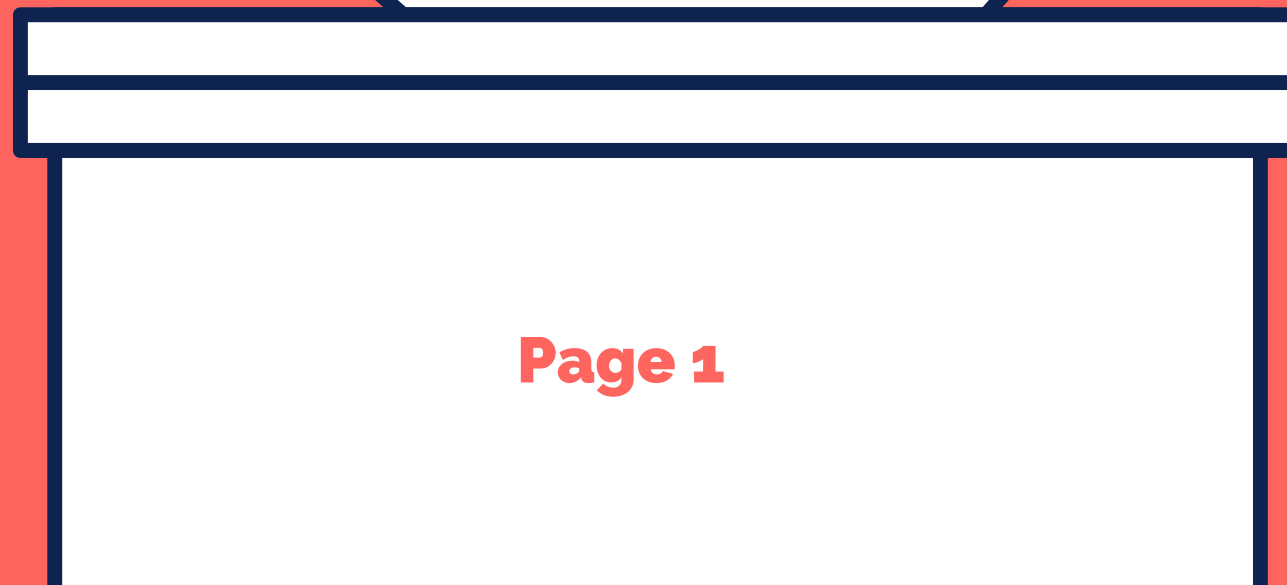


**VOTING RIGHTS & RESOURCES FOR
INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS IN BOSTON**

**A 5-PAGE GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY
MEMBERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS
IN BOSTON**

Prepared by Project Place





VOTING RIGHTS & RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN BOSTON

Voting Dates & Deadlines

Registration Deadline: 10 Days Before the Nov 3rd Election

Massachusetts General Election November 3rd, 2020

Voter Registration Deadline: Sat Oct 24, 2020

Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot: Wed Oct 28, 2020

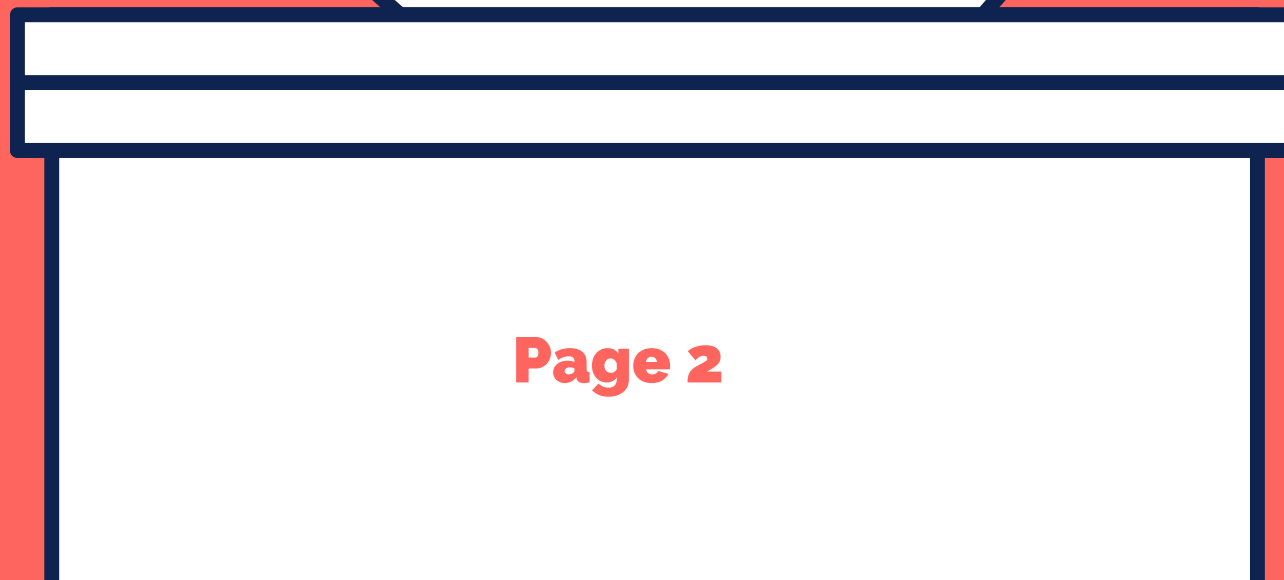
Deadline to Return Completed Absentee Ballot: Tue Nov 3, 2020

Other Questions on Voting Rights & Resources?

Visit:
[vote.org](https://www.vote.org)

For Boston information, call:
(617) 635-8683

For general Massachusetts information, call:
Toll-Free 1-800-462-VOTE (8683)



VOTING RIGHTS & RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN BOSTON

Common Questions:

Can someone who is homeless register and vote?

Yes, you can register and vote if you are homeless, without a permanent address.

Unsure if a person is already registered to vote and if registered is their address updated?

"Massachusetts automatically registers eligible individuals through the Department of Motor Vehicles, division of medical assistance, health insurance connector authority, and other agencies that collect what state law defines as reliable citizenship information."

You can check a voter registration status and make sure an address is up-to-date at:

bit.ly/CheckRegistrationStatusMA

What should a person list as their primary/home address if they are homeless?

A primary address is where a person lives. This is wherever they consider to be their primary residence to be. This can be a shelter or a relative or friend's place. If an individual is unsheltered and no associated with an address, it is advised that they select a shelter address that is closest to where they have been staying. There is also an option on the form to draw where you live on a map.

** Please see page 4 of this guide for more details on address and forms of identification.

Does the person registering have to have lived at this location for any particular length of time?

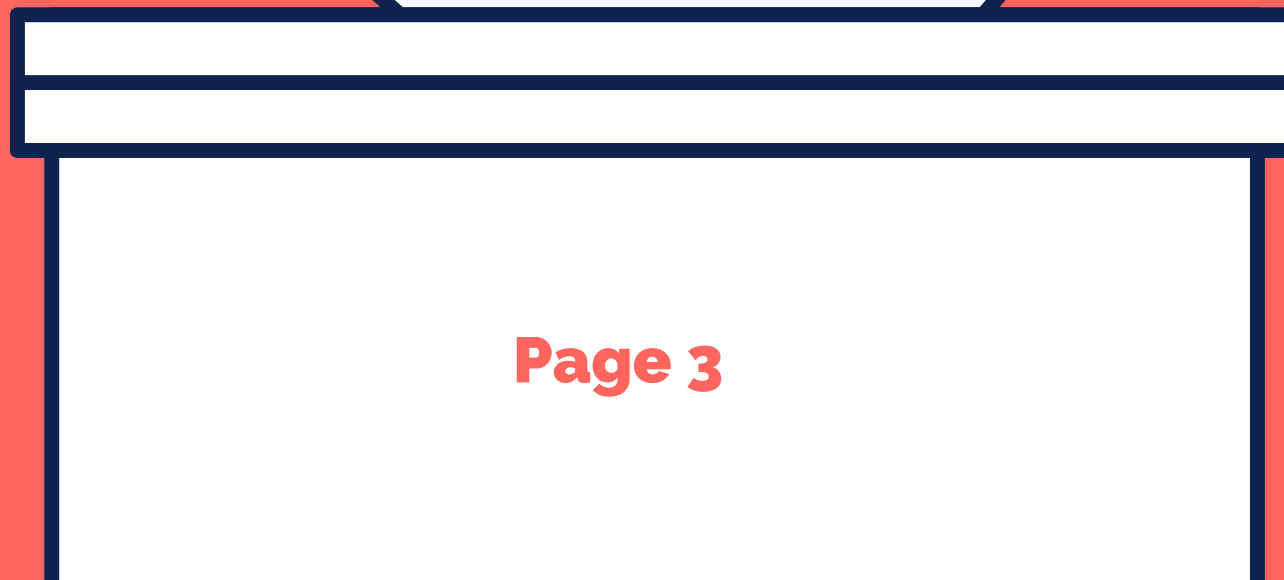
No, state law does not specify a length of time for which you must have been a resident to be eligible to vote.

If someone is incarcerated or has a criminal record, can they vote in MA?

In Massachusetts, individuals with a felony conviction cannot vote while incarcerated, but upon release voting rights are restored. If someone is in a halfway house for a current felony conviction, they are not eligible to vote. However, if someone is in a halfway house for a misdemeanor, or if they are being held before trial, they can vote.

Does a person need to be able to read or write in English in order to register and vote?

Individuals can register and vote if they cannot read or write in English. A family member or friend can provide assistance, or call the City of Boston for assistance at: 617-635-8683



VOTING RIGHTS & RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN BOSTON

How to Register to Vote

Step 1

"Massachusetts automatically registers eligible individuals through the Department of Motor Vehicles, division of medical assistance, health insurance connector authority, and other agencies that collect what state law defines as reliable citizenship information."

Check a voter registration status at: bit.ly/CheckRegistrationStatusMA

Step 2

Register Online:

If you have a state ID, you can register online at: bit.ly/RegisterMA2020

or

Register By Mail:

If you do not have a state ID, you will need to submit your application by mail or in-person. Print and follow all the instructions on the Mail-In Voter Registration Form and put in the mail:

www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/Voter-reg-mail-in.pdf

**Make sure to include a copy of identification with the form (See page 4 for instructions on acceptable forms of ID)

or

Register In-Person at Boston City Hall:

Registration forms are also available at Boston City Hall in the Election Department, Room 241. You may also submit completed registration forms in-person, at:

*Election Department
1 City Hall Square, Room 241
Boston, MA 02201*

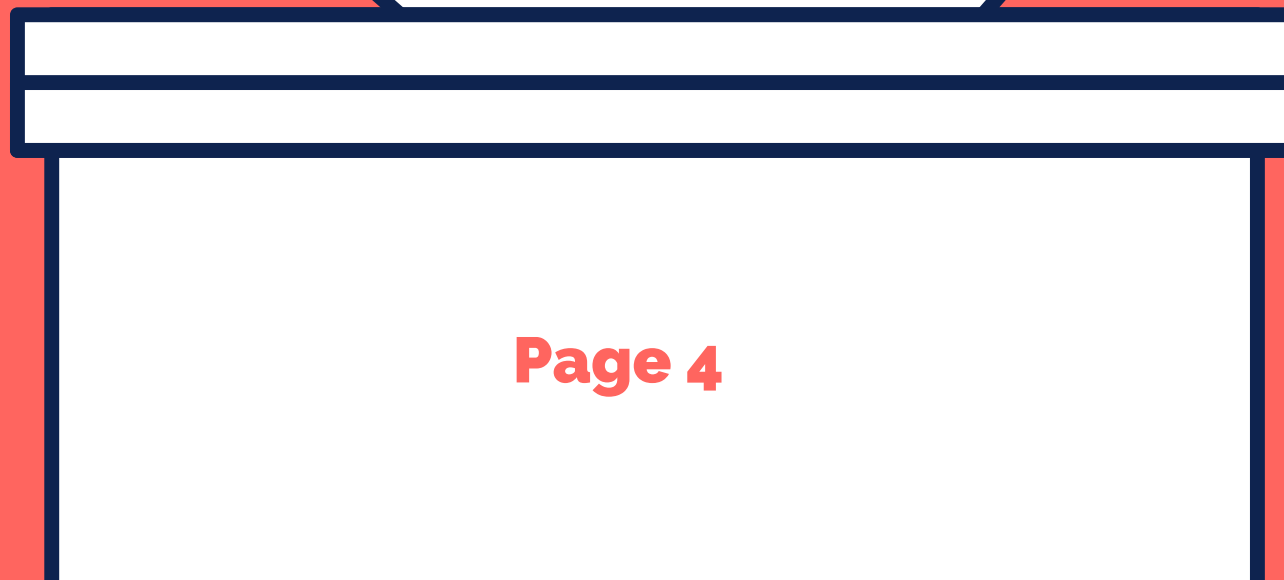
*Call for information: 617-635-8683
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m*

**Make sure to bring a form of identification with you (See page 4 for instructions on acceptable forms of ID)

Step 3

Make Sure Your Registration Was Processed:

It usually takes about 3 weeks for your registration to process, if you don't receive a letter in the mail after that time you should call the city's Elections Office and ask if you are registered.



VOTING RIGHTS & RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN BOSTON

Important Address & Identification Instructions for Voter Registration

What to put for your Primary Address (where you live):

Your primary address on line #4 on the registration form is where you live. This is wherever YOU consider to be your primary residence to be. This can be a shelter or a relative or friend's place. If you are unsheltered and not associated with any address, there is an option on the form to draw where you live on a map. Or you can select a shelter address that is closest to where you have been staying.

What is considered acceptable identification?

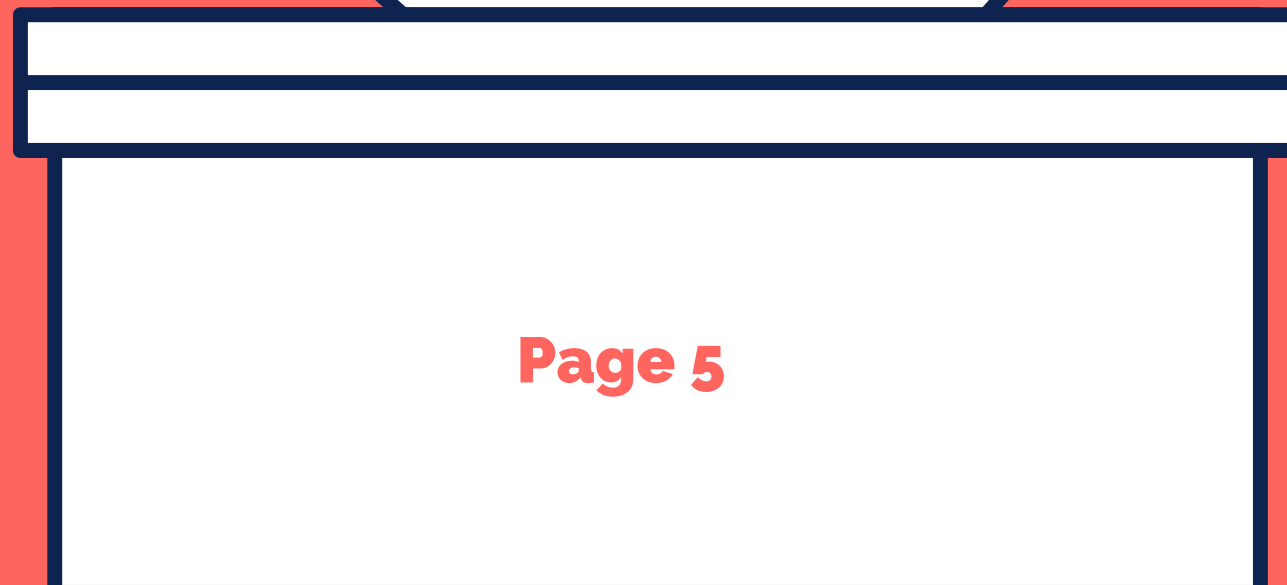
You do not have to include a copy of identification with your mail-in voter registration, but, if you do not, you may be required to present ID when you vote for the first time in a federal election.

The state's website says - "Sufficient identification includes a copy of a current and valid photo identification, current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document showing your name and address"

If you do not have an ID or any bills or paychecks that list your primary address, submit a copy of a piece of mail that was mailed to your primary address with your name on it as proof of identification/address. You may need to talk to your case manager to help coordinate this with your shelter. If you are unsheltered, and have no form of identification, you can contact the City of Boston to help you address your particular situation.

Mailing address?

If you feel another address is more reliable to receive mail at than your primary address, then you can list a different address for your mailing address on line #5 on the form. If you are receiving services at a nonprofit and want to list that nonprofit's address as your mailing address, this is an option so please talk to your case manager about helping you with this.



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VOTING RIGHTS & RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN BOSTON

How to Vote

Vote By Mail:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, every registered voter in Massachusetts has the right to vote by mail in all 2020 elections, no excuse needed. Once you are registered to vote, fill out a 2020 Vote By Mail Application to participate in this year's elections by mail (Read and follow all instructions carefully to ensure your vote is counted!):

www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2020-Vote-by-Mail-Application.pdf

Vote In-Person:

If you prefer, you can vote in-person in the upcoming elections.
You can find your polling place here:

www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema//bal/myelectioninfo.aspx

The City of Boston website says - "You have to vote at the place determined by your address. After you register, you'll get a notice with the address for where you'll go to vote. You can check your voting location online. Make sure you are registered to vote at the address you are looking up. Please remember your ward and precinct number. Some voting locations have more than one precinct."

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