

Conducting a Voter Registration Drive in Massachusetts

Voter Registration Deadline

Applications must be received or postmarked by the 10th day before Election Day. If the final day for registration of voters falls on Sunday or a holiday, the preceding day is the final day for such registration.

Submit completed applications to the local registrar within five days of completion or the registration deadline, whichever comes first.

Getting Started

Training Requirement: Massachusetts does not require training for registration drives.

Notification and Registration Requirements:

Massachusetts does not have notification requirements for registration drives. The Secretary of State's office recommends checking with the local police department as each city and town may have different requirements for such solicitation.

Compensation Restrictions: Do not pay registration drive participants based on how many registrations they collect. Do not offer an applicant any incentive of monetary value to register to vote.

Obtaining Applications

State Form: The state registration application may be obtained by contacting the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 800-462-VOTE (8683) or 617-727-2828 or by on the Secretary of State's website here: sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/elections-and-voting.htm

Federal Form: The federal mail-in voter registration application may also be used in voter registration drives: eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form/

The federal form will not be accepted if it contains any markings or graphics – such as logos, organizational information, or contact information – other than those on the official form.

Photocopying Blank Forms: Blank copies of the federal and state voter registration forms may both be downloaded and photocopied for use in voter registration drives.

Handling Applications

Incomplete Applications: Do not fill in any missing information on a registration form unless you have express consent of the applicant, who is attesting to the truth of the information.

Photocopying Completed Applications: Massachusetts law contains no prohibitions against photocopying completed registration applications. However, be sure to only submit ORIGINAL completed forms with the ORIGINAL signature; a photocopied form will not be accepted. As a best practice, a voter's full or partial Social Security number and/or driver's license number should not be retained.

Submitting Completed Applications: A completed voter registration form shall be mailed, transmitted, or otherwise delivered within 5 calendar days of completion or by the registration deadline, whichever is earlier, to the board of registrars of the city or town in which the registration applicant resides.

Local registrar information can be found here: sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voter-resources/find-my-local-election-office.htm

Fair Elections Center, Campus Vote Project, and Nonprofit VOTE intend the information contained herein to be used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed Massachusetts legal professional.

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For more information, visit
www.fairelectionscenter.org