

# READ CAREFULLY BEFORE VOTING

## THESE ARE YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS

This absentee ballot package, sent at your request, includes a ballot, a small ballot envelope with an affidavit printed on it that you must complete, and a pre-addressed return envelope.

The penalty for voting or attempting to vote in violation of the absentee voting laws is a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars and imprisonment for not more than five years.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ABSENTEE VOTING

### READ CAREFULLY BEFORE VOTING

#### BEFORE YOU VOTE:

Make sure you are eligible. You may vote absentee only if you will be unable to vote at the polls on election day because of:

- absence from your city or town during the hours the polls are open
- physical disability
- religious beliefs

Arrange for any assistance you may require. If you cannot mark your own ballot because you are physically disabled, unable to write, or unable to read, or to read English, you may choose any person to mark your ballot for you.

#### VOTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL VOTERS

1. Mark your ballot while alone, unless you require assistance in reading or marking your ballot card, and you have requested help.

**Note:** Candidates may be listed on both sides of the ballot card.

Vote for a listed candidate or on a question by filling in the oval  next to your choice, like this:

2. Examine the candidates on the ballot and decide for whom you wish to vote. **Do not vote for more candidates than the number allowed for each office.**
3. To mark your ballot, use a black pen or pencil and fill in the oval beside the name on the ballot. The ballot is pre-scored. Do not fold or bend or damage the ballot in any other way, as a computer must process it.

4. To vote for a person not listed on the ballot, write in the name and address of the candidate of your choice or insert a sticker containing such information in the blank space after each office.
5. After marking your ballot, fold and place your marked ballot in the smallest envelope and seal the envelope. This envelope has an affidavit printed on the front.
6. Sign and swear to the affidavit. Be sure to sign your name as you are registered. (The ballot was mailed to you in your name as registered.)
7. If you were unable to mark the ballot yourself, the person assisting must state that you needed assistance and the reason why, and must sign your name and their name on the envelope.
8. Put the completed ballot envelope in the large pre-addressed envelope. Unless you are NOW voting at your local election office, you can MAIL your ballot to your local election office, or it can be delivered in person by a family member (defined as either a spouse or person residing in the same household, in-laws, father, mother, sister or brother of the whole or half blood, son, daughter, adopting parent or adopted child, stepparent or stepchild, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent or grandchild), or unless you are voting at a designated health care facility, or you have entered a hospital within five days before the election. **To have your ballot counted, mail or deliver it in time to reach your local election official before the polls close on election day.**

#### TO VOTE LATER, IN PERSON

If you have mailed your absentee ballot but wish to vote in person at the polling place on election day, and if you will no longer qualify to vote by absentee ballot, you must obtain a certificate from the local election official giving you authority to do so. You cannot obtain this certificate once your absentee ballot has been processed.

#### VOTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

If you are outside the United States, you must mail your ballot on or before election day, and your local election officials must receive it no later than ten (10) days after the election.



William Francis Galvin  
SECRETARY OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS