

## **MASSACHUSETTS - Fall 2020**

## Top Issues in the Field

- I. **Poll Schedule** –On Election Day, polling places must open by 7:00 a.m. and remain open until 8:00 p.m. A voter in line by 8:00 p.m. has the right to vote. For the November 3, 2020 general election, voters can vote early in their town or city from October 17, 2020, to October 30, 2020. A listing of all early voting locations, dates and times is available at <a href="https://www.MassEarlyVote.com">www.MassEarlyVote.com</a>.
- 2. **Voter ID** In some limited circumstances, a voter can be asked to provide ID at the polling place in order to vote. Acceptable ID is any documentation that includes the voter's name and address where they are registered to vote. Examples including a recent utility bill, a rent receipt, a lease, a copy of a voter registration affidavit, or a driver's license or a state-issued ID car. If a voter fails to provide any of these forms of ID, the voter must still be permitted to vote, although they may be given a provisional ballot. Voters given provisional ballots must return to the polling place and present identification before the polls close on election day.
- 3. **Accessibility** All polling locations must be accessible to voters with disabilities. Additionally, there should be voting equipment at every polling place to accommodate voters with disabilities, including non-visual accessibility for the blind and visually impaired.
- 4. **Language Assistance** If a voter cannot read, write, or speak English, the voter has the right to receive help with voting by a person of their choice. Alternatively, a voter can request that two election officers, each from a different political party, accompany them into the voting booth to assist them in completing their ballot.
- 5. **New Address** If a voter has moved in the past six months and has not registered at their new address, they may vote at their prior precinct.
- 6. **Mistake ballot** If a voter makes a mistake or "spoils" their ballot before casting it, the voter may return it and ask for another. Voters must be allowed up to three ballots.
- 7. **Polling place boundary** Voters have the right to wait to vote (and to vote) without anyone electioneering or trying to influence their vote in any other way within 150 feet from the building entrance door to a polling place.
- 8. **Provisional ballots** If a voter is not on the list of registered voters at a polling place, they still have the right to vote by provisional ballot if the voter executes a written confirmation that they were properly registered in the jurisdiction and reside within the geographical boundaries of the precinct in which the provisional ballot is being cast. **However, a provisional ballot should always be a last resort (see FAQs for alternative solutions).**

If you have any questions or to report any problems, call 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

