



Massachusetts Election Protection Coalition

Post-Election 2024 Report

Program Summary: The [Election Protection](#) program trains and deploys nonpartisan volunteers at high-priority polling locations across Massachusetts. Our volunteers monitor voting in real time, refer issues they see to our Command Center, and connect voters to the 866-OUR-VOTE hotline (nationally led by Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights) if there are questions or problems voting.

The Election Protection Steering Committee is releasing a report today which highlights data obtained through *both* the hotline and from direct incident reports by volunteers on the ground.

Community Impact: Our 2024 program monitored the election and supported voters at polling locations around the Commonwealth. This year we:

- Trained and deployed 400 Nonpartisan Volunteers
- Monitored 140 unique polling locations for at least one three-hour shift between 6am and 9pm on Election Day
- Deployed Nonpartisan Volunteers in 30 municipalities in 9 counties;
 - Municipalities include: *Boston, Brockton, Cambridge, Chelsea, Clinton, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Quincy, Randolph, Revere, Salem, Somerset, Southbridge, Springfield, Taunton, and Worcester.*
 - Most municipalities were prioritized for being Voting Rights Act (VRA) [Section 203](#) communities, and/or for being [Gateway](#) Cities. Section 203 of the VRA “requires translation of Election materials for localities where there are more than 10,000 or over 5 percent of the total voting age citizens in a single political subdivision who are members of a single language minority group.”

Issues Identified: Through a combination of calls to the EP Hotline and incident reports submitted by volunteers, our program identified:

- 156 voters who showed up to vote on Election Day, but missed the 10-day registration cutoff.
- 50 incidents of disability or physical accessibility issues at polling locations; these issues include lack of signage, concerns with parking, door accessibility, and reasonable access to ramps.
- 14 reports of tabulators jamming or failing in Boston (Charlestown & Roxbury), *Lowell, Peabody, Malden, and Springfield*.
- 4 polling locations that ran out of ballots in Boston:
 - Roosevelt School in Hyde Park
 - Blake Estates in Hyde Park
 - Spring Street Apartments in West Roxbury
 - Charlestown Boys & Girls Club

When not in compliance with state election laws, or otherwise significant and systemic, issues are immediately reported to the Secretary of Commonwealth's Elections Division by a representative from the Steering Committee's Command Center. The Command Center staff from the Steering Committee spends all day on Election Day coordinating nonpartisan volunteers in the field and monitoring the backend of the hotline in real time.

Solutions Proposed: Based on the information collected by our volunteers on Election Day, our coalition recommends that the:

- Massachusetts Legislature enact [Same Day Registration](#) to allow for otherwise eligible voters who show up to vote on Election Day to cast a ballot that counts in 2025.
- Massachusetts Legislature enact legislation requiring the Secretary of Commonwealth's Elections Division to proactively audit the accessibility of polling locations once every four years.
- Secretary of Commonwealth leverage existing [Help America Vote Act](#) federal funds to support municipalities in updating tabulators and AutoMARK machines where necessary.

The Massachusetts Election Protection Program Steering Committee includes Lawyers for Civil Rights, Common Cause Massachusetts, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, MassVOTE, Massachusetts Voter Table, and the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts / 1619 Project.