

MARCH 5, 2024 - PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY INFORMATION

VOTER REGISTRATION

The deadline to register to vote for the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary is Saturday, February 24, 2024. In-person registration will be offered on this day at City Hall, 93 Washington Street, Elections Office, Room #5 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM to register to vote, change party enrollment or change voting address.

You may click the link below to see if you are already registered to vote in Salem, where you vote, what party you are enrolled in, and further helpful information:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx>

VOTE BY MAIL

- All registered voters in Massachusetts can ***vote by mail*** with no excuse needed.

As required by the new law, a Vote By Mail Application (Postcard) was mailed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to every person who is registered to vote. These applications are pre-addressed to the City Clerk's office and no postage is necessary.

The postcard will inform you if you are registered in a party (Democrat, Republican or Libertarian). If so, you will be mailed that party ballot for the primaries.

For unenrolled voters (previously known as Independent), you will be asked to pick a party for the March and September primary. If you **DO NOT** pick a party, you will only be sent a ballot in November.

- Vote by Mail Applications must be received by the City Clerk's Office no later than 5:00 P.M. Tuesday, February 27, 2024, to be mailed a ballot for the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary.
- If you wish to Vote by Mail, you are strongly encouraged to return your application as early as possible to ensure that you will receive your ballot in time to return it before the close of polls on March 5, 2024.

If you did not receive a Vote by Mail application, you may download one from:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/languages/vote-by-mail-applications.htm>

- Your ballot must be received in the City Clerk's office no later than 8:00 P.M. on March 5, 2024, to be counted. A Vote By Mail Ballot **cannot be returned to the polls.**
- Applications for mail-in ballots are acceptable provided the signature is visible and it is signed in substantially the same manner as a handwritten signature. This includes applications signed with a mouse, stylus, or finger. Applications with typed signatures are not acceptable. ***You may return the application by US Postal Mail or by email to: elections@salem.com***

HOW TO VOTE IN A PRIMARY

In Massachusetts, every registered voter can vote in a primary election. You do not need to be a party member to participate, but your party registration may affect your ballot options.

There are currently three recognized political parties in Massachusetts. If you are registered in one of these parties below, you cannot vote in another party's primary.

- Democratic Party
- Republican Party
- Libertarian Party

Each party holds its own primary. Separate ballots are printed for each party, with only the candidates running for that party's nomination listed.

If you are not enrolled in a political party (unenrolled), you can choose a party ballot when you check-in at your polling place. Choosing a ballot will not enroll you in a party.

Once you have chosen a party ballot, and the poll worker marks your choice on the voter list, you cannot change your selection.

If you vote by mail, and you are not a party member, make sure to select your party on the Vote by Mail application. If you do not select a party on the Vote by Mail application, you will not get a primary ballot.

For more information on how to vote in a presidential or state primary, please go to this website:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voting-information/vote-primary.htm>

EARLY VOTING IN PERSON

FEBRUARY 24 – MARCH 1, 2024

- Early Voting will be conducted at the City Hall Annex, 98 Washington Street, first floor (directly across the street from City Hall).

Hours will be as follows:

Saturday, February 24 - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sunday, February 25 - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Monday, February 26 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday, February 27 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Wednesday, February 28 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thursday, February 29 - 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Friday, March 1 - 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

MAILING BALLOTS

- The March 5, 2024, Election is a Presidential Primary. Therefore, those voters registered in a party will only receive the ballot for which they are registered and those voters who are Unenrolled (*formerly referred to as independent or in a political designation*) **have to specify what party ballot they wish to receive on their application, or we will not be able to mail you a ballot for March or September.**
- When you receive your ballot by mail, the envelope will include a ballot, instructions, an inner envelope to place your cast ballot in, and a postage pre-paid, pre-addressed envelope to return your ballot in.

RETURNING VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS

- Your ballot can be mailed using the provided pre-paid white envelope
- Dropped off outside the front entrance of City Hall, 93 Washington Street in the black “payment” box also labelled Ballots can be placed here
- Brought into the Elections Office in Room #5 of City Hall, 93 Washington Street
- Dropped into one of our secured Ballot Drop Boxes located below. Drop Boxes Will Be Open Until 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.
 - Fire Station Headquarters, 48 Lafayette Street
 - Fire Station #5, 64 Loring Avenue
 - Fire Station #4, 415 Essex Street
 - Fire Station #2, 142 North Street
- Ballots need to be returned by any of these options above by the close of polls, 8:00 P.M. on Election Day, in order to be counted.
- Ballots **CANNOT** be brought to the polls on Election Day.
- Any voter whose ballot has been accepted by our office, either by returning a vote by mail ballot, absentee ballot or has voted early in person, **cannot vote in person on Election Day.**
- Any voter who received a ballot by mail, but never sent it back, is allowed to vote at the polls on Election Day OR may Vote Early In-Person as specified above.

POLLING LOCATIONS

VOTING IN-PERSON ON ELECTION DAY

March 5, 2024

Voting Hours: 7 AM to 8 PM

- This Election is a Presidential Primary. Therefore, those voters registered in a party, Democrat, Republican or Libertarian, will only receive the ballot for which they are registered.
- Voters who are Unenrolled (*formerly referred to as independent or in a political designation*) **must specify what party ballot they wish to receive when checking in to vote.** Unenrolled voters must decide if they want to vote a Democratic, Republican or Libertarian ballot. Once your decision is made it cannot be changed. Please make sure to check out the sample ballots below or at your polling location before making your choice.

Ward 1 Precinct 1	Bentley Academy Gymnasium, 25 Memorial Drive
Ward 1 Precinct 2	Community Center, 135 Lafayette Street
Ward 2 Precinct 1 & 2	Community Life Center, 401 Bridge Street
Ward 3 Precinct 1 & 2	Salem High School, Auditorium, 77 Willson Street
Ward 4 Precinct 1 & 2	Witchcraft Heights School Gym, 1 Frederick Street
Ward 5 Precinct 1 & 2	Saltonstall School Auditorium, 211 Lafayette Street
Ward 6 Precinct 1 & 2	Bates School Gymnasium, 53 Liberty Hill Avenue
Ward 7 Precinct 1 & 2	Salem Enterprise Center, 121 Loring Avenue

- **Bring an ID** – in some cases voters will be required to show an ID. It does not have to be a photo ID, BUT it must contain your name and address as registered. Acceptable forms of ID include utility bill, paycheck stub, driver's license, etc.)

For more information on identification requirements (why you may be asked for ID, what is acceptable identification):

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voting-information/identification-requirements.htm>

SAMPLE BALLOTS

Since this is a Presidential Primary which will also include Ward Committees, each ward will have 3 different ballot parties (Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian)

To look at sample ballots for your ward please go to the website below:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/WhereDoIVote>

ABSENTEE VOTING

- Deadline to request an Absentee Ballot by mail is 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. The deadline to vote Absentee in person is 12:00 PM, on Monday, March 4, 2024.

OTHER INFORMATION

Other helpful Information can be found on the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website using this link.

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/elections-and-voting.htm>

If still need help, please contact the Elections Office for clarification or questions you may have. You may email questions to elections@salem.com or by calling 978-745-9595 ext. 41210.