



# HOW TO VOTE IN MASSACHUSETTS

A Quick Guide for People with Disabilities Voting in the 2022 General Election on or Before November 8, 2022.



## REGISTERING TO VOTE

- **How can I register to vote?** You can register:
  - If you have already registered, you can check if you are registered to vote at [vote411.org](https://vote411.org).
  - Online at Massachusetts's [Online Voter Registration Website](#).
  - By downloading and mailing the Massachusetts [mail in registration form](#).
- **When do I need to register?** Be sure to register to vote on or before October 29, 2022. Massachusetts does not allow people to register after this date or on Election Day for this election.
- **Do I need identification (ID) to register?** You will need to have a Massachusetts address and Massachusetts state ID card or driver's license. You can use your social security number if you don't have a state ID.
- **Can I vote if I have a disability?** Yes! People with disabilities who are 18 years old or older have the right to vote. Your vote matters and is protected by laws to make sure voting is accessible, independent, and private. If you have a guardian, you can still vote, unless a judge said you cannot vote. For help understanding or getting back your right to vote, contact your local [Protection and Advocacy Agency \(P&A\)](#).

- **Can I vote if I have gone to jail or prison?** If you have gone to jail or prison, you should check to see if you are allowed to vote. Learn about voting rights for people who have [gone to jail or prison](#). You can also [contact your local P&A](#).



## LEARNING ABOUT THE ISSUES

- **What is a ballot?** A ballot is a list of who and what you can vote for. Your ballot will list candidates who are running for different offices, such as Senator or Representative. You vote by marking your choice on the ballot.
- **What is a ballot measure?** Sometimes, your ballot will have ballot measures. A ballot measure is a law, issue, or question that you can vote on. Voters get to decide if they agree or disagree with the ballot measure by voting yes to agree or no to disagree. You can learn about ballot measures on the Massachusetts [election website](#).
- **Can I look at my ballot before I go to vote?** Enter your home address in [Ballotpedia's Sample Ballot Lookup](#). This tool will give you a "sample ballot," which will show you what will be on your ballot when you vote.



## VOTING IN PERSON

- **Where do I need to go to vote?** The place where you go to vote in person is called a polling place. You can find your local polling place through the Massachusetts election website. [Find your polling place](#).
- **Can I vote before Election Day?** Massachusetts allows any voter to vote in person before Election Day during the Early Voting period. You can vote between October 22 and November 4, 2022 to avoid lines on Election Day!
- **Can I vote outside if the polling place is inaccessible?** No, Massachusetts does not allow voters to vote outside the polling place if it is inaccessible.

- **What if I want help with filling out my ballot?** You may choose someone to help you vote. Your helper cannot be a candidate or your boss. If you are part of a labor union at work, the person who helps you vote cannot be a representative of that labor union. [What is a labor union?](#) You may also ask for help from poll workers at the polling place.
- **Do I need an ID?** Massachusetts does not require voters to show ID to vote in person, unless is their first time voting in a federal election in Massachusetts. [Learn about voter ID.](#)



## VOTING BY MAIL

- **Can I vote by mail?** If you have a disability or you are away from home on Election Day, you may be able to vote by mail-in ballot in Massachusetts.
- **How do I request a mail ballot?** You must request your ballot by mail, fax, or email from your local elections office. [Request your ballot.](#)
- **Can I get an electronic mail-in ballot?** Massachusetts allows voters who are blind, have low vision, have a physical disability, or have a learning disability that makes it difficult to read or mark a paper ballot to request an accessible vote by mail ballot that they can fill out and return electronically. [Learn how to request an electronic ballot.](#)
- **When do I need to request my ballot?** The last to request a mail-in ballot is November 1, 2022. Request your ballot as soon as possible to make sure that you receive your ballot on time.
- **Do I need to sign my ballot?** Be sure to sign your ballot or envelope when asked, since Massachusetts requires this signature to match one of your past signatures.
- **What if I want help with filling out my ballot?** You should be allowed to choose someone to help you with filling out your ballot. Someone helping you may need to complete a statement called an affidavit to be returned with the ballot. [What is an affidavit?](#)

- **How do I return my ballot?** You can return your ballot by mail or deliver it to the elections office. Some towns may have ballot drop boxes. If you are returning your ballot by mail, it must be postmarked by November 8, 2022, and received by election officials on November 11, 2022. If you are returning your ballot in person, it must be received by November 8, 2022.
- **Can someone return my ballot for me?** You may have a family member return your ballot for you.
- **Do I need an ID to vote by mail?** No, you do not need an ID when voting by mail unless you are voting for the first time in a federal election in Massachusetts.
- **Can I track my ballot?** Yes, you can track your ballot online to see if the elections office has received it. You can do this on the Massachusetts election website. [Track your ballot.](#)



## MORE VOTING HELP

- **Where can I find more info on how to vote?** Check out the Massachusetts [state election website](#). Learn about [voting assistance for voters with disabilities](#).
- **What if I am having trouble voting or registering to vote?** If you have any trouble voting, [contact your local P&A](#). The hotline number for voters with disabilities is 800-872-9992.
- **What if I have more questions?** Check out these resources:
  - [Massachusetts Voter Resources](#)
  - [Guardianship and Voting Laws](#)
  - [Resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Voters](#)
  - [Resources for Blind and Low Vision Voters](#)
  - [Easy Read and Plain Language Voting Resources](#)
  - [ASL Hotline](#): 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683)
  - [Election Protection Hotline](#): 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)



The 2022 State Voting Guides for Disabled Voters are made by the REV UP Voting Campaign at the American Association of People with Disabilities. This project was led by Sarah Blahovec with plain language support from Liz Weintraub at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities and input from REV UP organizers.