



Common Cause

Massachusetts

Platform for **People Power**

Legislative Priorities 2025-26

Voting & Elections

- An Act Establishing Same Day Voter Registration**
H.834 (Gentile) S.505 (Creem)

Thousands of voters every statewide election get left behind because of the 10-day arbitrary voter registration cutoff. This bill would update state election laws to allow voters to register and vote on the same day during both early voting and on Election Day. 23 other states already use Same Day Registration including NH, VT, ME, and CT. This is a long-overdue reform that will improve voter access and increase voter turnout.

- An Act Decoupling the Municipal Census from Voter Registration**
H.799 (Arriaga) S.503(Creem)

Not responding to the municipal census should no longer result in being dropped from the voting register. This bill will maintain the municipal census for data collection and jury selection but no longer to change a voter's status to being an INACTIVE VOTER if a voter does not return the annual census.

- An Act Enforcing Accessibility for Voters with Disabilities**
H.2820 (Donaghue) S.504 (Creem)

The Secretary of the Commonwealth - or their designated agent - will be required to arrange inspections of all polling places and early voting sites at a minimum frequency of once every four years. Any city or town found to be non-compliant with federal or state law must take immediate corrective action and submit a compliance plan. The Attorney general will be authorized to pursue court action to enforce compliance if necessary.

- An Act Strengthening the Post-Election Audit Process**
H.876 (Vargas) S.517 (E. Kennedy)

Increases the definition of ballots required to be audited to include ballots cast by mail and during early voting; Increases the rate of post election audits to every two years instead of four years; Sets a timeline for the audit report to be published within 30 days and that the published audit and report be maintained online for up to six years; Authorizes but does not require cities and towns to perform post-election audits and; Establishes a Risk-Limiting Audit (RLA) working group to study the feasibility of MA using RLAs.

- Proposal for a Legislative Amendment to the Constitution Relative to Voting Rights**
H.63 (Uyterhoeven) S.7 (Miranda)

A proposed constitutional amendment to restore voting rights to people actively incarcerated on a felony conviction. After the failed "tough on crime" experiment, in 2000 Massachusetts amended our state constitution to remove voting rights of this population. It's time to restore those rights.

Media & Democracy

An Act to Modernize Participation in Public Meetings



H.3299 (Cabral)

Requires all entities under the Open Meeting Law (municipal government bodies, state agencies, etc) to provide hybrid - both remote and in-person meeting options for the public and the public body; At least one-third of the public body must be in-person and online participation by board members counts towards quorum; All recorded videos of proceedings shall be posted online within 10 days of the public meeting and; Would take effect April 1, 2025, given the March 31st, 2025 deadline for current rules.

An Act To Protect Against Election Misinformation



H.76 (Farley-Bouvier)

Regulates the use of Artificial Intelligence and other materially deceptive election-related materials made to deliberately misinform voters about candidates or issues. Includes an exemption for satire and comedy.

Money In Politics, Ethics, and Accountability

An Act Improving Campaign Finance Reporting By State Ballot Question Committees



H.868 (Ryan) S.507 (DiDomenico)

This bill would transition ballot question committees into the depository system, the same process by which all state, county, and most municipal elected officials use. This will ensure greater transparency through more regular monthly reporting during the current six month period between January 1st and the 60 Day Report. It will also increase the confidence the public has in the reporting.

An Act Limiting Political Spending by Foreign-Influenced Corporations



H.875 (Uyterhoeven) S.525 (Montigny)

This bill would prohibit a corporation from making electioneering communications and independent expenditures in Massachusetts elections if a single foreign shareholder owns more than 5% of a company's shares or if over 20% of the total ownership is in foreign hands. The legislation would help ensure that the financing of our state elections is protected from foreign corporate influence.

An Act Making Records in the Office of the Governor Public



S.2105 (Brady)

Reasonably subjects the Governor's office to the state's public records law.

Redistricting & Representation

An Act Relative to Reprecincting



H.856 (Moran)

This bill would permanently allow for the legislature to draw state, congressional, and other districts before municipalities submit precinct maps. This will allow the state legislature's redistricting committee to use finer units (census block data) to maximize their drawing of majority minority districts to best diversify representation.

Common Cause Massachusetts opposes all calls for an Article V Convention of States regardless of the issue it seeks to address.

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