Massachusetts General Laws Voter Registration

A. Current/New	A. Current/New Town/City Resident List & On Town/City Preceding Year Voter Register List & Not on Current Town/City Voter Register List				
	Face To Face Accepted	Written Doc Accepted			
MGL 51 §37		Refers to Annual Register List	Shall, on or before the first Monday of June in each year, send notice in writing to each voter of the preceding year whose name has not been entered in the annual register of the current year that the name of such voter may be removed from the voting list if the voter fails to respond to the notice and does not vote in the next two biennial state elections following the mailing of such notice. SEE Appendix A; Appendix B; Appendix D; Appendix E		
MGL 51 §38			Removal/Corrections. Registrars may require such facts to presented to registrars in writing, signed under penalties of perjury. SEE Appendix B; Appendix D; Appendix E		

B. Current Town/City Resident List & On Town/City Current Voter Register List

	Face To Face Accepted	Written Doc Accepted	Comments
MGL 51 §1	Defining who may have name on Voter Register List.	Defining who may have name on Voter Register List.	 Notwithstanding any special law to the contrary, every such citizen who resides within the boundaries of any district, as defined in section one A of chapter forty-one, may vote for district officers and in any district meeting thereof, and no other person may so vote. SEE Appendix C.; Appendix E. A person otherwise qualified to vote for national or state officers shall not, by reason of a change of residence within the commonwealth, be disqualified from voting for such national or state officers in the city or town from which he has removed his residence until the expiration of 6 months from such removal. SEE Appendix C.; Appendix D; Appendix E.; Appendix G.
MGL 51 §2	Regarding: Name change.	Regarding: Name change.	See Correction to Town/City Current Voter Register List. SEE Appendix D
MGL 51 §3		Residence shall be from Jan 1 st from <u>previous</u> year. Change of residency	Where vote for elections held <u>before</u> June 1 st of any year. SEE Appendix E. See also MGL 51 §14B
MGL 51 §3		Residence shall be from Jan 1 st of <u>current</u> year. Change of residency	Where vote for elections held on or <u>afte</u> r June 1 st of any year. SEE Appendix E. See also MGL 51 §14B

B. Current Town/City Resident List & On Town/City Current Voter Register List (cont.)

	Face To Face Accepted	Written Doc Accepted	Comments
MGL 51 §4A	YES	YES	During the annual listing of residents, the registrars shall notify residents of the opportunity to register as voters. Requires affidavit. SEE Appendix C.; Appendix D
MGL 51 §4(c)	MGL 51 §4: Annual Town Census	MGL 51 §4: Annual Town Census	"Warning - failure to respond to this mailing for 2 consecutive years shall result in removal from the active voting list and may result in removal from the voter registration rolls.". SEE Appendix C.
MGL 51 §6			Street lists Census
MGL 51 §7			Every person so listed [annual current town/city census list] shall, if he is a registered voter, be so designated by an asterisk or other symbol. MGL 51 §6 public copies by June 15.
MGL 51 §10A			Census
MGL 51 §14B	Determination legal residence.	Determination legal residence.	Any special law April first is stated as the date as of which the legal residence of any person shall be determined, such residence shall be determined as of <u>January first</u> instead of April first. SEE Appendix C; Appendix D; Appendix F
MGL 51 §35	N/A	Compare all omitted listing (Inactive) with annual (April 15) register of voters preceding year.	Inactive registered voter who voted in preceding election placed on Active register voter list. SEE Appendix C.; Appendix D
MGL 51 §37A			The name and address of a voter that is not entered in the annual register pursuant to section 37 for 2 consecutive years and who during that time fails to vote in any election shall be maintained on an <u>inactive</u> voters list until such voter has failed to vote in two consecutive biennial state elections and has thereafter been notified, by mail, of such removal from the inactive voters list SEE Appendix D
MGL 51 §38			Removal/Corrections. Registrars may require such facts to presented to registrars in writing, signed under penalties of perjury. SEE Appendix A; Appendix D; Appendix E
MGL 51 §42			Affidavit Required . SEE Appendix D

B. Current Town/City Resident List & On Town/City Current Voter Register List (cont.)

	Face To Face Accepted	Written Doc Accepted	Comments
MGL 51 §42F			The registrars shall forthwith transmit any such completed affidavits of registration to the registrars of the city or town where such registrant claims to reside, and said registrars shall receive such affidavits as provided. SEE Appendix D; Appendix E; Appendix F
MGL 51 §44			A person seeking to register shall complete an affidavit of voter registration form and establish his enrollment in a political party or political designation. SEE Appendix C; Appendix D
MGL 51 §46			Registrars place said affidavit in their files and add the name of the voter to the current annual register of voters in the city or town. SEE Appendix D
MGL 51 §46A			Registrars, upon receipt of an affidavit of registration, shall transmit a duplicate copy thereof to the registrars in the city or town where the person last registered to vote, if within the commonwealth, or to the state secretary of the state where the person last registered to vote, if the person had indicated that his previous residence was in that state. SEE Appendix B; Appendix D; Appendix F; Appendix F
MGL 51 §47A			Age of 16, then they shall enter the person's name in the current annual register of voters with the designation "preregistrant" or other term or code as specified by the state secretary. The designation shall be removed when the person, on or before the day of the next preliminary, primary, special or general election or town meeting, attains full age. SEE Appendix D
MGL 51 §47B			If at any time subsequent to the registration of a voter the registrars have probable cause to believe that the voter has made a false statement in his affidavit of registration, they may prepare a complaint setting forth the basis for their belief, and summon the voter to appear before them in the manner set forth in section forty-eight. They shall examine the voter and determine his qualifications to vote in the manner set forth in section forty-nine. SEE Appendix D Appendix E
MGL 51 §50	YES	NO	"Special Qualified Voter" SEE Appendix C
MGL 51 §65		Each Town/City real time transmittal to SoS	Secretary of State ("SoS"): State Computer System and Automatic Registration. For other specific Components SEE Appendix C; Appendix D; Appendix E; Appendix H

C. Current/Nev	w Town/City Resident	List & Not on Town/City Cu	rrent Voter Register List
	Face To Face Accepted	Written Doc Accepted	
MGL 51 §1	Defining who may have name on Voter Register List.	Defining who may have name on Voter Register List.	 A person otherwise qualified to vote for national or state officers shall not, by reason of a change of residence within the commonwealth, be disqualified from voting for such national or state officers in the city or town from which he has removed his residence until the expiration of 6 months from such removal. SEE Appendix B; Appendix D; Appendix E Appendix G
MGL 51 §1F	Claims right to vote for electors of president of vice-president	Claims right to vote for electors of president of vice-president	Up to 5:00 p.m. of the tenth day preceding such election. Voter given Absentee Ballot by Registrars. (The provisions of sections ninety-four to ninety-six, inclusive, of chapter fifty-four shall apply to such ballots.) SEE Appendix D
MGL 51 §4A	YES	YES	During the annual listing of residents, the registrars shall notify residents of the opportunity to register as voters. Requires affidavit. SEE Appendix B; Appendix D
MGL 51 §4(c)	MGL 51 §4: Annual Town Census	MGL 51 §4: Annual Town Census	"Warning - failure to respond to this mailing for 2 consecutive years shall result in removal from the active voting list and may result in removal from the voter registration rolls.". SEE Appendix B.
MGL 51 §8			Omitted person census
MGL 51 §14B	Determination legal residence.	Determination legal residence.	Any special law April first is stated as the date as of which the legal residence of any person shall be determined, such residence shall be determined as of <u>January first</u> instead of April first. SEE Appendix B; Appendix D; Appendix F
MGL 51 §26	N/A	YES: Registration for next election excludes MGL 51 §34, 50.	Up to 5:00pm 10 th day prior election or prior special town meeting; mailed affidavits postmarked before midnight on final day of registration. If a postmark is unclear or illegible, a mailed affidavit shall be accepted until the fifth day after the final day to register. SEE Appendix D

C. Current/New	C. Current/New Town/City Resident List & Not on Town/City Current Voter Register List (cont.)				
	Face To Face Accepted	Written Doc Accepted			
MGL 51 §34	MGL 51 §2, MGL 51 §4(c)	MGL 51 §2, MGL 51 §1F, MGL 51 §3, MGL 51 §4(c), MGL 51 §8, MGL 51 §14, MGL 51 §26	 After eight o'clock in the evening of a day on which registration is to cease shall not register any voter for upcoming election, but can register for following election before close of registration. If no further close of registration then can add registrant to Register list after Dec 31 current year. Corrections to current Register List can occur between Dec 31 preceding year to close of registration. SEE Appendix D 		
MGL 51 §35		Omitted listings compared to annual register list	If Registrars determine that omitted person was entitled to vote in the preceding election, then the omitted person shall be put on the annual register list at any time up to and including the day of the next primary or election. SEE Appendix B.; Appendix D		
MGL 51 §37			The registrars shall prepare a list of the names of voters not entered in annual register, and available for public inspection with copy available SEE Appendix A; Appendix D; Appendix E		
MGL 51 §42G	YES	YES	Transmission of completed affidavits.		
MGL 51 §44			A person seeking to register shall complete an affidavit of voter registration form and establish his enrollment in a political party or political designation. SEE Appendix B; Appendix D		
MGL 51 §50	YES	NO	"Special Qualified Voter" SEE Appendix B		
MGL 51 §51A			"Confidential Registration"		
MGL 51 §58			If a new name is added to the annual register after the voting lists have been posted, registrars shall cause it to be added to the lists posted in their principal office; provided, however, that all registrars shall maintain lists of new names added to the annual registers		
MGL 51 §59			If the presiding officer is then satisfied that such voter is entitled to vote, he shall issue a certificate in a form supplied by the registrars, stating the name, residence and party enrollment, if any, of the voter so identified, and such certificate shall be signed by such presiding officer. The certificate shall be attached to and be considered part of the voting list.		
MGL 51 §65(4)		Automatic Voter Registration	Added to Register if voter does not decline to register after 21 days post mailed notification by registrars. For other specific components SEE Appendix A; Appendix D; Appendix E; Appendix H		

	Face To Face Accepted	Written Doc Accepted	Comments
MGL 51 §1	Change of residency	Change residency	Applies to new town/city residences who move within their town/city, providing written documentation up to close of registration. SEE Appendix B; Appendix C; Appendix E.; Appendix G
MGL 51 §1F	Claims right to vote for electors of president of vice-president	Claims right to vote for electors of president of vice-president	Up to 5:00 p.m. of the tenth day preceding such election. Voter given Absentee Ballot by Registrars. (The provisions of sections ninety-four to ninety-six, inclusive, of chapter fifty-four shall apply to such ballots.) SEE Appendix C
MGL 51 §2	Correction made Register List up to close of voter registration which allows voter to vote under new name.	No correct made to Register List till June 1 st following year.	Regarding: Name change. SEE Appendix B.
MGL 51 §3		Change of residency	Any registered voter of a city or town who moves to any other precinct in said city or town may register to vote and vote at his new address by making written application to the city or town clerk no later than the close of registration. Includes new Town/City Resident who had been registered in Town/City. Registrars may require signed under penalties of perjury. SEE Appendix B.
MGL 51 §4A	YES	YES	During the annual listing of residents, the registrars shall notify residents of the opportunity to register as voters. Requires affidavit. SEE Appendix B.; Appendix C.
MGL 51 §14		Death	On the first day of every month, and also two days before every election, transmit to the registrars of voters a list of the names of all residents thereof eighteen years of age or older who died in the preceding month or since the date of the list previously transmitted, with a statement of the ward, street and number therein, if any, where such person resided at his death. SEE Appendix F
MGL 51 §14B	Determination legal residence.	Registration application	Jan 1 st of current year is date of legal residence . If town/city has special law, earlier dates prevail over later dates. SEE Appendix B; Appendix C; Appendix D; Appendix F See also MGL 51 §3
MGL 51 §26	N/A	YES: Registration for next election excludes MGL 51 §34, 50.	Up to 5:00pm 10 th day prior election or prior special town meeting; mailed affidavits postmarked before midnight on final day of registration. If a postmark is unclear or illegible, a mailed affidavit shall be accepted until the fifth day after the final day to register. SEE Appendix C.

MGL 51 §34 The registrars may, however, enter or correct on the registers the names of persons (who have registered as voters) between December thirty-first preceding and the close of registration.

D. Correction to	D. Correction to Town/City Current Voter Register List (cont.)				
	Face To Face Accepted	Written Doc Accepted	Comments		
MGL 51 §34	MGL 51 §2, MGL 51 §4(c)	MGL 51 §2, MGL 51 §1F, MGL 51 §3, MGL 51 §4(c), MGL 51 §8, MGL 51 §14, MGL 51 §26	 After eight o'clock in the evening of a day on which registration is to cease shall not register any voter for upcoming election, but can register for following election before close of registration. If no further close of registration then can add registrant to Register list after Dec 31 current year. Corrections to current Register List can occur between Dec 31 preceding year to close of registration. SEE Appendix C. 		
MGL 51 §35		Omitted listings compared to annual register list	If Registrars determine that omitted person was entitled to vote in the preceding election, then the omitted person shall be put on the annual register list at any time up to and including the day of the next primary or election. SEE Appendix B.; Appendix C.		
MGL 51 §37	Applicant Responds	Applicant Responds	Shall, on or before the first Monday of June in each year, send notice in writing to each voter of the preceding year whose name has not been entered in the <u>annual register of the current year</u> that the name of such voter may be removed from the voting list if the voter fails to respond to the notice and does not vote in the next two biennial state elections following the mailing of such notice. SEE Appendix A; Appendix C.; Appendix E		
MGL 51 §37A	No response to notices being sent out first Monday of June in each year	No response to notices being sent out first Monday of June in each year	The name and address of a voter that is not entered in the annual register pursuant to section 37 for 2 consecutive years and who during that time fails to vote in any election shall be maintained on an inactive voters list until such voter has failed to vote in two consecutive biennial state elections and has thereafter been notified, by mail, of such removal from the inactive voters list. SEE Appendix B		
MGL 51 §38	YES	YES	Removal/Corrections. Registrars may require such facts to presented to registrars in writing, signed under penalties of perjury. SEE Appendix A; Appendix B; Appendix E		
MGL 51 §42			Registration as a voter shall be by affidavit of registration made in conformity with the requirements of this chapter by any person at least 16 years of age or older. Except as provided in sections 42A and 65, every person whose name has not been entered in the annual register in accordance with sections thirty-four through thirty-seven inclusive, or a corresponding provision of law applicable to a city or town having a listing board, must, in order to register as a voter, make an affidavit of registration as provided in this chapter and in the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. SEE Appendix B.		
MGL 51 §42F			The registrars shall forthwith transmit any such completed affidavits of registration to the registrars of the city or town where such registrant claims to reside, and said registrars shall receive such affidavits as provided. SEE Appendix B; Appendix E; Appendix F		

MGL 51 §34 The registrars may, however, enter or correct on the registers the names of persons (who have registered as voters) between December thirty-first preceding and the close of registration.

D. Correction to	Town/City Current Vot	ter Register List (cont.)	
	Face To Face Accepted	Written Doc Accepted	Comments
MGL 51 §44			A person seeking to register shall complete an affidavit of voter registration form and establish his enrollment in a political party or political designation. SEE Appendix B; Appendix C
MGL 51 §45			Certificate signed by Presiding Officer at Polling Place; "Listing Error" Certificate signed by majority of Registrars
MGL 51 §46			Registrars place said affidavit in their files and add the name of the voter to the current annual register of voters in the city or town. SEE Appendix B
MGL 51 §46A			Registrars, upon receipt of an affidavit of registration, shall transmit a duplicate copy thereof to the registrars in the city or town where the person last registered to vote, if within the commonwealth, or to the state secretary of the state where the person last registered to vote, if the person had indicated that his previous residence was in that state. SEE Appendix B; Appendix D; Appendix E; Appendix F
MGL 51 §47A			Age of 16, then they shall enter the person's name in the current annual register of voters with the designation "pre-registrant" or other term or code as specified by the state secretary. The designation shall be removed when the person, on or before the day of the next preliminary, primary, special or general election or town meeting, attains full age. SEE Appendix B.
MGL 51 §47B			If at any time subsequent to the registration of a voter the registrars have probable cause to believe that the voter has made a false statement in his affidavit of registration, they may prepare a complaint setting forth the basis for their belief, and summon the voter to appear before them in the manner set forth in section forty-eight. They shall examine the voter and determine his qualifications to vote in the manner set forth in section forty-nine. SEE Appendix B; Appendix E
MGL 51 §49	N/A	N/A	If they are satisfied that, although he is a qualified voter in the city or town, he is illegally or incorrectly registered in a ward or voting precinct other than the ward or voting precinct in which he is required by section three to be registered, and have determined the ward or voting precinct in which he is so required to be registered, and his place of residence therein, they shall change his place of residence as given on the register accordingly. SEE Appendix E
MGL 51 §50	YES	NO	"Special Qualified Voter"
MGL 51 §65(6)		Automatic Voter Registration	For other specific components SEE Appendix A; Appendix C; Appendix E; Appendix H

MGL 51 §34 The registrars may, however, enter or correct on the registers the names of persons (who have registered as voters) between December thirty-first preceding and the close of registration.

MGL 51 §1 Definir	To Face Accepted ing who may have on Voter Register	Written Doc Accepted	Comments
		5.6.	
name List.		Defining who may have name on Voter Register List.	A person otherwise qualified to vote for national or state officers shall not, by reason of a change of residence within the commonwealth, be disqualified from voting for such national or state officers in the city or town from which he has removed his residence until the expiration of 6 months from such removal. SEE Appendix B; Appendix C Appendix D Appendix G.
MGL 51 §14 N/A		Death, MGL 51 §38	Registrars presented with list of all died >= 18yo 1st day of each month. SEE Appendix D
MGL 51 §14 N/A		Death, MGL 51 §38	Registrars presented with list of all deaths >= 18yo up to 2 days prior to an election . SEE Appendix D
MGL 51 §37			The registrars shall prepare a list of the names of voters not entered in annual register, and available for public inspection with copy available . SEE Appendix A; Appendix C; Appendix D
being s	sponse to notices sent out first Monday ne in each year	No response to notices being sent out first Monday of June in each year	The name and address of a voter that is not entered in the annual register pursuant to section 37 for 2 consecutive years and who during that time fails to vote in any election shall be maintained on an inactive voters list until such voter has failed to vote in two consecutive biennial state elections and has thereafter been notified, by mail, of such removal from the inactive voters list.
MGL 51 §38			Removal/Corrections. Registrars may require such facts to presented to registrars in writing, signed under penalties of perjury. SEE Appendix A; Appendix B; Appendix D
MGL 51 §42F			The registrars shall forthwith transmit any such completed affidavits of registration to the registrars of the city or town where such registrant claims to reside, and said registrars shall receive such affidavits as provided. SEE Appendix B; Appendix D; Appendix F
MGL 51 §46A			Registrars, upon receipt of an affidavit of registration, shall transmit a duplicate copy thereof to the registrars in the city or town where the person last registered to vote, if within the commonwealth, or to the state secretary of the state where the person last registered to vote, if the person had indicated that his previous residence was in that state. SEE Appendix B; Appendix D; Appendix F
MGL 51 §47B			If at any time subsequent to the registration of a voter the registrars have probable cause to believe that the voter has made a false statement in his affidavit of registration, they may prepare a complaint setting forth the basis for their belief, and summon the voter to appear before them in the manner set forth in section forty-eight. They shall examine the voter and determine his qualifications to vote in the manner set forth in section forty-nine. SEE Appendix D
MGL 51 §49			 If the registrars are satisfied that he is not a qualified voter, they shall strike his name from the register If a person duly summoned as aforesaid does not appear as directed in the summons and the complainant produces sufficient testimony to make out a prima facie case, the name of such person shall be struck from the register; but if such person appears before the registrars before the election or town meeting following and shows sufficient cause for his failure earlier to appear, the hearing shall be reopened. SEE Appendix D
MGL 51 §65(5)		Automatic Voter Registration	Registrars receive written notice that person does not want to be registered to voted the remove/do not add. For other specific components SEE Appendix A; Appendix C; Appendix D; Appendix H

F. Not on Town/City Resident List & Not on Town/City Current Register List

	Face To Face Accepted	Written Doc Accepted	
MGL 51 §14B	Determination legal residence.	Registration application	Jan 1 st of current year is date of legal residence . If town/city has special law, earlier dates prevail over later dates. SEE Appendix B; Appendix C; Appendix D See also MGL 51 §3
MGL 51 §42F			The registrars shall forthwith transmit any such completed affidavits of registration to the registrars of the city or town where such registrant claims to reside, and said registrars shall receive such affidavits as provided. SEE Appendix B; Appendix D; Appendix E; Appendix F
MGL 51 §46A			Registrars, upon receipt of an affidavit of registration, shall transmit a duplicate copy thereof to the registrars in the city or town where the person last registered to vote, if within the commonwealth, or to the state secretary of the state where the person last registered to vote, if the person had indicated that his previous residence was in that state. SEE Appendix B; Appendix D; Appendix E

G. Previous on Town/City Resident List & Previously on Town/City Current Voter Register List & Still Resides in the MA

	Face To Face Accepted	Written Doc Accepted	
MGL 51 §1	Change of residency	Change residency	Able to vote for National or State officers in town/city from which residency removed up to 6 months post removal of residency if voter still resides in the Commonwealth. SEE Appendix B.; Appendix C; Appendix D; Appendix E

H. Miscellaneous	
MGL 51 §24	The registrars may cause the duties devolving upon a single registrar to be performed by one or two assistant registrars, and, if two are designated for such duties, they shall be of different political parties. The registrars shall make suitable regulations governing the assistant registrars, whose doings shall be subject to their revision and acceptance. Assistant registrars subject to MGL 51 §25.
MGL 51 §40	Registrars records shall at suitable times be open to public inspection.
MGL 51 §41	The registrars shall preserve all written applications, complaints, certificates and affidavits received by them, and all other documents in their custody relative to listing and registration, for two years after the dates thereof; provided, however, that original affidavits of registration, or microfilm copies thereof, shall be preserved and shall be deemed to be public records, except large print affidavits of registration.
MGL 51 §61	They shall forthwith, after the final day for registration before a biennial state or regular city or town election, certify to the state secretary the number of registered voters in the city or town, and in each ward and precinct therein. In cities where the city clerk is not a member of the board of registrars, the registrars shall likewise, after the last day for registration for a city election, certify to the city clerk the number of registered voters in the city, and in each ward and voting precinct therein.
MGL 51 §64	Online portal for verification of registration or pre-registration status
MGL 51 §65	Administration of automatic voter registration; duties of registrars upon receipt of electronic records; electronic interfaces; annual reports; opting out; liability of ineligible persons registered under this section; use of information for purposes other than voter registration
MGL 51 §65(f)	(f) The state secretary shall make an annual report to the joint committee on election laws of the general court, which the secretary shall post on a public website. The annual report shall include the following information: (i) the number of voters newly registered to the statewide voter registration list updated by an automatic voter registration agency, broken down by agency; (ii) the total number of voter records on the statewide voter registration list updated because of records transferred by an automatic voter registration agency; and (iii) the number of persons who opted out of voter registration. The state secretary shall also study and include within the annual report recommendations to strengthen and clarify automatic voting requirements as they pertain to eligibility for voting in municipal, state and federal elections, so as to ensure to the maximum extent possible that the requirements are clear, easily understood and enforceable in an efficient manner. A report produced under this section shall exclude personal identifying information. For other specific components SEE Appendix A; Appendix C; Appendix D; Appendix E
MGL 51 §66	Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc. to send mailings to voters centrally rather than from the local level. In the absence of such central management, if any actions regarding possibly inaccurate information in the central registry requires any action by the registrars, the secretary shall provide any such information to the registrars in electronic form and in a manner minimizing data management at the local level.