ELECTION PROTECTION YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Massachusetts Election Protection Training 2020

Voting is...

a "fundamental political right, because [it is] preservative of all rights."

Yick Wo v. Hopkins

Election Protection Overview

The Structure, History, & More

ELECTION PROTECTION — YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

National Program

- Largest **non-partisan** voter protection coalition in America
- Program started by the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in 2000
- Programs in **32 states**
- National hotline has already received **80,000** calls as of September 1st

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

U.S.News & WORLD REPORT

The Ugly Election

The war for votes in Florida
Bush and Gore: Who will blink first?
Can either lead a divided nation?

Massachusetts Election Protection Coalition

Massachusetts Election Law

ELECTION PROTECTION — YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Common Issues, Questions, & Scenarios

ELECTION PROTECTION YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Common Issues

- Voter Registration Status
- Polling Location and Timing
- Voter Identification Requirements
- Assistance for Disabled and Limited English Proficient Voters
- Electioneering
- Mail-in Ballots

Common Questions

ELECTION PROTECTION YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

1) What time can I vote on Election Day?

2) Where do I vote?

3) What ID do I need to bring with me?

4) What does it mean to be inactive?

5) There is a broken voting machine at my polling place.

6) Where can I drop off my mail-in ballot?

7) I haven't sent in my mail-in ballot. Can I vote in person?

8) I never received my mail-in ballot, how can I vote?

What time can I vote?

- Polls are open from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm
- If you are in line by 8:00 pm, you are legally entitled to vote
- **Scenarios**:
  1. It's 7:15 am and the doors to the polling center are still locked. What should you do? Encourage voters to stay at the polling site and call your lead or command center immediately.
  2. A voter was turned away at 7:50 pm. What should you do? Encourage the voter to remain at the polling center and call your lead or command center immediately.

The poll workers say I'm not listed"

- Verify the voter's registration status online

- Confirm the voter is at the right polling location. www.WhereDoIvoteMA.com

- Ask the voter if they moved since they last voted? (6-Month Rule)

- When was the last time the voter voted? Inactive list?

Registration Lookup

https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx

Polling Locations

- Polling locations do move! COVID has prompted more of these changes.

- Look-up the proper polling location here: www.WhereDoIvoteMA.com

Recent Move? Can I still vote?

ELECTION PROTECTION — YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

- All voters should update their registration every time they move. If they didn't update and the registration deadline has passed, 6 Month Rule Applies!

- 6 Month Rule:
  - Moved within 6 months and did not update your registration for your new address, you may vote at your old polling location

- Note, we may see more temporary moves due to COVID and the end of the eviction moratorium!

Inactive Voter Status

ELECTION PROTECTION YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

- **A voter may be "inactive" if:**
  - Haven't voted in the last two consecutive elections
  - Haven't responded to the local census (aka street survey) in 2 years
- An inactive voter may be listed in the normal rolls or a separate inactive roll (sometimes poll workers forget about this list)
- An inactive voter MAY be asked to present ID (proof of residency) or fill out an affidavit of residency
- If a voter cannot provide ID (proof of residency), they may still vote on a *challenged ballot* (not a provisional ballot)

"What is an acceptable form of ID?"

- Drivers License

- State ID Card

- Recent Utility Bill

- Rent Receipt or Lease

- Copy of a Voter Registration Affidavit

- Other (Any printed documentation with the voter's name and address where they are registered to vote)
  - <u>Note</u> – No form of ID available, can vote on provisional ballot but need to bring in your ID for your ballot to count

When Can They Ask Me for Identification?

1. First-time voter in MA

2. Inactive voter

3. Casting a provisional or challenged ballot

4. Poll worker has a "reasonable suspicion"

Provisional Ballot:
The Last Resort

- Paper ballot used as failsafe when there are eligibility questions (a last resort)

- State law requires that local election officials resolve all provisional ballots within 3 days of a federal election

- So, why are they bad?
  - They are not counted on Election Day for projections and resolution is left up to town/city election officials (clerical error is possible)

Questions about Assistance

"I am disabled, can I get help voting?"

- Polling places should be accessible for individuals with disabilities, including providing an accessible voting machine, to ensure voters with disabilities can vote privately and independently. If not, report it to your command center.

Non-English Speakers

- Voters who speak a non-English language can receive assistance at the polling place from a person of the voter's choice such as a friend, family member, or poll worker (two workers, one from each major political party).

Electioneering

"I was handed a campaign leaflet while I was in line."

- As long as they are 150 feet from the door of the polling place, they can talk to and hand voters campaign leaflets

- Note, EP Volunteers should report electioneering violations only when it is impacting the right to vote!

NOTICE

ELECTIONEERING

BEYOND THIS POINT

Mail-in Ballots

- Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by **11/3** and received by **11/6 by 5PM**!
- On Election Day, voters should take their mail-in ballots to their local election office to make sure it is counted
- Alternatively, voters can use an official drop box by 8pm on Election Day
- Mailing a ballot on Election Day should be the last resort!

Mail-in Ballots: Voting in Person

- Voters may vote in person if:
  - Their mail-in ballot never arrived
  - They mailed in their ballot but it wasn't received
  - They received their ballot but never mailed it and would like to vote in person

- Track VBM Ballots at:

https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/track/trackmyballot.aspx

Program Components

💻 **Remote Hotline**

🚙 **Mobile Field Program**

🐦 **Social Media & News**

Volunteer Shift Assignments

- **Election Day Shifts for All Programs**:

  - **Shift One** - 6:30-10:00am
  - **Shift Two** - 10:00am-1:30pm
  - **Shift Three** - 1:30-5:00pm
  - **Shift Four** - 5:00-8:30pm

ELECTION PROTECTION YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

ELECTION PROTECTION 866 OUR VOTE

Questions about Voting?

Call us! We can help!

www.866ourvote.org

🐦 @866OURVOTE   f 866OURVOTE

ELECTION PROTECTION ENGLISH
866-OUR-VOTE
866-687-8683

SPANISH/ENGLISH
888-VE-Y-VOTA
888-839-8682

ASIAN LANGUAGES/ENGLISH
888-API-VOTE
888-274-8683

ARABIC/ENGLISH
844-YALLA-US
844-925-5287

ELECTION PROTECTION YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Your Role as a Hotline Volunteer (AR)

Assist the Voter

Record Call in Our Vote Live Database

Your Role as a Field Program Volunteer (OAR)

OAR

Observe

Assist

Record

Hotline Logistics

Hotline Logistics

- In previous years, Hotline volunteers gathered together at one call center

- This year, the call center will be virtual, with volunteers stationed at home or in their own offices

- Calls will come in over the internet

- Information about the call will be entered into the Our Vote Live database (OVL)

- Volunteers will communicate with each other and their shift captain via Zoom

Virtual Call Center 2020

Answering Calls

- "Thank you for calling Election Protection"
- Your Name
- Ask for the caller's phone number
- Ask for name
- "How can I help?"

David Kohl / AP

"Thank you for calling Election Protection. This is Rose. May I please have your phone number in case we get disconnected?...Ok, what's your name?...How can I help you?"

Our Vote Live (OVL)

ELECTION PROTECTION — YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Why Accurately Entering Data Is Important

- Try to **capture as much data** as possible—it helps with follow-up on Election Day AND follow-up to improve future elections (e.g., reports to election officials and advocacy)

- EP leadership in your call center & the field will be able to see these issues **in real time**, **allowing them to follow up** with the voter, poll workers or election officials. It is critical to enter data promptly so this follow-up can occur.
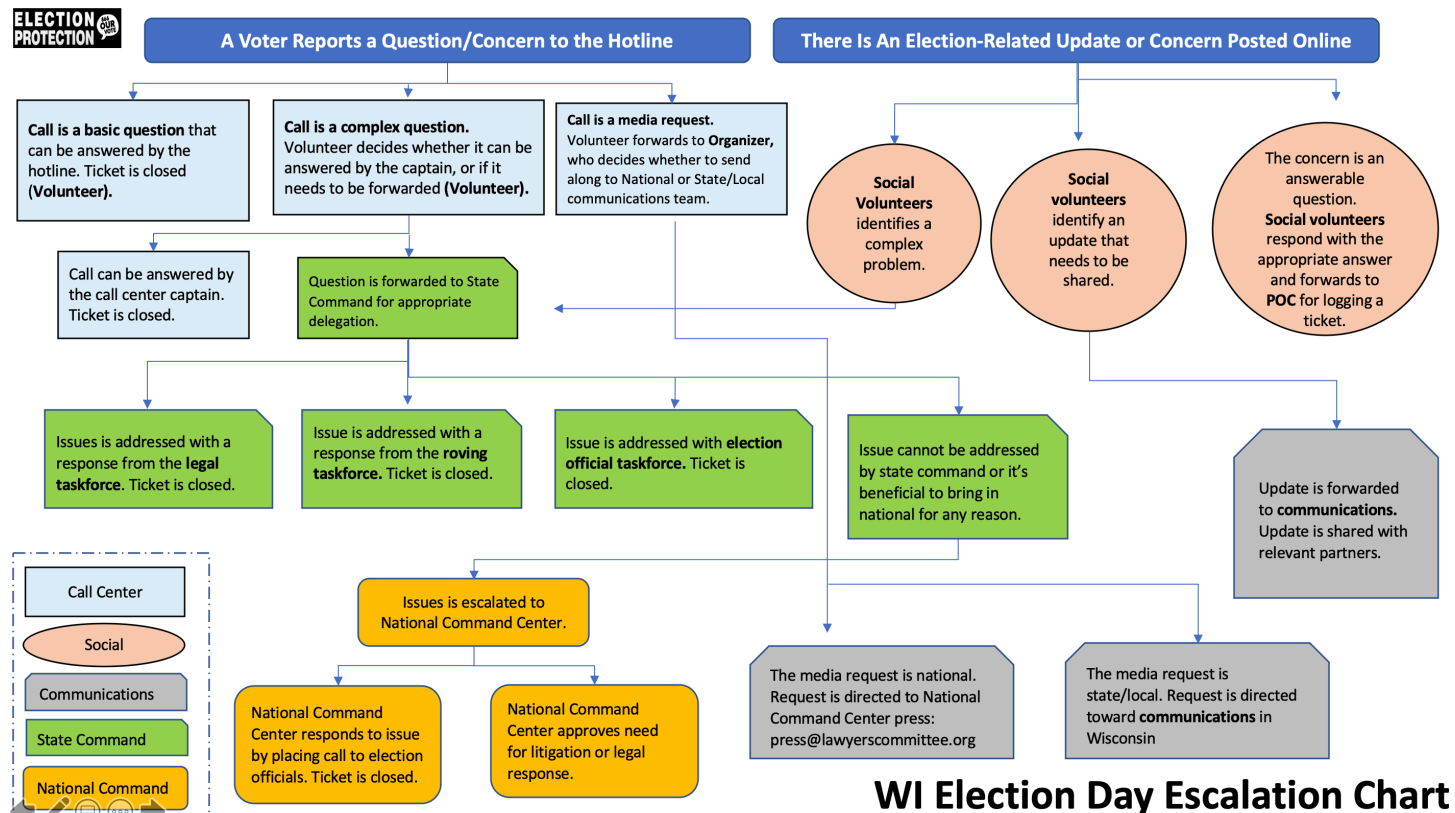
Minimum Fields for Every Ticket

- Voter Contact Information

- Address – City or County & State

- Category of Inquiry/Problem

Our Vote Live: OVL

Election Day Issue Escalation

ELECTION PROTECTION — YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

WI Election Day Escalation Chart

A Voter Reports a Question/Concern to the Hotline

There Is An Election-Related Update or Concern Posted Online

Call is a basic question that can be answered by the hotline. Ticket is closed **(Volunteer).**

Call is a complex question. Volunteer decides whether it can be answered by the captain, or if it needs to be forwarded **(Volunteer).**

Call is a media request. Volunteer forwards to **Organizer**, who decides whether to send along to National or State/Local communications team.

Social Volunteers identifies a complex problem.

Social volunteers identify an update that needs to be shared.

The concern is an answerable question. **Social volunteers** respond with the appropriate answer and forwards to **POC** for logging a ticket.

Call can be answered by the call center captain. Ticket is closed.

Question is forwarded to State Command for appropriate delegation.

Issues is addressed with a response from the **legal taskforce**. Ticket is closed.

Issue is addressed with a response from the **roving taskforce**. Ticket is closed.

Issue is addressed with **election official taskforce**. Ticket is closed.

Issue cannot be addressed by state command or it's beneficial to bring in national for any reason.

Update is forwarded to **communications**. Update is shared with relevant partners.

Legend

- Call Center
- Social
- Communications
- State Command
- National Command

Issues is escalated to National Command Center.

National Command Center responds to issue by placing call to election officials. Ticket is closed.

National Command Center approves need for litigation or legal response.

The media request is national. Request is directed to National Command Center press: press@lawyerscommittee.org

The media request is state/local. Request is directed toward **communications** in Wisconsin
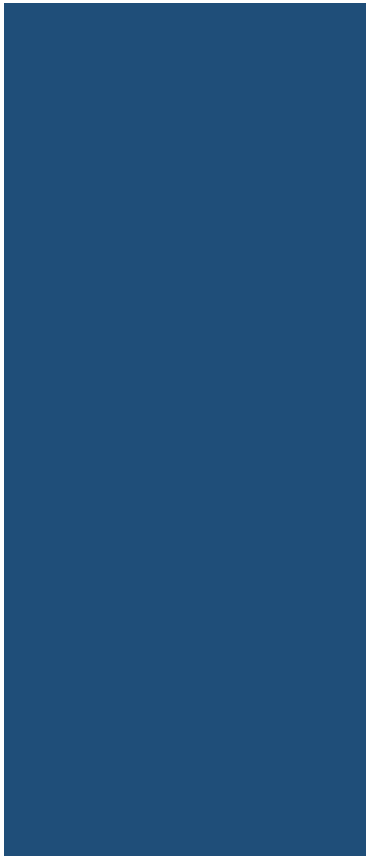
Your Captain

Flag your captain if:

- The answer isn't in your materials

- You aren't 100% sure of an answer for a voter

- An issue is complex

- A report is particularly concerning

Grab your captain **before you hang up**, if escalating a ticket

OH CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN!

ELECTION PROTECTION YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Mobile Field Program Logistics

Your Shift & Partner

- **Shifts**: Distributed one week before Election Day (please keep available the times/locations you provided)

- **Partners**: This year, volunteers will work solo unless they asked to volunteer with a specific partner.

What To Bring

- Your EP t-shirt, yard signs, and/or car magnet
- Face mask, hand sanitizer
- Legal Materials
- Intake Forms
- Phone & charger
- Layers of clothing
- Snack and water
- Comfortable shoes
- Extra paper and pens

What NOT to Bring
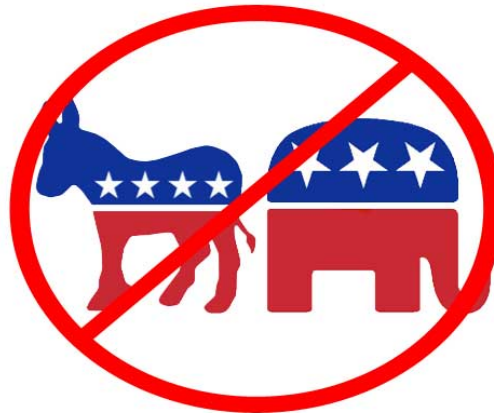
- **No** partisan signs, stickers, or clothing containing the name of any candidate, political party, ballot question or campaign
- All field volunteers should complete a code of conduct form online.

At the Polls: Stay Outside!

ELECTION PROTECTION YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

- Due to COVID-19, volunteers should not enter polling sites
- Maintain at least 6 feet of distance from voters and other volunteers
    - Exception: EP volunteers who signed up to be partners
- Be aware that there will likely be other monitors affiliated with campaigns. You may introduce yourself as a non-partisan volunteer but do not engage (eyes and ears only)

Outside the Polls

- Position yourself (either in your car or standing a safe distance from others)

- Observe the outside of polling place for potential problems, such as long lines

- Record and report problems on the intake forms provided to you
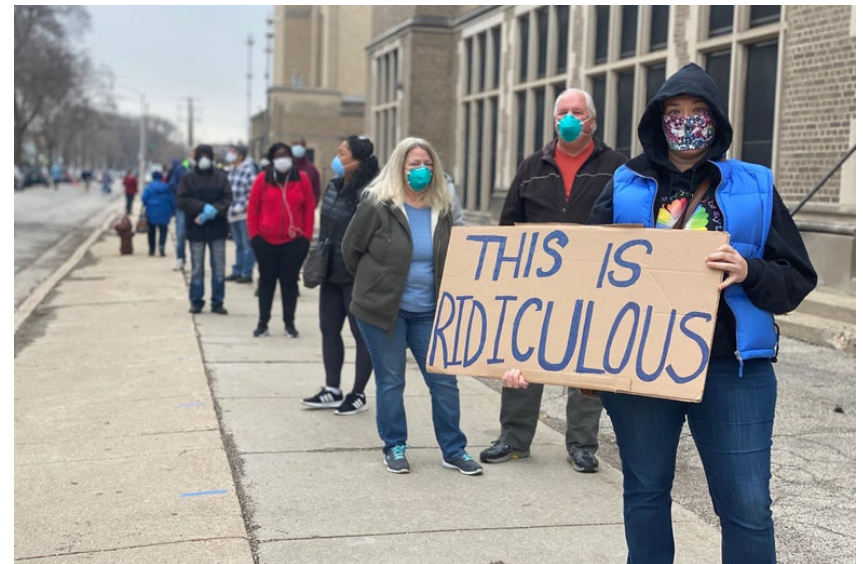
Outside the Polls:
Optional Voter Engagement

ELECTION PROTECTION — YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

If you feel comfortable, you may choose to approach voters (maintaining at least 6 feet of distance) as they exit the polling place, but this is <u>entirely optional</u>

> Hi! My name is Sophia. I'm here to help voters today. Did you have any trouble voting today?

> Actually, yes. They said I could vote in person because I requested a mail-in ballot, but it never arrived. What should I do?

Reporting Issues

Why is Reporting Data Important?

- EP leadership in your command center will be able to see these issues **in real time**, **allowing them to follow up** with the voter, poll workers or election officials

- Data helps EP leadership identify and address voting **trends**

- **Capturing as much data** as possible helps with follow up on Election Day AND future elections (e.g., reports to election officials and advocacy)

Reporting Issues

Your Command Center

Call your lead or Command Center if there is a systemic problem, including:

- Broken machines

- Poll workers giving wrong info

- Intimidating flyers or police presence

- Multiple voters reporting they are not on the rolls

- High use of provisional ballots

- Polls open late/close early

- Multiple accessibility issues

Report Issues

Minimum Information to Capture for Every Report

- Polling place (name & address)
- Details required to follow-up (if follow-up steps are necessary)
- Voter's race

Available Resources

1. Massachusetts FAQs

2. 866-OUR-VOTE

3. Community Lead and/or Command Center

FAQs

ELECTION PROTECTION — YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

ELECTION PROTECTION 866 OUR VOTE

MASSACHUSETTS FALL 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

Disclaimer: This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter's contact information should follow-up be necessary.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Final Thoughts

ELECTION PROTECTION — YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE

- Goal: Ensure every eligible voter can cast a ballot that counts
- EP is non-partisan
- Show up on time
- Correct is better than quick!
- When in doubt, call your Community Lead and/or Command Center
- Vote early! 10/17-10/30