



# Massachusetts

- **Chief election official:** Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin; elected in 2022 for a four-year term
- **Who runs elections locally:** City Clerks, Town Clerks, Registrars and Election Commissioners
- **Number of jurisdictions:** 351
- **State website:** [www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/elections-and-voting.htm](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/elections-and-voting.htm)

| ELECTION POLICY  | STATUS  | NATIONAL COMPARISON  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>VOTER REGISTRATION</b>  |   |  |
| Online voter registration  | OVR permitted   | 42 states and D.C. have online voter registration  |
| Automatic/automated voter registration                               | AVR permitted   | 24 states and D.C. have automatic voter registration   |
| Type of state voter registration database                            | Top-down  | 36 states and D.C. use top-down; seven states use bottom-up; seven states use a hybrid system                    |
| Pre-registration   | 16-year-olds may preregister  | 22 states and D.C. permit pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds  |
| Election Day/same-day registration                                   | Permitted during early voting   | 22 states and D.C. have same-day registration  |
| Registration deadline  | 10 days before Election Day   | National average is 20 days before Election Day  |
| <b>VOTING</b>  |   |  |
| Voter ID for in-person voting  | ID not required if presented at the time of registration*             | 36 states require ID to vote in person   |
| Early in-person voting   | 17 days before Election Day**   | 47 states and D.C. allow early in-person voting; national average is 26 days                                     |
| Vote centers   | Used for early voting only  | 30 states and D.C. allow vote centers  |
| No-excuse absentee voting  | Permitted for mail ballots  | 28 states permit no-excuse absentee voting   |
| Mails ballots to all registered voters (aka "mostly mail elections") | Ballots are not mailed to all registered voters                       | Eight states and D.C. mail ballots to all registered voters  |
| Deadline for absentee/mail ballot return                             | 5 p.m. on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> day after the election***               | 31 states require ballots returned by Election Day   |
| Laws governing who can return a voted ballot                         | Voter's family member   | 32 states have laws governing ballot collection  |
| Ballot drop boxes  | Permitted   | Six states prohibit; 23 states permit; other states are silent   |
| Ballot cure process  | Ballot cure process offered statewide                                 | 30 states and D.C. have a ballot cure process  |
| When absentee/mail ballot processing begins                          | Upon receipt  | 34 states and D.C. begin processing before Election Day  |
| Electronic ballot return   | Permitted for UOCAVA voters and voters who cannot mark a paper ballot | 33 states and D.C. allow for military and overseas voters; 13 states and D.C. allow for voters with disabilities |
| <b>OTHER</b>   |   |  |
| Pre-election audits (logic and accuracy testing)                     | Uses pre-election audits  | 47 states and D.C. have pre-election audits  |
| Post-election tabulation audits                                      | Uses post-election audits only after presidential elections           | 48 states and D.C. require post-election audits  |
| State primary type   | Open to unaffiliated voters   | Primaries range from fully open to fully closed  |

\* ID required for first-time voters and voters who cannot be verified by HAVA.

\*\* EIPV dates are different for primaries.

\*\*\*Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day for biennial state elections. Ballots must be received by the close of polls for primary and municipal elections.

**Note:** Neither NCSL nor the U.S. Election Assistance Commission advocate for or against any election policies.

**For more information, contact NCSL at [elections-info@ncsl.org](mailto:elections-info@ncsl.org) or 303-364-7700. For information on federal grants see [www.eac.gov/grants](http://www.eac.gov/grants).**



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Use this QR code to access links to the EAC's election resources.

