



# Votes

## VOTER REGISTRATION GUIDE January 2020

This Voter Registration Guide explains procedures for registering to vote and applying for an absentee ballot in Massachusetts (Part I), and registering to vote and voting by absentee ballot in other states (Part II). An Appendix with more information is found at the end.

### **PART I: VOTING IN MASSACHUSETTS**

Individuals who will be 18 years old on March 3, are a US citizen, and reside in Massachusetts (a college residence counts) are eligible to vote in Massachusetts. They must register at least 20 days before Election Day. The **deadline** to register to vote in the presidential primary election is **February 12, 2020**.

#### **Register via Turbovote**

BU Turbovote ([bu.turbovote.org](http://bu.turbovote.org)) will walk individuals through the process of registering to vote. You can set up text messages to remind you about voting deadlines. BU Votes recommends that all BU community members sign up with Turbovote to get reminders even if they are already registered to vote.

Once on Turbovote, individuals with a Massachusetts driver's license or learning permit (i.e. their signature is on file with the Registry of Motor Vehicles) will be directed to the Massachusetts election website to complete their voter registration online.

Individuals without a signature on file with Massachusetts must send in a paper voter registration form. They may enter their information through Turbovote, print out the form, add their ID number (last four digits of Social Security number or if no SS number, None), sign and date it, and mail it in.

If you register on your phone without access to a printer, you may send the form to your e-mail address to print and complete later. OR Turbovote will send you a paper copy to complete, sign, and mail in. That process will take about one week at least.

More information on Turbovote is found here: [turbovote.org](http://turbovote.org).

#### **Register via Massachusetts Secretary of State Website**

If you prefer not to use Turbovote, you may go directly to the online Voter Registration Form on the Massachusetts Secretary of State's website here: [www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/Welcome.aspx](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/Welcome.aspx). You can register online if you have a signature on file with Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles. If not, you can fill out the form online, print it, complete, sign, and date it, and mail it in.

As an alternative, you can print a hard copy of the Massachusetts form, complete it by hand, and mail it in. The form is available here:

[www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/Voter-reg-mail-in.pdf](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/Voter-reg-mail-in.pdf). You must add the mailing address of your municipality, available on the Massachusetts Secretary of State's election website under Publications: [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleclk/clkidx.htm#b](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleclk/clkidx.htm#b).

### **Changes to a Massachusetts Registration**

Once you are registered in Massachusetts, you can go online to change your name or address, and enroll or un-enroll in a political party. Every time you change your residence, you must change your voter registration address. If students register in January for the March primary, then move to a new dorm in September, they must change their registration address. However, there is a six-month grace period in Massachusetts where they may go to the polling place where they were previously registered, as long as they have not filed their change of address.

Some fear that changing their voter registration to Boston will increase the likelihood that they will be called to jury duty. However, Boston colleges and universities usually send a list of enrolled students to the city, so students are already eligible to be called for jury duty.

You don't have to change your car registration if you change your voter registration. If you have a permanent address in another place, you can keep your car registered there.

**WARNING:** If students have scholarships or loans that are contingent on residence in a certain place, they should not change their voter registration to another location. They should vote by absentee ballot.

### **Voting by Absentee Ballot in Massachusetts**

If individuals will be away from their municipality on Election Day or physically unable to go to the polls in person, they may apply for an absentee ballot and vote by mail. The ballot will be mailed to the address listed on the application. It must be returned to the municipality by Election Day.

An absentee ballot application lasts for one calendar year. If you applied for an absentee ballot in 2019, you must file a new application for 2020.

You may fill out the Massachusetts absentee ballot application through Turbovote. The absentee ballot application cannot be filed online since a signature is required. You may print the completed form from Turbovote, sign it, and mail it in. If you complete the form on your phone, you may send it to your e-mail address and print it later.

As an alternative, Turbovote will mail the completed absentee ballot application to you. You must sign it and mail it to your municipal election office. Turbovote will insert the proper address.

You may also download the absentee ballot application directly from the Massachusetts Secretary of State's Election website: [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/absentee/English-Absentee-Ballot-Application.pdf](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/absentee/English-Absentee-Ballot-Application.pdf). You must fill it in manually, sign in, and mail it in to your municipality. Contact information for municipal election offices are available on the Massachusetts Secretary of State's election website: [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleclk/clkidx.htm#b](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleclk/clkidx.htm#b).

You may also send your completed application form to your municipality electronically. Take a clear photo of your printed, signed application and e-mail it to your municipality's election office. The e-mail address listed on the contact list is not necessarily the right address to send the absentee ballot application to. Call that office directly to confirm the proper e-mail address.

Note that if your permanent address is in Boston and you are living at BU, you cannot get an absentee ballot. You must go home to vote on Election Day unless you change your registration to your BU address.

### **Massachusetts Presidential Primary Election Day**

The Presidential Primary in Massachusetts will be held on **March 3, 2020**, Super Tuesday. Fourteen states will vote on that day, one-third of the US population. Polls in Massachusetts will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you are in line when the poll closes, you will still be allowed to vote.

## **PART II: VOTING IN OTHER STATES**

Some students prefer to vote by absentee ballot in their home state. Every state sets its own procedures for voter registration and voting by absentee ballot. Information about voting regulations can be found on state election office websites. The voter education website Rock the Vote has links to state election websites here: [www.rockthevote.org/voting-information](http://www.rockthevote.org/voting-information).

### **Registering to Vote in Other States by Turbovote**

Just as in Massachusetts, Turbovote will walk you through the voter registration process in other states. Some states require residents to register to vote in their county, so you will need to know what county your permanent residence is in (Moms can be very helpful in this regard!) Some states allow online registration if you have a driver's license in that state, as in Massachusetts. Others require a paper form.

After filling in the voter registration form, you may print, sign, and mail it, the fastest way. Or Turbovote will mail the completed forms to you for signing and mailing. If you register on your phone, you may send the form to your e-mail address to print later.

### **Registering to Vote through the US Election Assistance Commission**

The US Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is charged with facilitating voting behavior as outlined in the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. It was created to improve voting procedures after the problems that emerged in the contested 2000 presidential election (remember hanging chads??)

The EAC maintains a National Voter Registration Form that can be used to register to vote in every state. Turbovote uses the National Form. The National Form and instructions for each state can be downloaded here: [www.eac.gov/assets/1/6/Federal\\_Voter\\_Registration\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/6/Federal_Voter_Registration_ENG.pdf). The Form is

produced in 15 languages that can be accessed here: <[www.eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form/](http://www.eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form/)>.

Some states require that voters supply information on their racial and ethnic background to comply with federal voting regulations. Instructions for each state are found with the National Form and should be consulted when helping students register in other states.

### **Voting by Absentee Ballot in Other States**

Absentee voting regulations vary wildly by state. The best way to locate information is through Rock the Vote that will direct you to your state elections office: <[www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/](http://www.rockthevote.org/voting-information/)>. Some states allow online applications for absentee ballots, while other states require that voters send a paper letter to request an application for an absentee ballot.

To prepare for helping students apply for an absentee ballot, you can browse the Rock the Vote site for the top states that BU students hail from: NY, CA, MA, NJ, CT, FL, PA, TX, IL, MD.

## APPENDIX

### ZIP CODES FOR MUNICIPALITIES NEAR BU

To mail your voter registration form or absentee ballot application, you must address it to the municipality where you want to register. Write the city or town and the zip code as listed below:

Boston	02201
Brookline	02445
Cambridge	02139
Somerville	02143
Newton	02459

Other municipalities are found on the Massachusetts election website here:  
<[www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/electk/clkidx.htm#b](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/electk/clkidx.htm#b)>.

### WHERE DO I VOTE?

Once you register to vote, the Elections Office will send you a notice telling you where to vote.

If you moved within the last six months but didn't change your registration, you can vote at your old polling place. Bring an ID with your old address in the unlikely event that you are questioned.

Here are voting locations for some BU residences:

#### **Vote in Kilachand Hall Room 101 if you reside at**

91 Bay State Road (Kilachand Hall)  
140 Bay State Road (The Towers)  
575 Commonwealth Ave  
610 Beacon St (Myles Standish Hall)

These residences are in Ward 5 Precinct 10

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#### **Vote at St. Cecilia Parish Hall if you reside at**

512 Beacon St (Danielsen Hall)

St. Cecilia's is at 18 Belvidere Street  
(Use the ground level glass doors)  
This is in Ward 5 Precinct 9

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#### **Vote at 111 Cummington Street, Student Lounge Room 144, if you reside at**

273 Babcock St (Clafin Hall)  
275 Babcock St (Sleeper Hall)  
277 Babcock St (Rich Hall)  
33 Harry Agganis Way (Student Village)

700 Commonwealth Ave (Warren Towers)

These residences are in Ward 21 Precinct 2

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**Vote at Jackson Mann School Auditorium (500 Cambridge St) if you reside at 1019 Commonwealth Ave**

This is in Ward 21 Precinct 3

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**Vote at Simmons College Lefavour Hall L-001 and L-002  
2 Avenue Louis Pasteur, if you reside at  
150 Riverway (Campus Center Student Residence)  
162 Riverway (Riverway House)**

These Fenway Campus residences are in Ward 4 Precinct 10

**FOR OTHER ADDRESSES, CHECK YOUR VOTING LOCATION HERE:**

[<www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/bal/MyElectionInfo.aspx>](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/bal/MyElectionInfo.aspx)

**YOU MAY HAVE TO SHOW SOME ID WHEN YOU CHECK IN TO VOTE!**

- if you are voting for the first time in a federal election in Massachusetts
- if you have neither a Mass. driver's license or a Social Security number
- if the poll workers suspect you have given a false name
- if you haven't voted in a long time

Your **ID must show your name and the address** you listed on the registration form

- utility bill
- rent receipt or lease
- voter registration confirmation letter
- bank statement
- pay stub
- any credible printed identification that gives your name and address
- it does NOT have to be a photo ID

BU Student IDs that do not include your address cannot be used for voting purposes.

### **IN THE POLLING PLACE**

1) Check in at your precinct table, giving your address first, then your name

If there is a line, make sure you are at the right precinct table.

If your name is not on the list, you have the right to cast a provisional ballot.

2) Take your ballot and go to a voting booth.

3) Mark ballot as directed at the top: filling in oval, connecting arrow, etc.

- 4) If you need help due to limited English or disability, you may take someone into the voting booth with you. If you make a mistake and need a new ballot, ask the poll worker for a new ballot (turn in the mistaken one).
- 5) Take your ballot to the check-out table and give your address and name again.
- 6) Insert your ballot in the ballot box.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, CALL THE MASS. ELECTIONS OFFICE: 1-800-462-8683**



Massachusetts Official  
**Absentee Ballot Application**

See reverse side for instructions



William Francis Galvin  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

**Voter  
Information**

**1**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Voting Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ballot  
Information**  
*(Independent  
voters may vote in  
a primary without  
registering with a  
party)*

**2**

Mail Ballot to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ballot Requested For:

- All elections this year
- All general elections (No primaries)
- A specific election: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Date of Election*

Party (only if requesting primary ballot):

State Primaries: \_\_\_\_\_

Presidential Primary: \_\_\_\_\_

**Special  
Circumstances**  
*(If applicable)*

**3**

- This application is being made by a family member of the voter.  
Relationship to voter: \_\_\_\_\_
- Voter is a member of military on active duty or dependent family member of active duty personnel.
- Voter is a Massachusetts citizen residing overseas.
- Voter has been admitted to a healthcare facility after noon on the fifth day before the election and has designated the following person to hand-deliver the ballot: \_\_\_\_\_
- Voter required assistance in completing application due to physical disability.  
Assisting person's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assisting person's address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (under penalty of perjury): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Voter Registration Application

Before completing this form, review the General, Application, and State specific instructions.

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Will you be 18 years old on or before election day? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <b>If you checked "No" in response to either of these questions, do not complete form.</b> (Please see state-specific instructions for rules regarding eligibility to register prior to age 18.)		This space for office use only.				
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jr <input type="checkbox"/> II <input type="checkbox"/> Sr <input type="checkbox"/> IV	
2	Home Address		Apt. or Lot #	City/Town	State	Zip Code
3	Address Where You Get Your Mail If Different From Above			City/Town	State	Zip Code
4	Date of Birth ____/____/____ Month Day Year		5 Telephone Number (optional)	6 ID Number - (See item 6 in the instructions for your state)		
7	Choice of Party (see item 7 in the instructions for your State)		8 Race or Ethnic Group (see item 8 in the instructions for your State)			
9	I have reviewed my state's instructions and I swear/affirm that: ■ I am a United States citizen ■ I meet the eligibility requirements of my state and subscribe to any oath required. ■ The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, I may be fined, imprisoned, or (if not a U.S. citizen) deported from or refused entry to the United States.			Please sign full name (or put mark) ▲ _____ Date: _____ Month Day Year		

If you are registering to vote for the first time: please refer to the application instructions for information on submitting copies of valid identification documents with this form.

### Please fill out the sections below if they apply to you.

If this application is for a **change of name**, what was your name before you changed it?

A	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jr <input type="checkbox"/> II <input type="checkbox"/> Sr <input type="checkbox"/> IV
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If you were registered before but this is the first time you are registering from the address in Box 2, what was your address where you were registered before?

B	Street (or route and box number)	Apt. or Lot #	City/Town/County	State	Zip Code
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If you live in a rural area but do not have a street number, or if you have no address, please show on the map where you live.

C	■ Write in the names of the crossroads (or streets) nearest to where you live. ■ Draw an X to show where you live. ■ Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores, or other landmarks near where you live, and write the name of the landmark.	NORTH ↑			
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Example</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">Route #2</td> <td style="width: 60%;">                     ● Grocery Store                      Woodchuck Road                      Public School ● X                 </td> </tr> </table>	Example	Route #2	● Grocery Store Woodchuck Road Public School ● X	
Example	Route #2	● Grocery Store Woodchuck Road Public School ● X			

If the applicant is unable to sign, who helped the applicant fill out this application? Give name, address and phone number (phone number optional).

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**Mail this application to the address provided for your State.**