



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Elections Division

Election Advisory #26-01

Registering During In-Person EV and Pre-Registrants

August 18, 2026

This Advisory contains information about voter registration during in-person early voting and pre-registrants turning 18 on or before Election Day.

In-person early voting for the September 1, 2026 State Primary will be held from August 22 through August 28. In-person early voting for the November 3, 2026 State Election will be held October 17 through October 30.

Voter Registration During In-Person Early Voting

The last day to register for the State Primary, August 22, is the first day of in-person early voting. The last day to register for the State Election, October 24, is during in-person early voting.

On or before the last day to register, voters can register at an in-person early voting location and then vote early. The process to register and vote is based on if there is direct VRIS access at the location.

Direct VRIS Access

If in-person early voting is in the local election office, voters will complete the two-part voter registration form. After the applicant completes the form, review it for completeness. The voter's information should then be entered into VRIS and the acknowledgment notice printed. The voter should be given the notice and allowed to vote early.

If the application is incomplete or can't be processed, notify the voter and provide an opportunity to correct any deficiencies. If the voter refuses to complete the application, they are not eligible to vote. If the registration cannot be processed in VRIS, the voter should complete the Same Day Provisional Affirmation and follow the process for "Without Direct VRIS Access."

Without Direct VRIS Access

If you do not have VRIS access at your early voting location, you will be unable to process the voter registration before the voter early votes. If early voting is in city/town hall or the same building as the election office, voters should complete the two-part registration form, otherwise, a mail-in voter registration form should be used.

After completing the voter registration form, the voter must also complete a Same Day Provisional Affirmation, which does not require registration details. The election worker will complete the provisional ballot roster with the voter's name, address, party, reason for casting a provisional ballot ("Same Day Affirmation"), and provisional ballot number. The voter can then vote provisionally.

After the registration and affirmation are complete, the voter will be provided with a ballot, EV-7 envelope, and provisional ballot envelope. Instruct the voter to insert their marked ballot in the EV-7, sign the EV-7, then insert the EV-7 into the provisional envelope.

If the voter registration is verified when later entered in VRIS, the ballot can be accepted by removing the EV-7 from the provisional envelope and storing it with other early voting envelopes. You must keep the provisional ballot envelope and update the voter's EV information in VRIS. If the voter's registration is rejected, you must include notification that the ballot will not be counted with the rejection notice.

While you are not required to offer voter registration at early voting locations outside your office, we strongly recommend providing the option to register to vote at all early voting locations.

Pre-Registrants Turning 18 by Election Day

A pre-registrant who will be 18 on or before the next election can vote in that election by mail or during in-person early voting, even if they are not 18 at the time. VRIS allows a pre-registrant who will be 18 by the next election to be registered as a voter either on their 18th birthday or the last day to register for that election, whichever is first.

For the State Primary, any pre-registrant who turns 18 between August 22 and September 1 will only be added to the voter list on or after August 22. For the State Election, any pre-registrant who turns 18 between October 24 and November 3 will only be added to the voter list on or after October 24.

The process for in-person early voting for pre-registrants depends on if you have VRIS access at your early voting location. Pre-registrants appearing to vote early in person on or before the last day to register will not be on the voter list.

In-Person Early Voting - Direct VRIS Access

If you have access to VRIS, verify the pre-registrant's information and eligibility in Res/Vot: Certify: Pre-Registrants. They must confirm their information, including the address at which they are pre-registered. If confirmed, provide them a ballot and envelope and manually record the information, including the date they are voting. For the State Primary, if the pre-registrant record indicates they are unenrolled or in a designation, they should be given the choice of primary ballot, and the choice should also be manually recorded. For pre-registrants in a party, they are only able to vote in that party's primary.

Once the pre-registrant has been certified as a voter, update their record in VRIS to record them as an EV and indicate they have a ballot accepted.

In-Person Early Voting - Without Direct VRIS Access

If a pre-registrant goes to an early voting location without VRIS before being certified as a voter, their information must be confirmed before they vote. There are two ways to confirm their pre-registrant status. The first is for staff to contact your office and verify the voter is in the pre-registrant queue in VRIS and eligible. The staff should confirm the pre-registrant's address and, for a primary, their party.

The second option is to verify the pre-registrant's information on the SOC's website by entering the pre-registrant's name, date of birth, zip code, and verifying if a result displays. The direct link is <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx> or you can go to www.voteinma.com and select "Check My Voter Information."

If you can't confirm a pre-registrant's status, they should be offered the opportunity to complete a voter registration form and Same Day Provisional Affirmation if voting on or before the last day to register. If they refuse or are voting after the last day to register, they should be provided a provisional ballot.

Voting by Mail

If a pre-registrant applies to vote by mail, first verify their application information against their VRIS record in your pre-registrant queue. Once confirmed, mail a ballot to the address on their vote by mail application.

If the pre-registrant returns their ballot before becoming a voter in VRIS, keep a manual record of the ballot information. Once certified as a voter, create them as an EV and enter the information outside of VRIS. If the pre-registrant returns the ballot after becoming eligible to be a voter, make sure they are certified as a voter, then create an EV record and update that record with the ballot information.