



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## AN INITIATIVE PETITION

### FOR A LAW

Under Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth

### SUMMARY

This proposed law would implement a voting system known as “ranked-choice voting,” in which voters rank one or more candidates by order of preference. Ranked-choice voting would be used in primary and general elections for all Massachusetts statewide offices, state legislative offices, federal congressional offices, and certain other offices beginning in 2022. Ranked-choice voting would not be used in elections for president, county commissioner, or regional district school committee member.

Under the proposed law, votes would be counted in a series of rounds. In the first round, if one candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, that candidate would be declared the winner and no other rounds would be necessary. If no candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, then the candidate or candidates who received the fewest first-place votes would be eliminated and, in the next round, each vote for an eliminated candidate would instead be counted toward the next highest-ranked candidate on that voter’s ballot. Depending on the number of candidates, additional rounds of counting could occur, with the last-place candidate or candidates in each round being eliminated and the votes for an eliminated candidate going

to the voter’s next choice out of the remaining candidates. A tie for last place in any round would be broken by comparing the tied candidates’ support in earlier rounds. Ultimately, the candidate who was, out of the remaining candidates, the preference of a majority of voters would be declared the winner.

Ranked-choice voting would be used only in races where a single candidate is to be declared the winner and not in races where more than one person is to be elected.

Under the proposed law, if no candidate received more than 50 percent of first-place votes in the first round, the rounds of ballot-counting necessary for ranked-choice voting would be conducted at a central tabulation facility. At the facility, voters’ rankings would be entered into a computer, which would then be used to calculate the results of each round of the counting process. The proposed law provides that candidates in a statewide or district election would have at least three days to request a recount.

The Secretary of State would be required to issue regulations to implement the proposed law and conduct a voter education campaign about the ranked-choice voting process. The proposed law would take effect on January 1, 2022.

**FILING DEADLINES.** Initiative petitions must be submitted to local election officials for certification of signatures no later than **5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20, 2019**. Local election officials must complete their certification no later than December 2, 2019. Thereafter, initiative petitions containing certified signatures must be retrieved by petitioners from the local election officials and then filed with the Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, One Ashburton Place, Room 1705, Boston, MA, no later than **5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 2019**.

FIRST TEN SIGNERS	<b>Gregory D. Dennis</b>	<b>19 Wheaton Road</b>	<b>Arlington</b>	<b>REGISTRAR USE ONLY:</b>  <i>ONLY REGISTRAR MAY WRITE IN THIS AREA</i>
	<b>Deborah Otis</b>	<b>87 Athelstane Road, #1</b>	<b>Newton</b>	
	<b>Jordan Berg-Powers</b>	<b>18 Townsend Street, #1</b>	<b>Worcester</b>	
	<b>Susan A. Chalifoux-Zephir</b>	<b>900 West Street</b>	<b>Leominster</b>	
	<b>Cristina Crawford</b>	<b>100 Prospect Street</b>	<b>Sherborn</b>	
	<b>Rebecca J. Downing</b>	<b>172 Sycamore Street</b>	<b>Holyoke</b>	
	<b>Shelli A. Pereira</b>	<b>10 North Ogden Street</b>	<b>Fall River</b>	
	<b>Tanisha M. Sullivan</b>	<b>79 Milton Avenue</b>	<b>Boston</b>	
	<b>Gladys Vega</b>	<b>116 Clark Avenue</b>	<b>Chelsea</b>	
	<b>Thomas William Peake</b>	<b>55 Holyoke Street</b>	<b>Easthampton</b>	
<p>These names have been certified as names of registered voters in their places of residence. Original petition was filed on September 4, 2019.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>William Francis Galvin</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS</b></p>				

CIRCULATOR AND SIGNER INFORMATION	<b>INSTRUCTIONS TO CIRCULATORS AND SIGNERS</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DO NOT ALTER THIS INITIATIVE PETITION IN ANY WAY. ADDITIONAL MARKINGS ON THIS PETITION WILL DISQUALIFY ANY SIGNATURES ON THIS PETITION SHEET.</b></li> <li>• 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. DO NOT sign the same petition more than once.</li> <li>• If you are prevented by physical disability from writing, you may authorize some person to write your name and residence in your presence.</li> </ul>			

REGISTRAR USE ONLY	<b>I. SIGNATURE</b> to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated above)	<b>II. NOW REGISTERED AT</b> (street, number and apartment number, if any) (city or town will be the same as stated below)	WARD	PREC.
1				

City or Town

**ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS OF**  **MAY SIGN THIS SHEET.**

(OVER)

C

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

REGISTRAR USE ONLY	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 above)	WARD	PREC.
2				
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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.
- 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.
- You must complete certification no later than December 2, 2019.

- 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 community.
- T - already signed papers for this question.

**CERTIFICATION OF SIGNATURES**

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

\_\_\_\_\_ city or town \_\_\_\_\_ month and day

We certify that \_\_\_\_\_  
(number of names certified - use numbers and words)

above signatures checked thus ✓ are names of qualified voters from this city or town.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Registrars of Voters or Election Commissioners of**

\_\_\_\_\_ city or town \_\_\_\_\_ county

City or Town

**ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS OF**

**MAY SIGN THIS SHEET.**

