

REV UP MA Meeting

Thursday October 30, 2025 @1:00 PM

Agenda

- Housekeeping and Accessibility
- Introductions
- Upcoming municipal elections
- Polling Place Accessibility Report
- Advocacy Updates

Accessibility

- Captioning is being provided by our CART provider, Stefanie.
 - To view captions: Click the Streamtext link (you can edit font, backgrounds, text color):
www.streamtext.net/player?event=DLC-REVup
 - Or click CC button at the bottom of your Zoom screen (it may also be under the 'More' button). To adjust the font size and color of the text, click the ^ up arrow and 'Caption Settings.'
- ASL Interpreters James Pope and Alicia Brand will be spotlighted on your screen. (Otherwise, click the three dots on the ASL interpreters' screens and press 'Pin'.)
- Please let us know if you have issues with viewing CART or ASL interpreters, or if you have any other access needs.

Housekeeping

- Say your name before you speak.
- You can use the raise hand feature by clicking the 'Reactions' and 'Raise hand' feature at the bottom of your screen. If joining by phone, *9 to raise/lower hand and *6 to unmute/mute).
- Keep chat use to a minimum if possible.
- Any questions?

Introductions

- Name, organization (if applicable), location, pronouns
- Do you have any exciting local elections happening in your town/city this Fall?

www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/recent-updates/upcoming-elections.htm

Upcoming Municipal Elections

- On **Tuesday, November 4th**: 55 towns and cities hold local elections. Some are holding early voting.
- Check whether your city or town is holding local elections by visiting the Secretary of State's [Upcoming Elections page](#).
- Find your polling place using the Secretary of State's [Polling Site search tool](#).
- Check your [Voter Registration Information online](#) (voter registration deadline has passed, but you can still cast a ballot if on the [inactive list](#)).
- [Contact your local election office](#) for your city or town's early voting schedule, important deadlines, and polling locations!

Vote by Mail, AVBM, or Absentee Ballot

- Vote by mail: Return your ballot in-person at your [local election office](#), during your municipality's early voting hours, or at a [ballot drop box](#). Check out the Secretary of State's [Vote by Mail page](#) for more information.
- If you have a disability and applied to vote with an accessible electronic ballot, you may submit your ballot electronically, or print your ballot and submit it by mail, during early voting hours, or at a ballot drop box.
- If you were admitted to a healthcare facility (like a hospital, nursing home, or other program) any time between Tuesday October 28th **and Tuesday November 4th, you can apply for an emergency absentee ballot.** This emergency application is available until the close of the polls on November 4th. You and someone you trust to help deliver and cast your ballot should check out this [Absentee Voting resource](#) or contact your [local election office](#) for more information.
- Want to see where your mail-in or absentee ballot is? [Track your ballot!](#)

Know Your Rights

- Check out the [Massachusetts Voters' Bill of Rights](#) before you vote!
- If you have any issues voting on election day, including inaccessible polling places or issues with the AutoMARK machine, here is a list of people who can help:
 - Try contacting your [local election office](#) first: Staff should help answer questions or resolve problems that are time sensitive.
 - Contact the Secretary of State's office by phone at 1-800-462-VOTE (1-800-462-8683) or email at elections@sec.state.ma.us.
 - Call or text the [Election Protection Hotline](#) at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683). Trained Election Protection volunteers can help answer questions about voting and connect you to helpful resources.
- Not for time-sensitive issues -- fill out our [short online survey](#) to share your voting experiences, or call DLC's Intake Line at 617-723-8455.

2024 Polling Place Accessibility Report

- Brief overview of polling place accessibility surveys, who helped with them during the 2024 General Election cycle
- 137 polling place accessibility surveys total – a small sample of polling places in MA
- First comprehensive polling place accessibility report we have done
- Reports from voters:
 - Voter hotline on Election Day last year, short survey.
 - Individual experiences reported by voters were not in the quantitative part of the report, but still important!
- Read the complete report by visiting our website. PDF is accessible.
www.dlc-ma.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2024-Polling-Place-Accessibility-Report.pdf

Polling Place Accessibility Report:

Takeaways

- **69% of polling places surveyed had at least one accessibility issue.**
 - Most common: Exterior paths of travel issues (external paths of travel include sidewalks, parking lots, ramps)
 - 2nd most common: AutoMARK issues
 - 3rd: Parking issues
 - 4th: Interior issues (sample ballots not posted accessibly, areas inside too narrow, issues with doors inside polling places)
 - 5th: Entrance issues (doorways too narrow, uneven, step or threshold to get inside, unable to be opened independently)
- **More oversight is needed!**

Advocacy Updates

- September 16, 2025: Joint Committee on Election Laws held a hearing for several important bills that would expand voting access: Disability Accessibility Oversight, Same Day Voter Registration, and Decoupling Municipal Census from Voter Registration
- [H.820](#) filed by Rep. Kate Donaghue & [S.504](#) filed by Sen. Cindy Creem: testimony by Barbara L'Italien, Brianna Zimmerman, and Nathan Persampieri
 - This bill would require the Secretary of Commonwealth to arrange inspection of all polling places and early voting sites at least once every four years, to ensure compliance with federal and state disability accessibility laws. Cities and town not in compliance must take immediate action to comply and file a compliance plan, and the Attorney General can enforce compliance in court.
- Visit www.votingrightsma.org/legislation for bill information