



April 19, 2022

Representative Michael Moran
Representative Dan Ryan
Representative Shawn Dooley

Senator Barry Finegold
Senator Cindy Creem
Senator Ryan Fattman

CC: Speaker Ron Mariano, Senate President Karen Spilka
Chairman Aaron Michlewitz, and Chairman Michael Rodrigues

Honorable Members of the VOTES Act Conference Committee,

We are writing in support of the VOTES Act and its many policy proposals to make our democracy more equitable and accessible. We are writing to you today to add our name to the growing list of groups asking that Election Day Voter Registration be included in the final bill version that is sent to the Governor's desk.

A good democracy is good for business. As we've seen in many states since the beginning of 2021, state legislatures are venturing to make access to the ballot harder for some of their citizens. Most notably in states like Texas and Georgia, the private sector pushed back, including Major League Baseball moving its All-Star game out of Atlanta.

While Massachusetts is much different from Georgia and Texas, it's still important to us that we address any unnecessary barriers to voting in the Commonwealth. One such barrier is the voter registration cutoff period that can be best addressed through Election Day Voter Registration.

Businesses pay close attention to the political landscape in states they seek to launch or grow in. With Massachusetts poised to pass the VOTES Act and very publicly move our democracy more towards equity and access, it will surely attract more businesses who value democracy and integrity in our elections.

Businesses and business groups like ours are committed to equity both within our organization and in our community. Research shows that Election Day Voter Registration is the strongest equity – and most popular – provision in the VOTES Act as it could increase turnout for Black

and Latino voters by upwards of 17%. Recent polling shows that 65% of Massachusetts voters support Election Day Voter Registration. We can't miss this opportunity to do right by the residents of Massachusetts who make up the majority of our workforce.

Finally, research shows clear links between increased civic engagement and positive workforce development outcomes. It's a pro-business move to remove barriers to civic participation which would result in a more engaged and skilled workforce throughout the Commonwealth. Provisions like Election Day Voter Registration make voting more accessible and help install lifelong civic habits in Massachusetts residents which make for a stronger workforce. That's a win for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Benson, President
Alliance For Business Leadership*

*Nicole Obi, President & CEO
Black Economic Council of Massachusetts*

*Andrew Tarsy
Emblem Strategic LLC*

*Glynn Lloyd, Executive Director
Foundation for Business Equity*

*Joseph Kreisberg, President
MA Association of Community Development Corporations*

*Brian Burke, Assistant General Counsel
Microsoft Corporation*

*Brandon Patterson, Manager, US State and Local Government Affairs, Northeast
Salesforce*