

# **YOU CAN VOTE**

CORI VOTER INFORMATION, Absentee voting information for those incarcerated pretrial or misdemeanor

**!!! Register by Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> !!!**

If you are a resident of Massachusetts, 18 years of age by election day, and a U.S. citizen **you have the right to vote so long as you are not incarcerated on a FELONY CONVICTION on election day.**

## **WHO CAN VOTE?**

- If you are not in jail but have a criminal record, **YOU CAN VOTE**
- If you are on probation or parole, **YOU CAN VOTE**
- If, on election day, you are incarcerated awaiting trial or for a misdemeanor conviction, **YOU CAN VOTE.**

It is extremely important that elected officials hear the voices of those who have been impacted by the criminal (in)justice system. To vote on November 7th, you must register to vote by October 17th (20 days prior to election day).

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## **How to Register to Vote in MA:**

Any person may register who is:

- ✓ A US citizen, and
- ✓ A resident of Massachusetts, and
- ✓ 18 years old on or before election day

**By Mail:** Mail-in registration forms are widely available. **To obtain a mail-in registration form call 617-727-2828 or 1-800-462-VOTE**, or from the internet: **<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elestu/stuidx.htm>** and a form will be sent to you. Mail the completed form to your local city or town hall. You should receive a confirmation notice in 2 to 3 weeks. If you do not, please contact your local election office to verify your voting status.

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**In Person:** Go to any registration location and complete an affidavit of registration, which must be answered truthfully under the penalty of perjury. The questions on the affidavit will include your name, residence and date of birth.

**At the Registry of Motor Vehicles:** Keep your motor voter receipt until you receive confirmation from your local election official. If you do not receive any confirmation, please contact your local election office to verify your voting status.

### **Can Prisoners Absentee Vote in Massachusetts?**

According to the League of Women Voters, prisoners (those in pretrial or on misdemeanor convictions) do not need to be registered in order to vote absentee.

#### **How Can I Acquire an Absentee Ballot?**

Those wishing to vote absentee must apply in writing to the city or town clerk or election commission, either in a letter or by filling out an application form available at the local election office (the appropriate form can also be downloaded at <http://www.state.ma.us/sec/ele/eleftv/howabs.htm>). The letter should include the following:

- Voter's name
- Voter's address as registered
- Voter's ward or precinct (if they are known)
- Address to which voter wants the absentee ballot sent
- The party ballot sought (if the election is a primary)
- Voter's signature.

Any voter may apply for an absentee ballot for a member of his/her family. If a voter wishes to vote absentee for more than one election in a year, he/she may make one application and ask that ballots for all elections that year be sent.

The deadline for applying for an absentee ballot is noon on the day before an election (though the ballots must be returned by the election day deadline). Absentee ballots are generally available three weeks before an election. If a voter is planning to vote in the clerk's office, he/she may apply for an absentee ballot and vote in the same visit.

#### **How do I Return the Absentee Ballot and What is the Deadline?**

The ballot to be returned by mail before the close of the polls on election day (8:00 p.m. For state elections).

The ballot must be signed, but with the implementation of the National Voter Registration Act, it is not necessary to have an absentee ballot witnessed.

For Questions: League of Women Voters of Massachusetts - (617) 723-1421



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