



Get on the Ballot!

February 3rd 2024
Massachusetts Pirate Party
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<https://masspirates.org>

What is this?

This training concentrates on getting on the ballot.

We have videos with other trainings about running for office so you have the best chance of winning.

Life is a remix, so take what you want from it, discard anything you don't need or do not have time to use and add the new things you learn.

Learn from your efforts and Iterate! Iterate! Iterate!

Put yourself out there. You cannot win if you don't run.

Get on the Ballot

- Make sure you know all of the requirements & dates to get on the ballot
- Pick up nomination papers
- Gather signatures
- File nomination papers
- Mail thank letters to everyone who helped gather signatures

Requirements

For Federal, State and county offices, consult the Massachusetts Election Division's How to Run for Office page at:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/getting-on-the-ballot/how-to-run-for-office.htm>

For Town offices, ask your town clerk.

Signature Requirements

Federal & State

- U.S. Representative – 2,000
- Governor's Councillor – 1,000
- State Senator – 300
- State Representative – 150

Signature Requirements

County

County Offices - Sheriff (?), Register of Deeds,
Clerk of Courts

- Bristol, Essex, Hampden, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk & Worcester Counties – 1,000
- Barnstable, Berkshire, Franklin & Hampshire Counties – 500
- Dukes & Nantucket Counties – 25

Signature Requirements

Town

Town Offices:

- Select Board - ~100
- Elected Town Meeting - ~10

Check with your town clerk

Federal, State & County Dates #1

- Nomination papers are available mid-February 2024
- You must submit your nomination papers to the relevant local election office for validation no later than:
 - District & County Candidates: April 30, 2024
 - ~~Federal Party Candidates: May 7, 2024~~
 - Federal Non-Party Candidates: July 30, 2024

Federal, State & County Dates #2

You submit your nomination papers to the
Massachusetts Election Division no later than:

- District & County Candidates: May 28, 2024
- ~~Federal Party Candidates: June 4, 2024~~
- Federal Non-Party Candidates: August 27, 2024

Town Dates

Check with your town clerk

Other Requirements

- US House
- State Offices
- County Offices
- Town Offices

US House Requirements

- You must be a resident of Massachusetts on Election Day;
- You must also be at least 25 years old;
- You must also have been a U.S. citizen for at least 7 years.

Governor's Council

You must have resided in Massachusetts for five years before Election Day.

Massachusetts Legislature

State Senator, you must:

- reside in the district on Election Day;
- have resided in Massachusetts for five years before Election Day.

State Representative, you must:

- reside in the district on Election Day.

County Offices

- Register of Deeds: You must reside in the district on Election Day.
- Clerk of Courts: No residency requirements.
- County Commissioner: If elected, you can't reside in the same city or town as another county commission
- Sheriff: No residency requirements?

Town Offices

Check with your town clerk

Gathering Signatures

During the signature gathering period, you must concentrate on gathering the required number of signatures as quickly as possible.

Gathering Signatures

Get on the ballot, then you can worry about other activities. *

* Unless you are running for US House of Representatives, then you should fundraise too, but make sure you concentrate on signature gathering!

Where to get them

- Federal / State / County Offices:
 - You can pick up nomination papers in person at the Election Division's Boston, Springfield, or Fall River offices, beginning on February 13, 2024;
 - You can also call or email the Elections Division on or after February 13, 2024 to have papers mailed to you.
 - Papers can't be provided electronically.
- Town Offices: Ask your town clerk

Get the Correct Papers

- Federal / State / County Offices:
 - Papers should be YELLOW and are only for candidates who are registered in a political designation (Pirate) and not registered in a party (Dem/Rep/Lib) or as independents;
 - If they send you the wrong papers (it has happened), tell them to send the correct ones;
- Town Offices: Papers are WHITE

Fill it in correctly

- Review the nomination paper;
- Make sure you filled it in correctly;
- If the form is for a specific municipality, write down the town in the correct field.

State Election Paper

Red: You fill out

Blue: City/town fills out

Orange: Be aware of

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DATE and TIME received by Board of Registrars

STATE ELECTION NOMINATION PAPER

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL CANDIDATES

All candidate information (gray areas) must be filled in on every nomination paper prior to circulation. Residence must include the candidate's street number and street name, and the city or town or some clearly identifiable reference to the city or town. Certified signatures on nomination papers without the required information cannot be counted.

Contact the Office of Campaign and Political Finance (One Ashburton Place, Room 411, Boston, MA 02108, 617-979-8300) about campaign finance reporting requirements for state offices. Federal candidates contact the Federal Election Commission at 1-800-424-9530.

See the "Candidate's Guide" provided with this nomination paper for the number of signatures required or contact the Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

DEADLINES FOR ALL OFFICES EXCEPT FEDERAL

Nomination papers must be submitted to the Board of Registrars of Voters or Election Commissioners for the certification of names by **5 p.m., May 3, 2022.**

Nomination papers with certified names must be filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth by **5 p.m., May 31, 2022.**

DEADLINE FOR FEDERAL OFFICES

Nomination papers must be submitted to the Board of Registrars of Voters or Election Commissioners for the certification of names by **5 p.m., August 2, 2022.**

Nomination papers with certified names must be filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth by **5 p.m., August 30, 2022.**

REQUIREMENTS

For the papers to be valid, a candidate must file the following with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Elections Division, One Ashburton Place, Room 1705, Boston, MA 02108, 617-727-2828 or 1-800-462-8683, by the filing deadline:

- a certificate of voter registration (see box to right) signed by at least three registrars and completed on at least **ONE** nomination paper; and
- the candidate's written acceptance (see opposite, above) on at least **ONE** paper; and
- for all candidates **EXCEPT** federal: a receipt from the State Ethics Commission (One Ashburton Place, Room 619, Boston, MA 02108, 617-371-9500) showing that the candidate has filed a statement of financial interest with them.

POLITICAL DESIGNATION

You may express your political designation in not more than three words, but the words "Democratic" and "Republican" may not be used.

TYPE OR PRINT:

NAME OF
CANDIDATE

RESIDENCE
street number street name city or town zip code

OFFICE
title of office

DISTRICT
exact title of district

I ACCEPT THE
NOMINATION
written signature (sign on at least one nomination paper)

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

We certify that candidate's name

is a registered voter at candidate's street address

and has not been enrolled in a political party from March 1, 2022 (for federal candidates from March 8, 2022) through the date of this certificate, or is a newly registered voter.

At least three registrars' names must be signed or stamped below.

, 2022
Registrars of Voters or
Election Commissioners of
city or town

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STATEWIDE CANDIDATES ONLY

Prior to the deadline for filing nomination papers, statewide candidates must file a statement with OCPF indicating whether the candidate agrees to limit campaign spending as outlined in M.G.L. c. 55C. Candidates who **DO NOT** agree to limit spending may be required to file an additional statement of intended spending with OCPF prior to the deadline for filing withdrawals of nominations for the state primary. The name of a statewide candidate who does not file such statement(s) shall not appear on the state election ballot.

INSTRUCTIONS TO SIGNERS

For your signature to be valid, you must be a registered voter in the city or town named below and your signature should be written substantially as registered. Sign only one nomination paper for each candidate.

If you are prevented by physical disability from writing, you may authorize some person to write your name and residence in your presence.

SIGNERS' STATEMENT

We are qualified voters of the commonwealth and of the district for which the nomination is made; and in accordance with the provisions of law, we make the above nomination to be voted for at the election to be held on

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

State Election Paper

Red: You fill out Blue: City/town fills out Orange: Be aware of

ATTENTION VOTERS: Before signing, read signer information on other side.

CANDIDATE

ATTENTION REGISTRARS: Before certifying signatures, see instructions to registrars below.

	CHECK	I. SIGNATURE to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated on other side)	II. NOW REGISTERED AT (street, number and apartment number, if any) (city or town will be the same as stated below)	WARD	PREC.
6					
7					
8					

State Election Paper

Red: You fill out

Blue: City/town fills out

Orange: Be aware of

25					
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WARNING - criminal penalty for unlawfully signing, altering, defacing, mutilating, destroying or suppressing this petition: fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to one year

INSTRUCTIONS TO REGISTRARS

REGISTRAR INFORMATION

- You must time-stamp or write in date and time these papers are received.
- Inform the candidate if the district designation is incorrect and allow the candidate to correct it *before certifying names*.
- Fill in and sign the "Voter Registration Certificate" **on at least one of the candidate's papers** if the candidate is a registered voter in your community.
- Check thus ✓ against the name of each qualified voter to be certified. For names not certified use the code at the right. Draw a line through any blank spaces not containing signatures.
- Each sheet must be certified by at least three registrars. A facsimile stamp is acceptable.

N - no such registered voter at that address, or address is illegible.

S - unable to identify signature as that of voter because of form of signature, or signature is illegible.

W - wrong district or community.

T - already signed nomination papers for this candidate.

CERTIFICATION OF NAMES

At least three registrars' names must be signed or stamped below.

city or town month and day

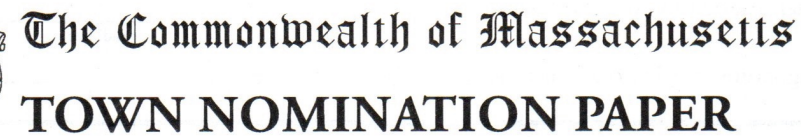
We certify that _____
number of names use numbers and words

above signatures checked thus ✓ are the names of qualified voters from this city or town as well as the district for which this nomination is made.

Registrars of Voters or Election Commissioners of _____
city or town

ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS OF City or Town **MAY SIGN THIS SHEET.**

E229



DATE and TIME received by Board of Registrars

TOWN _____

ATTENTION REGISTRARS: Before certifying signatures, see Instructions to Registrars on reverse side of this paper.

	CHECK	I. SIGNATURE to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated above)	II. NOW REGISTERED AT (street, number and apartment number, if any) (town will be the same as stated above)	PRECINCT
1				

Town Election Paper

Red: You fill out

Blue: City/town fills out

Orange: Be aware of

ATTENTION VOTERS: Before signing, read signer information on other side.

ATTENTION REGISTRARS: Before certifying signatures, see Instructions to Registrars below.

candidate

office

	CHECK	I. SIGNATURE to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated on other side)	II. NOW REGISTERED AT (street, number and apartment number, if any) (town will be the same as stated on other side)	PRECINCT
17				
18				

Town Election Paper

Red: You fill out

Blue: City/town fills out

Orange: Be aware of

32			
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COMMITTEE TO FILL VACANCIES: (Candidate MAY list here the names and addresses of five registered voters of the town, who may fill any vacancy caused by the candidate's death or physical disability.)

COMMITTEE OF FIVE REGISTERED VOTERS: NAME AND RESIDENCE (Street and Number, if any; Town)

WARNING - criminal penalty for unlawfully signing, altering, defacing, mutilating, destroying or suppressing this nomination paper: fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to one year.

REGISTRAR INFORMATION	INSTRUCTIONS TO REGISTRARS <ul style="list-style-type: none">You must time-stamp or write in date and time these papers are received.Fill in and sign Certificate of Registration on at least one of the candidate's papers.Check thus ✓ against the name of each qualified voter to be certified. For names not certified use the following code. Draw a line through any blank spaces not containing signatures. N - no such registered voter at that address, or address is illegible. S - unable to identify signature as that of voter because of form of signature, or signature is illegible. T - already signed nomination papers for this candidate.	CANDIDATE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION <p>We certify that the above named candidate is a registered voter of this town.</p> <p>_____ 20____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Registrars of Voters of _____ Town</p>
	CERTIFICATION OF NAMES <p>_____ month and day</p> <p>We certify that _____ number of names certified – use numbers and words</p> <p>above signatures checked thus ✓ are the names of qualified voters from this town.</p>	At least three registrars' names must be signed or stamped below. <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Registrars of Voters _____ Town</p>

Who can sign?

- Any Massachusetts registered voter in YOUR district can sign your nomination papers;
- Not every signature will be valid. Plan to get at least 50% more than you need;
- NEVER make a stray mark on any nomination paper. No checks. No strike throughs. Nothing that shouldn't be on the form!

How many should you plan to gather?

- Not every signature will be valid;
 - People give you the wrong address;
 - People aren't registered to vote;
 - People sign Mickey Mouse;
- Plan to get 50% more signatures than you need.

Where to Get Signatures

Find places where YOUR voters are likely:

- Your neighborhood. Door-to-Door is best
- Busy city/town squares
- Dump/recycling center
- Festivals & places people aren't in a rush

Always be polite, but don't chat too long, especially with people who oppose you.

Asking for Signatures

- Tell them who you are, that you are gathering signatures to get a candidate on the ballot (preferably you!) and ask them politely to sign for you;
- If they waver:
 - Tell them you want to make sure they have a choice on election day. 60+% of all legislative elections never have a challenger;
 - They don't have to vote for you, but helping you get on the ballot is a win for democracy;
 - Tell them why you are running.

Asking for Signatures

- If a voter says they already signed (for you or your opponent), ask them to sign anyway.
- They will only get counted once and you won't be penalized if they aren't counted for you.

Asking for Signatures

- Ask voters to sign and print their name so their entry can be read clearly.
- The easier it is for the elections clerk to validate the signature, the more likely the signature is to count;
- You need their address, but don't have to fill in Ward/Precinct fields. Clerks do that;
- If they aren't voters, carry voter registration forms (get them at your city/town) and register them.

It's wafer thin

- You don't need to fill an entire nomination paper;
- You should have more than enough nomination papers to gather the signatures you need and it helps with ...

Take care of your nomination papers!

- NEVER make a stray mark on any nomination paper:
 - No checks;
 - No strike throughs;
- If someone makes a stray mark on a nomination paper, put that paper on the bottom and start with a fresh one.

Take care of your nomination papers!

- Write on post it notes if you need to note something, but make sure it doesn't bleed through to the nomination paper;
- Never:
 - leave your nomination papers unattended!
 - Use a nomination paper that has already been validated by a city/town!

Candidate's First Database

- Get voter lists from city/town. This info. has name, address, DOB, gender, party and most importantly, in which elections they voted;
- Find out if voters are owner / renters from assessors database;
- Put it in a database and merge the two data sets;
- Add your volunteers, donors, etc.

Filing Nomination Papers

- File nomination papers with town/city as they are completed. Don't wait to the last minute!
- If you file them early and get them back well before the filing deadline, you will know how many signatures you have and when you have enough to stop.

Filing Nomination Papers

- Be sure to hand in the voter registration forms on top of the nomination papers so they are processed first;
- Get receipts when you file the nomination papers, so they can be sure they are giving them to the correct campaign;
- If you don't, then you need to bring a letter on campaign stationery authorizing the person bearing the letter to pick up the signatures.

Filing Nomination Papers

- For non-Town elections, pick up the nomination papers when notified they are available or stop by periodically to check if they are done validating them. Don't be a nudge;
- Keep the nomination papers safe;
- Copy the nomination papers so ...

Before you file

- Make sure your city/town filed out the Voter Registration Certificate on the required number of forms;
- Make sure you sign at least one nomination paper saying to accept the nomination;
- For State Offices: File a statement of financial interests with the Ethics Commission. It is not detailed.
- For Town Offices: List anyone who could fill your vacancy, if needed.

Candidate's First Data Set

- Put your signers in your database.
- These are the voters who have had the most interaction with you.
- Don't lose that information!

Filing Nomination Papers

- ... Until you have enough signatures (with extra) to get on the ballot;
- ... Then file them with the Commonwealth's Election Division and any other required paperwork;
- Be sure to publicize when you are dropping them off. Take photos and videos and share widely.

Send Thank You Notes

- Thank the volunteers who helped you get on the ballot!
- Send them a thank you note soon after they helped;
- Send a letter telling them you got on the ballot;
- ... and that you couldn't get on the ballot without their help. Cuz' its true!

Are we done?

- Do we have more time?
- If so ... next slide ...

Voter ID is Vital

- Elections are all about turnout
- Between 5% and 30% of voters will turn out
- You have to identify your supporters so you get them out to vote for you (GOTV)

Meet voters!

- Have a supporter who is a parent of a child at that school introduce you during morning drop off or afternoon pickup
- Attend block parties and city/town festivals
- Have meet & greet events at senior centers and for members of local groups

Meet voters! (cont.)

- Keep track of who you meet & their concerns. You need a database that has all the voters in your district
- Follow up with the voters you meet either by dropping off a flier with a thank you note or by mailing a flier & a thank you
- Have supporters write letters to friends telling them why they are voting for you

Go Door-to-Door

- Purpose of Door-to-Door effort is to:
 - meet voters & tell them about you
 - identify which voters will support you
- From the voter list, you should develop a walk list. Divide streets into even and odd sides to make record keeping easier

Go Door-to-Door (cont.)

- Mark a voters level of support with 1 as will vote for you and 5 as will not vote for you
- If a voter isn't supportive, move on quickly but politely. Find someone who is
- When someone isn't home, be sure to leave a flier hanging on their door handle

Get Out The Vote (GOTV)

- All your efforts must lead to the GOTV effort
- Through the Door-to-Door effort you have hopefully identified a lot of voters who will support you
- Now you have to make sure they will be at the polls on election day

GOTV Early Voting

- Before early voting starts, drop off notices to all supporters telling them where to vote
- Call all supporters:
 - Remind them that you need their vote.
Thank them if they voted for you
 - Tell them where to vote & when it is open

GOTV Election Day

- If you can identify who didn't vote during early voting
- Before election day drop off notices to all supporters telling them where to they vote and when
- Call all supporters
 - Remind them that you need their vote
 - Tell them where their polling place is & when it is open
 - Ask if they need a ride to the polls