified that they must register as a regular voter in accordance with state law in order to be  
13 eligible to vote.

14 SECTION 3. The town clerk of the town of Arlington may promulgate regulations,  
15 guidelines and forms to implement the purpose of this act.

16 SECTION 4. The town of Arlington may pass bylaws to implement the purpose of this  
17 act.

18 SECTION 5. Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon local voters the right to  
19 vote for any state or federal office, or on any state or federal ballot questions.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4241**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Natalie M. Blais and Paul W. Mark*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act granting the town of Whately the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for town of Whately residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>6/25/2025</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i>	<i>6/25/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4241**

By Representative Blais of Deerfield and Senator Mark, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4241) of Natalie M. Blais and Paul W. Mark (by vote of the town) that the town of Whately be authorized to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for town of Whately residents aged 16 and 17 years old. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**

An Act granting the town of Whately the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for town of Whately residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of chapter 51 of the General  
2   Laws or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, any individual aged  
3   16 or 17 years old residing in the town of Whately, who is ineligible to vote due to age under  
4   state law, but who is otherwise eligible to vote under state law, may upon application have their  
5   names entered on a list of voters established by the board of registrars of voters in the town of  
6   Whately. Such individuals on the list of voters may vote in any election for local offices and  
7   local ballot questions in accordance with this Act. For the purposes of this Act, "local voters" are  
8   anyone who is eligible to vote pursuant to this Act in a local election or upon a local ballot  
9   question in the town of Whately.

10           SECTION 2. Said board of registrars of voters shall establish a separate registration list  
11   for local voters who shall fill out an alternative registration form. Upon turning eighteen, each

12 local voter shall be taken off the separate list and notified that he or she must register as a regular  
13 voter in accordance with state law, regulations, and guidelines, in order to be eligible to vote.  
14 Said board shall create and print, at the town of Whately's expense, the special registration form  
15 needed for the purpose of registering local voters.

16 SECTION 3. Said board is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations, guidelines and  
17 forms to implement the purpose of this act.

18 SECTION 4. If a local ballot question appears on a state election ballot, the board shall  
19 print a separate ballot for the local ballot question at the expense of the town of Whately.

20 SECTION 5. The town of Whately is hereby authorized to pass ordinances to implement  
21 the purpose of this act subject to all the provisions of the Whately town charter.

22 SECTION 6. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to confer upon local voters the right  
23 to vote for any state or federal office or any state or federal ballot questions.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4242**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED BY:

***Leigh Davis and Paul W. Mark***

\_\_\_\_\_

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act providing for recall elections in the town of Dalton.

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Leigh Davis</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>6/26/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4242**

By Representative Davis of Great Barrington and Senator Mark, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4242) of Leigh Davis (by vote of the town) relative to recall elections in the town of Dalton. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**

An Act providing for recall elections in the town of Dalton.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Any holder of an elective office in the town of Dalton may be recalled by  
2 the registered voters of the town as herein provided.

3 SECTION 2. Any fifty (50) registered voters of the town of Dalton may initiate a recall  
4 by filing with the Town Clerk an affidavit of intent to recall, containing the name of the officer  
5 sought to be recalled and a statement of the grounds for recall. The Town Clerk shall thereupon  
6 within 2 business days deliver to the voter first named on such affidavit a sufficient number of  
7 copies of petition blanks demanding such recall, printed forms of which he/she shall keep  
8 available. The blanks shall be issued by the Town Clerk with his/her signature and Official Seal  
9 attached thereto. The petitions shall be dated and addressed to the Select Board, shall contain the  
10 name of the person to whom they were issued, the number of petitions so issued, the name of the  
11 person sought to be recalled, the grounds of recall as stated in said affidavit, and shall demand  
12 the election of a successor to such office.

13 SECTION 3. The reason for which a recall may be initiated include but are not limited to:

14 (i) Lack of Fitness. Insobriety while performing official functions, involuntary  
15 commitment to e mental health facility, placed under guardianship or conservatorship by a  
16 probate court.

17 (ii) Conviction. Conviction of any felony involving moral turpitude, conviction or  
18 bribery, or extortion.

19 (iii) Neglect of Duties. Repeated absences from meetings without just cause. Just cause  
20 shall include, but not be limited, to illness or regular vacation periods.

21 (iv) Misfeasance. Performance of official acts in an unlawful manner, or a willful  
22 violation of the conflict of interest law, open meeting law or other ethical violations.

23 SECTION 4. A copy of the blank recall petition shall be entered in a record book to be  
24 kept in the office of the Town Clerk. Said recall petitions shall be returned and filed with the  
25 Town Clerk within twenty working days after the date the blank petitions were provided to the  
26 first named voter. The recall petition before being returned and filed shall bear the signatures and  
27 residential address of no less than 50% of the voters who participated in the last annual town  
28 election. The said recall petition shall be submitted to the Town Clerk and to the Registrars of  
29 Voters, and the Registrars shall within 4 business days certify thereon the number of signatures  
30 which are names of registered voters of said town.

31 SECTION 5. If the petition shall be found and certified by said Town Clerk to be  
32 sufficient, he/she shall submit the same with his/her certificate to said Select Board without  
33 delay. The Select Board shall within three working days give written notice by registered mail to

34 said officer of the receipt of said certificate and shall, if the officer sought to be recalled does not  
35 resign within five days thereafter, order an election to be held on a date fixed by the Board, not  
36 less than sixty days and not more than ninety days after the date of the Town Clerk's certificate  
37 that a sufficient petition has been filed; provided, however, that if any other Town election is to  
38 occur within 100 days after the date of said certificate, the Select Board shall postpone the  
39 holding of the recall election to the date of such other election. If a vacancy occurs in said office  
40 after a recall election has been so ordered, the election shall nevertheless proceed as in this  
41 section provided.

42 SECTION 6. Any officer sought to be recalled may be a candidate to succeed  
43 himself/herself and, unless the person requests otherwise in writing, the Town Clerk shall place  
44 the person's name on the ballot without nomination. The nomination of other candidates, the  
45 publication of the warrant for the recall election and the conduct of the same shall all be in  
46 accordance with the provisions of General Law relating to elections unless otherwise provided  
47 by this act. The election to replace the officer sought to be removed shall be held on the same  
48 day as the recall election.

49 SECTION 7. The incumbent shall continue to perform the duties of his/her office until  
50 the recall election. If not recalled, he/she shall continue in the office for the remainder of his/her  
51 unexpired term but shall not again be subject to recall for the remainder of his/her unexpired  
52 term. If recalled, he/she shall be deemed removed upon the qualification of his/her successor,  
53 who shall hold office during the unexpired term. If the successor fails to qualify within five days  
54 after receiving notification of his/her election, the incumbent shall thereupon be deemed  
55 removed and the office vacant.

56 SECTION 8. Ballots used in a recall election shall state the following propositions in the  
57 order indicated: For the recall of (name of officer). Against the recall of (name of officer).  
58 Adjacent to each proposition, there shall be a place to vote for either of the said propositions.  
59 Under the proposition shall appear the word "Candidates" and the names of candidates  
60 nominated as required by Section 42 of Chapter 54 of the Massachusetts General Laws. The  
61 action of the voters to recall shall require a majority vote but shall not be effective unless the  
62 total of those voting for and against recall shall exceeds 80% of the number of registered voters  
63 that voted in the most recent annual Town election. If sufficient voters and a majority of the  
64 votes cast upon the question of recall is in the affirmative, the candidate receiving the highest  
65 number of votes shall be declared elected. If sufficient voters and a majority of votes on the  
66 question is in the negative, the ballots for candidates need not be counted, except as provided in  
67 section 5 above.

68 SECTION 9. No recall petition shall be filed against an officer within six months after  
69 he/she takes office, nor within six months of the end of the officer's term, nor in the case of an  
70 officer subject to a recall election during his/her current term and not recalled thereby. No person  
71 who has been removed from an office or who has resigned from office while recall proceedings  
72 were pending against him/her, shall be a candidate for or appointed to any town office within  
73 three years after such removal or such resignation.

## Joint Committee on Election Laws

### Bill Summary

---

**BILL NUMBER** Senate, No. 498

**TITLE** An Act relative to Election Day registration at polling places

**SPONSORS** Senator Brady

**SUMMARY**

This legislation would amend the current law to allow eligible citizens to register and vote on Election Day.

**SENATE . . . . . No. 498**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED BY:

***Michael D. Brady***

\_\_\_\_\_

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to Election Day registration at polling places.

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Michael D. Brady*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Second Plymouth and Norfolk*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 498**

---

By Mr. Brady, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 498) of Michael D. Brady for legislation relative to Election Day registration at polling places. Election Laws.

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to Election Day registration at polling places.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 51 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence in lines 15 to 20, inclusive,  
3 and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- A person otherwise qualified to vote for  
4 national or state officers, but who has not registered in accordance with the provisions of section  
5 26 of this chapter shall be eligible to register under section 34A.

6           SECTION 2. Section 1F of chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

7           SECTION 3. Said chapter 51, as so appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby  
8 amended, by striking out section 3, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following  
9 section:-

10           Section 3. For all elections and primaries, a person shall be registered and may vote in the  
11 ward or voting precinct where he resides; provided, however, that any registered voter of a city  
12 or town who moves to any other precinct in said city or town or to another city or town may

13 register to vote at his new address by making written application to the city or town clerk no later  
14 than the close of registration or in accordance with the provisions of section 34A. A new resident  
15 of the city or town may also, upon like application, be registered at the new address by making  
16 written application to the city or town clerk no later than the close of registration or in  
17 accordance with the provisions of section 34A. The city or town clerk shall forthwith notify each  
18 voter making any such written application that the same has been received and that he may vote,  
19 subject to the provision of this section regarding the close of registration, in the ward or precinct  
20 into which he has moved or in accordance with provisions of section 34A.

21 SECTION 4. Section 26 of said chapter 51, as so appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
22 is hereby amended by striking out, in line 10, the words “eight o’clock in the evening” and  
23 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following figure:- 5:00 pm.

24 SECTION 5. Section 26 of said chapter 51, as so appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
25 is hereby further amended by striking the last sentence contained in lines 22 to 28, inclusive.

26 SECTION 6. Said chapter 51 is hereby further amended by striking out section 28, as so  
27 appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

28 Section 28. Registrars shall hold a continuous session from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm on the  
29 last day for registration prescribed under section 26. For those towns having less than 1,500  
30 voters, such session shall be sufficient if it includes the time from 9:00 until 11:00 am and from  
31 2:00 until 5:00 pm.

32 SECTION 7. Said chapter 51 is hereby further amended by striking out section 34, as  
33 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

34 Section 34. Except as otherwise provided in section 34A, after 5:00 pm of a day on which  
35 registration is to cease, the registrars shall not register any person to vote in the next election,  
36 except that they shall furnish, or cause to be furnished, to each person waiting in line at the hour  
37 of 5:00 pm for the purpose of being registered, a card or slip of identification bearing such  
38 person's name and shall, before registration ceases, permit such person to register.

39 SECTION 8. Said chapter 51 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 34 the  
40 following section:-

41 Section 34A. (a) An individual who is eligible to vote may register on the day of an  
42 election by appearing in person at the polling place, during the hours it is open for voting, for the  
43 precinct in which the individual maintains residence, by completing a registration application in  
44 a form prescribed by the state secretary which complies with identity requirements of 52 U.S.C.  
45 section 21083, by presenting to the appropriate election official proof of residency and by  
46 making a written oath which shall be as follows: I certify that I: am a citizen of the United States;  
47 am at least 18 years old; am not under guardianship that prohibits me from registering and/or  
48 voting or otherwise prohibited from voting; am not temporarily or permanently disqualified by  
49 law because of corrupt practices in respect to elections; have not and will not vote in any other  
50 location within the Commonwealth or elsewhere; have read and understand this statement: I  
51 further understand that giving false information is a felony punishable by not more than 5 years  
52 imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

53 (b) For purposes of this section, the term "proof of residence" shall mean 1 of the  
54 following, so long as it includes the name of the applicant and the address from which he or she  
55 is registering:

56 (i) a valid photo identification including, but not limited to, a Massachusetts driver's  
57 license or other state-issued identification card; or

58 (ii) other documentation demonstrating the name and address where the applicant  
59 maintains residence and seeks to register including, but not limited to, a copy of a current utility  
60 bill, bank statement, government check, residential lease agreement, wireless telephone  
61 statement, paycheck, other government document or correspondence, a current student fee  
62 statement or other document from a post-secondary educational institution that verifies the  
63 student's current address.

64 (c) Upon meeting the identity requirements of subsection (a), production of proof of  
65 residence, and the making of an oath sufficient to support registration, the ballot clerk or his  
66 designee shall permit the applicant to vote at that election. Any person

67 who registers to vote on the day of an election in accordance with this section shall,  
68 absent disqualification, be registered to vote at all subsequent primaries and elections.

69 (d) A registrant who fails to present suitable identification shall be permitted to deposit a  
70 provisional ballot pursuant to the provisions of section 76C of chapter 54, but shall be required to  
71 return within two business days after a state primary or municipal election or within six days  
72 following a state election to present sufficient identification to the local election officials in order  
73 for the local election officials to determine that the registrant is qualified to vote in such election  
74 and has deposited an eligible provisional ballot.

75 (e) The state secretary shall make available to the election officers at each polling place,  
76 to the extent possible, access to the statewide list of registered voters as contained in the central  
77 registry of voters set forth in section 47C. For the purposes of this section, an electronic or

78 printed copy of all voters registered to vote in that precinct as of the last day of the registration  
79 period, as required by sections 55 and 60, shall be sufficient.

80 (f) The local election officials may correct information supplied by the registrant to the  
81 extent necessary to maintain the integrity of their records. If an affidavit is incomplete or if it  
82 appears from the facts set forth in the affidavit that the registrant is not qualified to register as a  
83 voter, the local election officials shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of section forty-  
84 seven.

85 (g) As soon as practicable after the election, the registrars shall add the registrant's name,  
86 address and effective date of registration to the annual register of voters.

87 (h) This section shall not apply to an individual seeking to register to vote in any town for  
88 the purposes of voting at annual town meeting or special town meeting.

89 (i) A registered voter shall not re-register on the day of a primary or election for the  
90 exclusive purpose of altering his party affiliation.

91 (j) The state secretary shall adopt regulations to implement the relevant provisions of this  
92 chapter.

93 (k) Upon credible information or allegation of illegal voter registration, or credible  
94 information or allegation of illegal multiple voting, there shall be an investigation upon the  
95 merits of said information or allegation by the attorney general, or by the district attorney having  
96 jurisdiction over the municipality in which the alleged illegal registration or illegal multiple  
97 voting occurred. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as excluding enforcement of this  
98 section by any means otherwise provided by law.

99 (l) Violations of this section shall be punishable under sections 8, 26 and 27, of chapter  
100 56.

101 SECTION 9. Said chapter 51 is hereby further amended by striking out section 47C, as so  
102 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

103 Section 47C. Subject to appropriation, the state secretary shall maintain a central registry  
104 of voters which shall contain the names, addresses and effective dates of registration of all  
105 registered voters in the commonwealth and which shall contain the name, date of birth,  
106 occupation, veteran status, nationality, if not a citizen of the United States, for street list purposes  
107 only, and residence on January first in the preceding year and in the current year, of every person  
108 three years of age or older in the commonwealth as provided by registrars. The registrars shall  
109 enter and maintain all the information required. The secretary of the commonwealth shall adopt  
110 regulations governing the operation of said central registry. The names and addresses of voters  
111 and any other information contained in said central registry shall not be a matter of public record;  
112 provided however, that such information shall be available upon execution of a license  
113 agreement to state party committees, official political designation committees, statewide  
114 candidate committees, state ballot question committees, the jury commissioner, adjutant general  
115 and any other individual, agency or entity that the state secretary shall designate by regulation  
116 consistent with the purposes of this section, at a fair and reasonable cost not to exceed the cost of  
117 printing or preparing computer readable documents.

118 SECTION 10. Said chapter 51 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 47C  
119 the following section:-

120           Section 47D. The registry of motor vehicles, and any other state agency permitted by law,  
121 shall provide data, as deemed necessary by the state secretary, for the purposes of maintaining  
122 accurate and complete voter lists. At least every 2 months, the registry of motor vehicles, and  
123 any other state agency the secretary designates, shall electronically transmit to the secretary all  
124 data as directed by the secretary and relevant to the purposes of voter registration, including, if  
125 available, the following record fields: (i) name, current residential address, mailing address, date  
126 of birth, driver’s license number and/or last 4 digits of the social security number, and telephone  
127 number; (ii) date, time, and nature of the last change to the information; and (iii) any additional  
128 information designated by the state secretary for such purposes and reasonably related to  
129 maintaining accurate and complete voter lists.

130           The secretary shall provide the names and addresses and other data contained in said  
131 central registry, as well as information received from the registry of motor vehicles and any other  
132 agency received for the purpose of maintaining accurate and complete voting lists, to the  
133 Electronic Registration Information Center (“ERIC”) after entering into a binding legal  
134 agreement with ERIC specifying the terms and conditions of Massachusetts’s membership in the  
135 Center.

136           The secretary shall implement, if practicable, a centralized system to manage and  
137 evaluate data received from ERIC to send required mailings to voters and residents

138           identified as eligible but not registered centrally rather than from the local level. The  
139 secretary shall provide information to the registrars in electronic form and in a manner  
140 minimizing data management at the local level for any action necessary to be taken by the local  
141 election officials.

142 The information sent to and received from ERIC shall not be a public record.

143 SECTION 11. There shall be an advisory committee on the implementation of Election  
144 Day registration. Among other issues it may consider, the advisory committee shall study the  
145 resources necessary for, costs associated with, and feasibility of providing every polling location  
146 with real-time electronic access to the statewide database of registered voters. The advisory  
147 committee shall be comprised of the secretary of state, or a designee, who shall chair the  
148 advisory committee, the attorney general, or a designee, the house and senate chairs of the joint  
149 committee on election laws, or their designees, 2 representatives of the Massachusetts Town  
150 Clerks Association, at least 1 of whom shall be a town clerk from a town of under 5,000  
151 residents, and 2 representatives of the Massachusetts City Clerks Association. The advisory  
152 committee shall complete its study on the implementation of election day registration and submit  
153 an interim report and recommendations for improving administration of election day registration,  
154 in writing, to the joint committee on election laws and the senate and house committees on ways  
155 and means on or before June 30, 2025, and the advisory committee shall submit its final report in  
156 writing to the joint committee on election laws and the senate and house committees on ways and  
157 means on or before June 30, 2025.

158 SECTION 12. Sections 1 through 8 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

159 SECTION 13. Sections 9 through 11 shall take effect within 60 days of passage.

## Joint Committee on Election Laws

### Bill Summary

---

<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	Senate, No. 499
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	An Act relative to early voting and dates for voter registration
<b><u>SPONSORS</u></b>	Senator Brownsberger

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill would move the voter registration deadline one day earlier if it falls on a Saturday, eliminate the current mandate for early voting in-person for primary elections, and reduce the mandated period of early voting in person for other elections.

**SENATE . . . . . No. 499**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED BY:

***William N. Brownsberger***

\_\_\_\_\_

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to early voting and dates for voter registration.

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*William N. Brownsberger*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Suffolk and Middlesex*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 499**

---

By Mr. Brownsberger, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 499) of William N. Brownsberger for legislation to move the voter registration deadline, eliminate early voting in-person for primary elections, and reduce the period of early voting in person for other elections. Election Laws.

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to early voting and dates for voter registration.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Section 31 of chapter 51 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words “If the final day for registration  
3 of voters falls on” the following:- Saturday,

4           SECTION 2. Section 25B of chapter 54, as amended by chapter 92 of the acts of 2022, is  
5 hereby further amended by striking the word “seventeenth” and replacing it with the following:-  
6 tenth;

7           And further by striking the words “presidential or state primary or primary or”;

8           And further in paragraph (2) of subsection (b) by striking the terms “a primary or” and  
9 replacing it with the following:- an

## Joint Committee on Election Laws

### Bill Summary

---

**BILL NUMBER** Senate, No. 500

**TITLE** An Act relative to specially qualified voters

**SPONSORS** Senator Collins

**SUMMARY**

Changes the current definition of a “Specially Qualified Voter” to only include someone confined in a correctional facility or a jail, except if by reason of a felony conviction.

**SENATE . . . . . No. 500**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Nick Collins*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to specially qualified voters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Nick Collins*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*First Suffolk*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 500**

---

By Mr. Collins, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 500) of Nick Collins for legislation relative to specially qualified voters. Election Laws.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 409 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to specially qualified voters.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           Section 1 of Chapter 50 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 official edition, is  
2 amended by striking out the text contained in lines 129 to 136, inclusive, and further; by striking  
3 out the text “(ii) absent from the commonwealth; or” contained in line 137, and further; by  
4 striking out the subsection label “(iii)” in line 138 and inserting in place thereof the label:- “(ii)”.

## Joint Committee on Election Laws

### Bill Summary

---

**BILL NUMBER**

Senate, No. 503

**TITLE**

An Act decoupling the municipal census from voter registration

**SPONSORS**

Senators Creem, Eldridge, DiDomenico, Oliveira, Jehlen, Tarr, Driscoll, and Rausch; Representatives Cruz of Salem and Connolly of Cambridge

**SUMMARY**

This bill would decouple the municipal census from voter registration to make sure individuals are not removed from the active voter list, simply because they did not respond to the municipal census.

**SENATE . . . . . No. 503**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Cynthia Stone Creem***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act decoupling the municipal census from voter registration.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Cynthia Stone Creem</i>	<i>Norfolk and Middlesex</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/28/2025</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>1/30/2025</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>2/6/2025</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>2/19/2025</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2025</i>
<i>William J. Driscoll, Jr.</i>	<i>Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>3/5/2025</i>
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>3/11/2025</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/28/2025</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 503**

---

---

By Ms. Creem, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 503) of Cynthia Stone Creem, James B. Eldridge, Sal N. DiDomenico, Jacob R. Oliveira and other members of the Senate for legislation to decouple the municipal census from voter registration. Election Laws.

---

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act decoupling the municipal census from voter registration.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Subsection (c) of section 4 of chapter 51 of the General Laws, as appearing  
2 in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the words “for 2 consecutive  
3 years shall result in removal from the active voting list and may result in removal from the voter  
4 registration rolls” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- may result in a fine.

5           SECTION 2. Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out sections  
6 37, 37A and 38, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following 2 sections:-

7           Section 37. (a) The registrars shall maintain a register of voters, in this chapter sometimes  
8 called the register or the annual register, which shall contain the names and residential addresses  
9 of all registered voters in their city or town and reflect the names and residential addresses  
10 contained in the central registry of voters maintained by the state secretary under section 47C.  
11 The registrars shall add to the register the name and residential address of every person  
12 registering to vote under section 33A or 42 or automatically registered under sections 42G½ and

13 65. The registrars shall correct any error in the register after due investigation; provided,  
14 however, that the registrars shall only remove a name from the register in a manner consistent  
15 with the requirements of subsection (c).

16 (b) The register shall not include the name of a voter who provides the registrars with a  
17 copy of a court order granting protection, evidence of residence in a protective shelter or an  
18 affidavit signed by a chief of police or designee that the voter is entitled to have certain  
19 information withheld from the public inspection under section 24C of chapter 265.

20 (c) The registrars shall remove a voter's name and address from the register if and only if:

21 (i) the voter so requests in writing;

22 (ii) the registrars receive notice from the city or town clerk under section 14, or a death  
23 record from the department of public health, indicating that the voter has died;

24 (iii) the registrars receive official written notice that the voter is: (a) incarcerated for a  
25 felony conviction; (b) disqualified by law because of corrupt practices in respect to elections; or

26 (c) under guardianship that prohibits voting;

27 (iv) the registrars receive official written notice that the voter is registered to vote in  
28 another jurisdiction;

29 (v) the registrars determine that the voter is illegally or incorrectly registered after  
30 complaint, notice and hearing under sections 48 and 49; or

31 (vi) the registrars determine that that voter no longer resides in their city or town under  
32 section 38.

33 (d) The state secretary shall adopt regulations to implement this section. To the extent  
34 feasible, the state secretary shall automate processes using the central registry of voters under  
35 section 47C.

36 Section 38. (a) The registrars shall maintain an inactive voters list. The registrars shall  
37 remove a voter's name and address from the register of voters and add it to the inactive voters  
38 list the registrars receive information that the voter no longer resides in their city or town from:  
39 (i) permanent change-of-address information supplied by the United States Postal Service or its  
40 licensee; or (ii) the Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc. under section 47C.

41 (b) Registrars receiving information under subsection (a) showing that the voter has  
42 changed residence within their city or town shall update the voter's address in the register  
43 accordingly and notify the voter in writing.

44 (c) Whenever the registrars remove a voter's name and address from the register of voters  
45 and add it to the inactive voters list under subsection (a), the registrars shall mail to the voter at  
46 the address in the register a notice that the name of the voter may be removed from the voting list  
47 if the voter fails to respond to such notice and does not vote during the period ending with the  
48 second biennial state election following the mailing of the notice. The notice shall: (i) be postage  
49 prepaid; (ii) contain a return card preaddressed to the city or town clerk with return postage  
50 guaranteed; (iii) be sent by forwardable mail; (iv) instruct the voter to return the card before the  
51 last day to register if the voter did not change residence from the city or town; and (v) contain  
52 additional information about remaining eligible to vote, as prescribed by the state secretary.

53 (d) A voter whose name is on the inactive voters list may vote in the voter's assigned  
54 precinct on a regular ballot upon the voter's written affirmation of continued residence in the city  
55 or town.

56 (e) The registrars shall restore to the register of voters the name and address of a voter on  
57 the inactive voters list who notifies the registrars in writing of continued residence in the city or  
58 town or who votes in any primary or election, applies for a mail ballot, signs a nomination paper  
59 or petition for a ballot question using an address in their city of town or performs acts governed  
60 by this chapter or chapters 52, 53 or 54 that require such use of an address in their city or town.

61 (f) The registrars shall remove from the inactive voters list the name of a voter that has  
62 not been restored to the register under subsection (e) after 2 biennial state elections following the  
63 mailing of the notice under subsection (c). The registrars shall mail forwardable notice to the  
64 voter that the voter's name has been removed from the inactive voters list; provided, however,  
65 that such notice shall also include information about remaining eligible to vote, as prescribed by  
66 the state secretary.

67 (g) The state secretary shall adopt regulations to implement this section. To the extent  
68 feasible, the state secretary shall automate processes using the central registry of voters under  
69 section 47C.

70 SECTION 3. Section 42 of said chapter 51, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
71 striking out the second sentence.

72 SECTION 4. Whenever the term "annual register of voters" or "annual register,"  
73 meaning the annual register of voters, appears in any statute, charter, regulation, contract, or

74 other document, that term means the register of voters established in section 37 of chapter 51 of  
75 the General Laws

## Joint Committee on Election Laws

### Bill Summary

---

**BILL NUMBER** Senate, No. 504

**TITLE** An Act enforcing accessibility for voters with disabilities

**SPONSORS** Senators Creem, Eldridge, Comerford, DiDomenico, Jehlen, Tarr, Moore, Rausch, and Driscoll; Representative Gentile of Sudbury

**SUMMARY**

Requires the Secretary of State to inspect all polling places and early voting sites at least once every four years. If a municipality is determined to be non-compliant, they will be required to take corrective action and share a plan to comply. The Attorney General's Office will be permitted to pursue a civil action to enforce compliance.

**SENATE . . . . . No. 504**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Cynthia Stone Creem***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act enforcing accessibility for voters with disabilities.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Cynthia Stone Creem</i>	<i>Norfolk and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/22/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/28/2025</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/28/2025</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>1/30/2025</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>2/19/2025</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2025</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/6/2025</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>William J. Driscoll, Jr.</i>	<i>Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>7/22/2025</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 504**

---

By Ms. Creem, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 504) of Cynthia Stone Creem, Carmine Lawrence Gentile, James B. Eldridge, Joanne M. Comerford and other members of the General Court for legislation to enforce accessibility for voters with disabilities by requiring an agent of the state secretary to inspect, at least once every four years, each polling place. Election Laws.

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act enforcing accessibility for voters with disabilities.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 24 the  
2 following section:-

3 Section 24A. To ensure compliance with federal and state laws concerning accessibility  
4 for voters with disabilities including the state secretary’s polling place accessibility regulations,  
5 an agent of the state secretary shall inspect, at least once every four years, each polling place  
6 most recently designated under section 24 and each early voting site most recently designated  
7 under subsection (b) of section 25B. The inspecting agent shall promptly and specifically report  
8 in writing to the state secretary and the city or town clerk every failure to comply with state and  
9 federal accessibility laws, and the responsible officials of the city or town shall take immediate  
10 action to ensure access for voters with disabilities and within 5 days submit to the state secretary  
11 a written plan to comply. If the city or town fails to take such immediate action or to submit a

12 written plan to provide access to voters with disabilities, the state secretary may order the city or  
13 town to comply with the law. Not later than December 31 each year, the state secretary shall  
14 report in writing to the clerks of the senate and house of representatives on all activities under  
15 this section. The attorney general may bring a civil action in the superior court to enforce  
16 compliance with those accessibility laws, with a written plan, or with the state secretary's order.  
17 The actions provided in this section shall not limit the availability of judicial remedies to any  
18 person, official, commission or board.

## Joint Committee on Election Laws

### Bill Summary

---

**BILL NUMBER**

Senate, No. 505

**TITLE**

An Act establishing same day voter registration

**SPONSORS**

Senators Creem, Rausch, Comerford, Eldridge, DiDomenico, Jehlen, Kennedy, Mark, Driscoll, Barrett, and Miranda; Representatives Gentile of Sudbury, Cruz of Salem, Connolly of Cambridge, and Keefe of Worcester

**SUMMARY**

This bill would allow for same-day registration, which would permit eligible individuals to register to vote or update their registration on Election Day and during the early voting period.

**SENATE . . . . . No. 505**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Cynthia Stone Creem***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing same day voter registration.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Cynthia Stone Creem</i>	<i>Norfolk and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/22/2025</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/22/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/28/2025</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>1/30/2025</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>2/19/2025</i>
<i>Robyn K. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>2/19/2025</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/27/2025</i>
<i>William J. Driscoll, Jr.</i>	<i>Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>3/5/2025</i>
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>3/11/2025</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>3/19/2025</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/11/2025</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	<i>6/12/2025</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>7/10/2025</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 505**

---

By Ms. Creem, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 505) of Cynthia Stone Creem, Rebecca L. Rausch, Joanne M. Comerford, Carmine Lawrence Gentile and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish same day voter registration. Election Laws.

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act establishing same day voter registration.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 34 the  
2 following section:-

3 Section 34A. (a) An individual who is eligible to vote may register as a voter by  
4 appearing in person at the polling place for the precinct in which the individual resides, or by  
5 appearing in person at an early voting site for the city or town in which the individual resides,  
6 during the hours it is open for voting, by presenting proof of residence and by completing and  
7 signing an affidavit of registration in the form prescribed by the state secretary, which shall  
8 include substantially this oath: I certify that I am a citizen of the United States; am at least 18  
9 years old; am not under guardianship that prohibits me from voting; am not temporarily or  
10 permanently disqualified by law because of corrupt practices in respect to elections; have not and  
11 will not vote in any other location within the commonwealth or elsewhere; and understand that  
12 giving false information is punishable by not more than 5 years imprisonment or a fine of not

13 more than \$5,000, or both. The right to assistance in voting under section 79 of chapter 54 shall  
14 apply to individuals registering as voters under this section.

15 (b) As used in this section, the term “proof of residence” means one of the following, so  
16 long as it includes the name of the registrant and the address from which the registrant is  
17 registering:

18 (i) a valid photo identification including, but not limited to, a Massachusetts driver’s  
19 license or other state-issued identification card; or

20 (ii) other documentation demonstrating the name and address where the registrant resides  
21 and seeks to register including, but not limited to, a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,  
22 government check, residential lease agreement, wireless telephone statement, paycheck, other  
23 government document or correspondence, a current student fee statement or other document  
24 from a post-secondary educational institution that verifies the student’s current address.

25 (c) Upon compliance with subsection (a), an election officer shall permit the registrant to  
26 vote at that primary or election. Any person who registers to vote under this section shall be  
27 registered as a voter at all later primaries and elections, subject to this chapter.

28 (d) A registrant who fails to present proof of residence shall be permitted to deposit a  
29 provisional ballot under section 76C of chapter 54, but shall within 2 business days after the  
30 primary or within 6 days after the election present proof of residence to the city or town clerk.

31 (e) The registrars may correct information supplied by the registrant to the extent  
32 necessary to maintain the integrity of their records. If an affidavit is incomplete or if it appears

33 from the facts set forth in the affidavit that the registrant is not qualified to register as a voter, the  
34 registrars shall proceed in accordance with section 47.

35 (f) As soon as practicable after the primary or election, the registrars shall add the  
36 registrant's name, address and effective date of registration to the register of voters.

37 (g) A voter shall not change party enrollment at a primary under this section.

38 (h) Upon credible information or allegation of illegal voter registration, or credible  
39 information or allegation of illegal multiple voting, the registrars shall proceed under section 48,  
40 and the attorney general or the appropriate district attorney shall investigate the information or  
41 allegation. Nothing in this subsection shall exclude enforcement by any means otherwise  
42 provided by law.

43 (i) Violations of this section shall be punished under sections 8, 26 and 27 of chapter 56.

## Joint Committee on Election Laws

### Bill Summary

---

<b><u>BILL NUMBER</u></b>	Senate, No. 524
<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	An Act relative to voting rights restoration
<b><u>SPONSORS</u></b>	Senators Miranda and Jehlen
<b><u>SUMMARY</u></b>	

Restores voting rights to individuals incarcerated with a felony conviction in statute.

**SENATE . . . . . No. 524**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Liz Miranda*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to voting rights restoration.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>5/1/2025</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 524**

---

By Ms. Miranda, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 524) of Liz Miranda for legislation relative to voting rights. Election Laws.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 428 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to voting rights restoration.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to restore voting rights to incarcerated citizens of the Commonwealth , therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 50 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 138 and 139, the following words:-  
3 “, except if by reason of a felony conviction”.

4           SECTION 2. Section 1 of chapter 51 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
5 amended by striking out, in lines 2 and 3, the following words:- “or incarcerated in a correctional  
6 facility due to a felony conviction,”.

# Joint Committee on Election Laws

## Bill Summary

---

**BILL NUMBER** Senate, No. 2552

**TITLE** An Act authorizing the town of Berkley to recall elected officials

**SPONSORS** Senator Dooner; Representative Orrall of Lakeville

### **SUMMARY**

Permits the town of Berkley to recall and remove local elected officials from their position, so long as it's not during the first or last 6 months of their term. 25 voters registered within Berkley will have to file an affidavit with the Town Clerk in order to receive an official petition to gather signatures. The petition must include the signatures of at least 15% of registered voters of each precinct eligible to vote in the most recent town election. The petition will have to be returned to the Clerk within 20 days. The Registrars will have 7 business days to certify the number of signatures. If the officer, who is notified by the Town Clerk, does not resign the office within 5 days following receipt of the notice, the Board of Selectmen is required to order a special election to be held no more than 90 days after the notice. The incumbent shall continue to perform the duties of the office until the recall election. If not re-elected in the recall election, the officer shall be deemed removed upon qualification of his/her successor who shall hold office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2552**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Kelly A. Dooner and Norman J. Orrall*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act authorizing the town of Berkley to recall elected officials.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Kelly A. Dooner*

*Third Bristol and Plymouth*

*Norman J. Orrall*

*12th Bristol*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2552**

---

By Mrs. Dooner and Mr. Orall of Berkeley, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2552) of Kelly A. Dooner and Norman J. Orrall (by vote of the town) to authorize the town of Berkley to recall elected officials. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act authorizing the town of Berkley to recall elected officials.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           Section 1. Any holder of elective office in the town of Berkley may be recalled and  
2 removed therefrom by qualified voters of the town as herein provided. An initial recall affidavit  
3 shall not be filed against an officer within 6 months after the officer takes office or within the last  
4 6 months of such officer's term.

5           Section 2. Twenty Five (25) registered voters of the town may file with the Town Clerk  
6 an affidavit containing the name of the officer sought to be recalled and a statement of the  
7 grounds for recall. Once the names that appear on the affidavit are certified by the Board of  
8 Registrars of Voters, the Town Clerk shall thereupon deliver to the voter first named on such  
9 affidavit a sufficient number of copies of petition blanks demanding such recall. The petition  
10 blanks shall be issued by the Town Clerk with the Town Clerk's signature and official seal of the  
11 Town attached thereto. They shall be dated and addressed to the Board of Selectmen; shall  
12 contain the name of the person to whom they are issued, the number of petition blanks so issued,

13 the name of the person whose recall is sought, and the grounds for recall as stated in the  
14 affidavit; and shall demand the election of a successor to such office. The affidavit shall be kept  
15 with the town records in the office of the Town Clerk.

16 Section 3. The recall petition shall bear the signatures and residential addresses of at least  
17 fifteen percent of registered voters of each precinct eligible to vote in the most recent Town  
18 Election. The recall petition shall be returned to the Town Clerk within twenty (20) business  
19 days after the Clerk issues the petition. The petitions containing the signatures requesting a recall  
20 election need not all be submitted at the same time. A copy of each petition shall be maintained  
21 with the records of the subject recall election.

22 Section 4. The Town Clerk shall within five business days of receipt submit the petition  
23 to the Registrars of Voters in the Town, and the Registrars shall within seven business days  
24 certify thereon the number of signatures which are names of registered eligible voters.

25 Section 5. If the Town Clerk determines that the certified petitions meet the requirements  
26 as described in the previous sections, he/she shall give notice without delay, in writing, by  
27 certified mail to the elected officer whose recall is sought by sending to said officer a copy of the  
28 affidavit and the recall petition form together with notice of the number of qualified voters  
29 certified by the Town Clerk who signed the recall petition forms and the total number of  
30 qualified voters in the Town as of the most recent Town election.

31 If the officer to whom notice is directed by the Town Clerk does not resign the office  
32 within five days following receipt of the aforesaid notice from the Town Clerk, the Town Clerk  
33 shall give notice in writing to the Board of Selectmen not later than two (2) business days  
34 following the expiration of the foregoing five days. The Board of Selectmen shall order a special

35 election to be held not more than ninety days after receipt of the notice from the Town Clerk as  
36 aforesaid, and not less than sixty-four days from the date of the order. If, however, any Town  
37 election is to be held within one-hundred days of receipt by the Board of Selectmen of notice  
38 from the Town Clerk, the recall election shall be postponed and shall be held at such time in  
39 conjunction with such other election. If a vacancy occurs in the office for any reason after a  
40 recall election has been ordered by the Board of Selectmen, the recall election shall nevertheless  
41 proceed as provided herein.

42           Section 6: An officer whose recall is sought may be a candidate to succeed  
43 himself/herself and, unless he/she requests otherwise in writing to the Town Clerk, said Town  
44 Clerk shall place his/her name on the official ballot without nomination. The nomination of other  
45 candidate(s), publication of the warrant for the recall election and conduct of same shall be in  
46 accordance with the provisions of law of the Commonwealth relating to elections, unless  
47 otherwise provided in this act.

48           Section 7: The incumbent shall continue to perform the duties of the office until the recall  
49 election. If then re-elected he/she shall continue in office for the remainder of his/her unexpired  
50 term, subject to recall as before, except as provided in section nine. If not re-elected in the recall  
51 election, he/she shall be deemed removed upon qualification of his/her successor who shall hold  
52 office for the remainder of the unexpired term. If the successor fails to qualify within seven days  
53 after receiving notification of his/her election, the incumbent shall thereupon be deemed  
54 removed and the office vacant.

55           Section 8: Ballots used in a recall election shall submit the following propositions in the  
56 order indicated:

57 For the recall of (name of officer)

58 Against the recall of (name of officer)

59 Immediately at the right of each proposition there shall be a square in which the voter, by  
60 making a cross mark (x), may vote either of the said propositions. Under the propositions shall  
61 appear the word "Candidates," the directions to voters required by section forty-two of chapter  
62 forty-four of the General Laws, and beneath this the names of candidates nominated as  
63 hereinbefore provided. If the majority of the votes cast upon the question of recall is in the  
64 affirmative, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. If a  
65 majority of votes on the question is in the negative, the ballots for candidates shall not be  
66 counted."

67 Section 9: No person who has been recalled from an office in said town, or who has  
68 resigned from office while recall proceedings were pending against him/her, shall be appointed  
69 to any town office within two years after such removal by recall or resignation.

70 Section 10: This act shall take effect upon its passage.