



Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association
Legislative Committee
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The members of the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association appreciate your support of legislative items that impact our profession. We look forward to working with you during this session.

In recent years, the administration of elections has changed dramatically. Beginning in 2016 in-person early voting for all state elections was required. In 2020, during the pandemic, all voters were allowed to vote early by mail. Sweeping changes to the election laws made voting by mail and in-person early voting a permanent requirement beginning in 2022.

These changes have placed a tremendous burden on those of us who are tasked with administering elections. We ask that you carefully consider proposals that would modify these current requirements and allow us to better manage the burdens placed upon us.

- **In Person Early Voting** – we strongly recommend reducing the number of days currently required. Our survey data has shown that only about 5% of voters took advantage of early voting for the 2022 primary election. Data also indicated that early voting turnout for the 2022 general election was the highest during the last few days of the 2-week period. These long periods of in-person early voting come with a significant cost.
- **Vote by Mail Postcards** – the required SOC postcard mailing creates an extremely burdensome manual process. We advocate for a permanent Vote by Mail option for voters to permanently opt in or opt out, eliminating the multiple postcard mailings.
- **Fully Fund Mandated Costs** - we strongly encourage you to fully fund the mandated costs associated with early voting. In order to efficiently manage this labor-intensive process, we need equipment (high speed printers and tabulators) and additional staff.
- **Survey Data** – our association conducted a comprehensive survey to capture information regarding voter turnout, vote by mail requests, in-person voting volume, and costs associated with each method. Please see attached.