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MASSACHUSETTS INFORMATION FOR VOTERS 1978

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Paul Guzzi
Secretary of the Commonwealth
State House, Boston, Massachusetts

Vote November 7th

Dear Voter

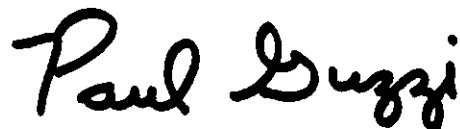
On Election Day, November 7, you will be asked to consider seven amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution. Some of these changes could affect your pocketbook, and others the way your state government functions.

This booklet is designed to help you decide how to vote on these vitally important matters. It does not take a stand on any issue, but it does explain the meaning of a "yes" and "no" vote.

I hope you will take a few minutes to read this booklet and then decide how you intend to vote. Above all, I urge you to vote on these questions. This is your opportunity to influence public policy.

Your vote does make a difference!

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Guzzi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PAUL GUZZI

Secretary of the Commonwealth

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What This Booklet Is About

It gives you information that will not appear on the ballot about the constitutional questions, the offices to be filled, and how to register and vote. You can save time in the voting booth by reading this information before you go to the polls.

What Will Be on Your Ballot?

This year, in addition to listing the candidates who are running for office, all ballots will contain seven questions. All seven are proposals for amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution. These amendments have been approved by two successively elected legislatures and now appear on the ballot for voter approval or disapproval.

Your **ballot** will only contain the number of each question, a record of its legislative votes, and a brief summary. There may be some local questions on your ballot in addition to the statewide questions. You can find information about these in your local newspaper.

What Will You Find in This Booklet?

More Information on the Questions and Sample Ballots

This booklet contains additional official information on each statewide question

- a subject title
- a brief statement explaining what a YES and NO vote means
- a 150 word argument for the amendment
- a 150 word argument against the amendment
- the full text

The 150 word arguments are printed as required by law. They are the opinions of the principal proponents and opponents of each question. The arguments have not been edited for content or accuracy and are printed as submitted without change.

It also includes sample paper, machine and punch card ballots (page 10) so that you may determine ahead of time where these questions will appear on the type of ballot your community uses.

Descriptions of Offices to Be Filled and a Checklist

The descriptions on page 16 explain some of the responsibilities of the officials to be elected this year.

The checklist on the inside of the back cover lists both the questions and offices to be filled that will appear on your ballot. When you go to vote there will be little time to consider each question. After reading this booklet and deciding how you plan to vote, you may wish to mark your decisions on the list and take it with you to the polls as a reminder.

General Information about Elections, Registering and Voting

Page 15 describes the kinds of elections that are held in this state and includes a chart that will help you remember election dates and know which offices are to be filled.

The information on the back cover explains how to register and vote and gives some additional information on the election process.

Do You Need More Copies of This Information For Voters Booklet?

Call the Citizen Information Service at 727-7030 in the Boston metropolitan area or toll-free 1-800-392-6090, or request additional free copies of this booklet by writing to:

Secretary of the Commonwealth
State House
Boston, MA 02133

A summary of this booklet, in large print as well as on a 33 1/3 rpm record, has been made available to your public library.

¿Necesita un panfleto de Información a los Votantes en español?

Disponemos de un resumen en español de las preguntas que se presentan en la papeleta. Comuníquese con el Secretario de Estado o en el área metropolitana de Boston llame al 727-7030, o tarifa gratis al 1-800-392-6090.

Question 1

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

Property Classification for Tax Purposes

Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on May 28, 1975, by a vote of 220-53, and on September 7, 1977, by a vote of 243-20?

YES

NO

Summary

The proposed constitutional amendment would permit the legislature to establish as many as four different classes of real property for tax purposes. Property in any one class would be required to be assessed, rated and taxed proportionately but property in different classes could be assessed,

rated and taxed differently. The legislature could grant reasonable exemptions. The constitution presently requires all property (other than wild lands, forest lands, and certain agricultural and horticultural lands) to be assessed and rated equally at full value for tax purposes.

A **YES** vote would permit the legislature to establish up to four classes of property which could be treated differently for tax purposes.

A **NO** vote would leave the state constitution as it is.

Argument For

An opinion written by a person supporting the amendment

A YES VOTE ON QUESTION #1 WILL STOP 100% VALUATION. That's the only reason Question #1 is on the ballot. If Question #1 doesn't pass, every city and town in the Commonwealth must go to 100% valuation.

100% valuation means that residential property taxes will go up by \$265 million statewide; and property taxes on insurance companies, real estate interests, commercial banks and other big businesses will be cut by \$265 million. Taxes paid by those least able to pay—the elderly, for example—will go up by as much as 700%.

Nobody can blame businessmen for wanting a \$265 million windfall profit; but no homeowner or renter would willingly agree to pay for those profits with a \$265 million increase in residential property taxes.

A YES VOTE will stop 100% valuation statewide, continuing the present practice of taxing homes less than businesses.

A NO VOTE will enforce 100% valuation, and increase residential property taxes by \$265 million.

Argument Against

An opinion written by a person opposing the amendment

History has shown that the Massachusetts Legislature cannot always be depended on to make sound and fair tax decisions. The Massachusetts Constitution now gives the Legislature no chance to favor one class of property taxpayer over any other. It requires all property to be taxed alike according to its real value. If Question #1 is approved, this Constitutional protection now enjoyed by all taxpayers—homeowners and businessmen alike—will be lost. The Amendment, if passed, would give the Legislature unlimited power to define and redefine classes of property for tax purposes and to assign to each class whatever rate of tax suited its political whim of the moment. Anyone who values his job as well as his home will vote against Question #1 and in favor of continuing the present equal treatment of all property.

See Full Text of Amendment on Page 13

Question 2

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

State Budget Deadline

Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on May 28, 1975, by a vote of 267-3, and on August 10, 1977, by a vote of 250-1?

YES

NO

Summary

The proposed constitutional amendment would allow a governor who had not served in the preceding year as governor to submit a proposed budget to the legislature within eight weeks of the

beginning of the legislative session. A governor who had served in the preceding year would still be required to submit a proposed budget within three weeks of the beginning of a legislative session.

A **YES** vote would give a new governor eight weeks after the legislative session begins to submit his first budget to the legislature.

A **NO** vote would keep the present three-week deadline.

Argument For

An opinion written by a person supporting the amendment

An incoming governor who has not served before is under enormous pressure to produce a budget the fourth Wednesday in January as presently required. In practice new governors have filed "cover budgets" and revised them later as the legislative part of the budgetary process took place. This leads to confusion and often results in a budget which has inconsistencies.

A governor who is forced to file an interim proposal and follow it up with a final one is placed in the embarrassing position of changing statements made in good faith but on less information than is desirable. A governor would be offered greater opportunity under this proposal to prepare a budget carefully so that it would require less change after it reached the legislature.

The proposed constitutional change provides for a smoother budgetary transition between administrations.

Argument Against

An opinion written by a person opposing the amendment

The following are problems inherent in a constitutional change extending the time by which a governor must submit a budget to the legislature.

(1) A new Governor under our current statutes who because of extenuating circumstances feels that he needs more time to prepare a budget can petition the legislature. The legislature in the past has been very sympathetic in granting extensions to new Governors. Hence the problem has never been in granting a new Governor more time to prepare a budget, but rather the fiscal woes that are precipitated by the failure of the State to responsibly pass and enact a budget on time.

(2) Allowing a new Governor more time to prepare a budget will cause drastic changes in our State operation from one administration to the next. The present three week period allows enough time for a new Governor to make sufficient changes in policy, but in a more gradual manner while he is getting more acquainted with his new duties.

See Full Text of Amendment on Page 13

Question 3

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

Distributing Information for Voters

Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on June 26, 1976, by a vote of 244-6, and on August 10, 1977, by a vote of 253-1?

YES

NO

Summary

The proposed constitutional amendment would require the Secretary of the Commonwealth to send information about questions that will appear on the state election ballot to each person eligible to vote in the Commonwealth, or to every residence in the

Commonwealth where one or more eligible voters live. Presently, the Constitution requires the Secretary to send this information to each registered voter in the Commonwealth.

A **YES** vote would require that information for voters be sent to each person eligible to vote and make it clear that this requirement can be met by sending one copy to each residence.

A **NO** vote would keep the present requirement that this information be sent to each registered voter.

Argument For

An opinion written by a person supporting the amendment

Before every state election the State Secretary must send the voters the **Information for Voters** booklet that you are now reading.

A YES vote would allow this booklet with information about the ballot questions to reach more voters at less cost to the taxpayers.

The amendment clarifies the distribution requirement by making it clear that only one booklet need be mailed to each household. Reducing needless duplication in mailing will save more than \$75,000 per election at present postal rates.

The amendment also requires that the booklet be sent to people who are eligible to register to vote as well as to people who are already registered. This insures that people who register to vote shortly before the election will receive the booklet and be able to cast an informed vote.

Vote YES to increase informed voting in elections at less cost to the taxpayers.

Argument Against

An opinion written by a person opposing the amendment

I hope the people will vote against this amendment.

The amendment has a clear purpose - it will take away the present right each voter has to receive the **Information for Voters** Pamphlet. The intention of the present Secretary of State, who sponsored this amendment, is to send this pamphlet, one to each household instead of one to each voter.

You, the voter, will no longer receive in the mail your personal copy of the information pamphlet that helps you decide how to vote on the important ballot questions. The state saves a few pennies - you lose your pamphlet! Yes, some member of the household might share it with you but we all know how one copy might get lost around the house. When you go to the polls, who gets to take the one copy into the booth?

Vote NO on this amendment - vote to keep your own voter pamphlet.

See Full Text of Amendment on Page 13

Question 4

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

Residence Standards for State Census

Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on May 26, 1976, by a vote of 266-0, and on August 10, 1977, by a vote of 258-0?

YES

NO

Summary

The proposed constitutional amendment would require that in the taking of the state census, residence be determined in accordance with the standards used by the United States when taking the federal census. Under the federal standards,

residence is based upon where a person spends most of his or her time whereas under present state standards residence is based upon legal domicile. The standards would be subject to any exceptions which the legislature might enact.

A **YES** vote would provide that federal census standards for residence be used in taking the state census.

A **NO** vote would keep the present system of determining domicile in taking the state census.

Argument For

An opinion written by a person supporting the amendment

Massachusetts takes a census in years ending with "5" mostly to redraw legislative district lines. The U.S. Government takes its more comprehensive census in years ending in "0". The methods and the results have never been comparable.

If passed, this amendment makes a technical change in the determination of where a person lives. It does not change where 90% of us are counted now but it would make state and federal counts directly comparable. Both then become more useful. Furthermore, the proposed method is easier to understand, more accurate and simpler to administer.

This amendment will cost nothing to implement. At the very least it will reduce state census expense by several thousand dollars but it could save Massachusetts taxpayers more than a half-million dollars through use of federal expertise and results for state purposes.

Vote yes to obtain better census information at a lower cost.

Argument Against

An opinion written by a person opposing the amendment

Adoption of the federal census standard in compiling the state census would be more trouble than it's worth. First, it would mean that in census years, a second list, meeting the constitutional requirement of a street listing based on residence be compiled. Such state censuses would be valueless in preparing voting lists or jury lists.

It would also mean there would no longer be available an alternative basis for returning such funds as lottery receipts to local communities. There has been a certain amount of bitterness in recent years when cities and towns containing schools and colleges have been the recipients of funds at the expense of other localities in the state where students were legal residents.

If federal census standards are desired, it would be better to incorporate the idea in a general proposal changing the "residence" concept, rather than on a piecemeal basis such as this.

See Full Text of Amendment on Page 13

Question 5

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

Charter Commission Deadline

Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on May 26, 1976, by a vote of 260-1, and on August 10, 1977, by a vote of 255-0?

YES

NO

Summary

The proposed constitutional amendment would allow a local charter commission 18 months after its election to prepare a charter or charter revision for submission to the voters of a city or town. Presently,

the constitution provides that the charter or charter revision be prepared within 10 months of the election of the charter commission.

A **YES** vote would give a local charter commission 18 months to prepare a proposed charter or charter revision.

A **NO** vote would keep the present 10-month reporting deadline.

Argument For

An opinion written by a person supporting the amendment

The Charter process is one of the most important activities any municipality can engage in. The process of evaluation is a time-consuming one, and it is deserving of this attention. In many cases, as the deadline for the submission of the proposed charter draws near, the necessary deliberation receives short shrift. An extension of the charter deadline would go a long way towards eliminating this problem.

The task of Charter reform does not end with the submission of the proposed charter. The job of educating the public of the suggested changes is a major responsibility of the commission. In many cases, this aspect is ignored altogether, again because of time constraints. In this case also, an extension of the time limit for the charter process would help to alleviate the problem.

Argument Against

An opinion written by a person opposing the amendment

Almost one hundred charter commissions have been elected under home rule procedures. Each commission has proven, by meeting the present constitutional deadline, that ten months is sufficient time to organize, perform research, conduct public hearings, and draft a charter. Some commissions have even filed their final report much earlier than the deadline. The ten month period has been ideal for most communities whereby a commission could be elected one year, complete its work in ten months, and place its charter proposal before the voters two months later.

To expect commission members to work regularly for eighteen months when ten months is sufficient could result in fewer candidates for election to commissions and increased absenteeism at meetings. Stretching ten months of work to eighteen could slow down the entire charter process, cause loss of vitally needed momentum and sense of direction, and result in reduced public interest in home rule.

See Full Text of Amendment on Page 14

Question 6

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

Student Assignments to Public Schools

Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on June 11, 1975, by a vote of 175-73, and on September 7, 1977, by a vote of 173-90?

YES

NO

Summary

The proposed constitutional amendment would provide that a student could neither be assigned to nor denied admittance to a public school on the basis of race, color, national origin or creed.

A **YES** vote would prohibit students from being assigned or denied admittance to public schools on the basis of race, color, national origin or creed.

A **NO** vote would leave the state Constitution as it is.

Argument For

An opinion written by a person supporting the amendment

A "YES VOTE" would guarantee the right of parents or guardians of school-age children to educate those children free from any arbitrary assignment by school authorities to schools outside the school district. Any public assignment to a school outside the school district, based on achieving any established racial quota-system or ethnic balance would require the permission of the parent or guardian.

Argument Against

An opinion written by a person opposing the amendment

This amendment should be rejected.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a long-standing moral commitment to provide fully integrated public schools for all its youngsters. To achieve this goal of integration, it is often necessary for school committees to consider the racial characteristics of students and residential neighborhoods. School committees can succeed in arranging school attendance zones and student assignments in such a way as to promote integration only if they are permitted to consider racial characteristics.

Because the United States Constitution is supreme, the proposed amendment will not have any effect in Boston or in other cities or towns where violations of the federal Fourteenth Amendment may have occurred. Thus, even if this Question #6 is approved, student assignments on the basis of race will still be required in these cities and towns under the federal equal protection mandate.

See Full Text of Amendment on Page 14

Question 7

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

Taxation of Land Used for Recreation or Left in a Natural State

Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on August 11, 1976, by a vote of 248-5, and on May 24, 1978, by a vote of 257-0?

YES
NO

Summary

The proposed constitutional amendment would give the legislature the power to establish a different method of property taxation for land which is used for recreational purposes and for land preserved in its natural state. It would add these two categories to

the existing constitutional provision which allows the legislature to tax wild and forest land differently. The amendment's stated purpose is to develop and conserve natural resources and the environmental benefits of recreational land.

A **YES** vote would allow the legislature to establish a different method for taxing land which is used for recreational purposes and land which is preserved in its natural state.

A **NO** vote would leave the legislature with the power to establish different methods of taxation for wild or forest lands only.

Argument For

An opinion written by a person supporting the amendment

Every voter should be vitally concerned with our state's natural resources and environmental planning. A "Yes" vote to Question #7 will help preserve open space land protecting wildlife and other natural resources and land used for outdoor recreation by giving the legislature the power to reduce tax assessment of such land. Similar tax considerations were previously given by the voters to private owners of forest and farmlands.

Massachusetts is the second most densely populated state in the United States. The supply of open space is vanishing. A "Yes" vote on Question #7 will deter forced development and encourage the retention of existing open areas which benefit the entire community.

Argument Against

An opinion written by a person opposing the amendment

Tax relief for open space is expensive and shifts the tax burden to homeowners and businesses. The public cost is only justifiable if it serves the public purpose of keeping that land open for conservation or recreation. H.5239 will not protect land because landowners will not, in exchange for tax relief, be required to keep their land open. They could develop whenever they wish. A federal study (*Untaxing Open Space, CEQ 1976*) found that such programs in other states are expensive and only marginally effective.

Furthermore, this amendment will undercut an existing program that does protect open space. Landowners can now receive tax relief under the Conservation Restriction Act, provided they commit themselves to protecting the land. Problems experienced under this law could be largely cured by legislative action. But if tax relief is available without requiring this commitment, much of the incentive to restrict property would be lost.

See Full Text of Amendment on Page 14

Sample Paper Ballot

This is a sample paper ballot showing how the ballot will look and how the questions will appear in communities that vote on paper ballots. This sample ballot shows only the titles of the offices to be filled at this election. On the actual ballot, there will be candidates listed under each office and extra lines printed for write-in candidates for each office.


TO VOTE FOR A PERSON MARK A CROSS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN THE SQUARE AT THE RIGHT OF THE NAME.				TO VOTE ON A QUESTION, MARK A CROSS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN THE SQUARE AT THE RIGHT OF YES OR NO.			
SENATOR IN CONGRESS Vote for ONE	ATTORNEY GENERAL Vote for ONE	REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS Vote for ONE	DISTRICT ATTORNEY Vote for ONE	QUESTION 1 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on May 25, 1975, by a vote of 220-53, and on September 7, 1977, by a vote of 243-207? SUMMARY The proposed constitutional amendment would permit the legislature to establish as many as four different classes of real property for tax purposes. Property in any one class would be required to be assessed, rated and taxed proportionately but property in different classes could be assessed, rated and taxed differently. The legislature could grant reasonable exemptions. The constitution presently requires all property (other than wild lands, forest lands, and certain agricultural and horticultural lands) to be assessed and rated equally at full value for tax purposes.	QUESTION 4 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on May 25, 1975, by a vote of 255-07, and on August 10, 1977, by a vote of 258-07? SUMMARY The proposed constitutional amendment would require that in the taking of state census, residence be determined in accordance with the standards used by the United States when taking the federal census. Under the federal standards, residence is based upon where a person spends most of his or her time whereas under present state standards residence is based upon legal domicile. The standards would be subject to any exceptions which the legislature might enact.	QUESTION 7 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on August 11, 1975, by a vote of 248-5, and on May 24, 1976, by a vote of 257-07? SUMMARY The proposed constitutional amendment would give the legislature the power to establish a different method of property taxation for land which is used for recreational purposes and for land preserved in its natural state. It would add these two categories to the existing constitutional provision which allows the legislature to tax wild and forest land differently. The amendment's stated purpose is to develop and conserve natural resources and the environmental benefits of recreational land.	
GOVERNOR—LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR Vote for ONE	SECRETARY Vote for ONE	COUNCILLOR Vote for ONE	REGISTER OF PROBATE AND INSOLVENCY Vote for ONE	QUESTION 2 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on May 26, 1976, by a vote of 267-3, and on August 10, 1977, by a vote of 250-17? SUMMARY The proposed constitutional amendment would allow a governor who had not served in the preceding year as governor to submit a proposed budget to the Legislature within eight weeks of the beginning of the legislative session. A governor who had served in the preceding year would still be required to submit a proposed budget within three weeks of the beginning of a legislative session.	QUESTION 5 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on May 26, 1976, by a vote of 260-1, and on August 10, 1977, by a vote of 255-07? SUMMARY The proposed constitutional amendment would allow a local charter commission 18 months after its election to prepare a charter or charter revision for submission to the voters of a city or town. Presently, the constitution provides that the charter or charter revision be prepared within 10 months of the election of the charter commission.		
	TREASURER Vote for ONE	SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT Vote for ONE	COUNTY COMMISSIONER Vote for ONE	QUESTION 3 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on June 26, 1976, by a vote of 244-8, and on August 10, 1977, by a vote of 253-17? SUMMARY The proposed constitutional amendment would require the Secretary of the Commonwealth to send information about questions that will appear on the state election ballot to each person eligible to vote in the Commonwealth, or to every residence in the Commonwealth where one or more eligible voters live. Presently, the Constitution requires the Secretary to send this information to each registered voter in the Commonwealth.	QUESTION 6 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on June 11, 1976, by a vote of 175-73, and on September 7, 1977, by a vote of 173-90? SUMMARY The proposed constitutional amendment would provide that a student could neither be assigned to nor denied admittance to a public school on the basis of race, color, national origin or creed.		
	AUDITOR Vote for ONE	REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT Vote for ONE	COUNTY TREASURER Vote for ONE				

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QUESTION 4 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on May 25, 1975, by a vote of 255-07, and on August 10, 1977, by a vote of 258-07? SUMMARY The proposed constitutional amendment would require that in the taking of state census, residence be determined in accordance with the standards used by the United States when taking the federal census. Under the federal standards, residence is based upon where a person spends most of his or her time whereas under present state standards residence is based upon legal domicile. The standards would be subject to any exceptions which the legislature might enact.	QUESTION 5 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION Do you approve of the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution summarized below, which was approved by the General Court in joint sessions of the House of Representatives and Senate on August 11, 1975, by a vote of 248-5, and on May 24, 1976, by a vote of 257-07? SUMMARY The proposed constitutional amendment would give the legislature the power to establish a different method of property taxation for land which is used for recreational purposes and for land preserved in its natural state. It would add these two categories to the existing constitutional provision which allows the legislature to tax wild and forest land differently. The amendment's stated purpose is to develop and conserve natural resources and the environmental benefits of recreational land.	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YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SENATOR IN CONGRESS Vote for ONE	GOVERNOR—LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR Vote for ONE	ATTORNEY GENERAL Vote for ONE	SECRETARY Vote for ONE	TREASURER Vote for ONE	AUDITOR Vote for ONE	REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS Vote for ONE
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
COUNCILLOR Vote for ONE	SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT Vote for ONE	DISTRICT ATTORNEY Vote for ONE	REGISTER OF PROBATE AND INSOLVENCY Vote for ONE	COUNTY COMMISSIONER Vote for ONE	COUNTY TREASURER Vote for ONE	SECRETARY Vote for ONE
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48	49
50	51	52	53	54	55	56

Sample Voting Machine

This sample shows part of a voting machine ballot. The ballot questions are located at the top, above the listing of candidates, and are printed on yellow paper. Push the "Yes" or "No" pointer down to vote on each question.


**MASSACHUSETTS STATE ELECTION
OFFICIAL BALLOT**



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1978

Paul Duggi
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS

**TURN TO NEXT
PAGE TO START
YOUR VOTING
(VOTE ALL PAGES)**



INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

To vote for a candidate of your choice, use only the stylus provided. Punch a hole in the punch card to the right of the name of each candidate for whom you wish to vote. Do not mark the booklet. If you make an error, or tear or deface or bend the punch card, or tear or deface the write-in ballot envelope, you may return it to the warden and obtain another.

To vote for any person whose name is not printed on the ballot, use the inside of the ballot envelope. Write the title of the office as it appears on the ballot, and below it the name and address of the person in one of the blank spaces provided for that purpose on the write-in ballot envelope.

Sample Booklet for Punch Card Voting

This is a booklet used for voting on punch cards. Questions are found at the end of the booklet after the listing of candidates.

OFFICES	Candidates	QUESTIONS
GOVERNOR		<p>QUESTION 1 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION</p> <p>Do you believe that the addition of an amendment to the Constitution, submitted before, which was approved by the Governor and passed by a majority of the House of Representatives and Senate on June 21, 1978, by a vote of 204-10, and on September 7, 1977, by a vote of 204-10?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY</p> <p>The proposed constitutional amendment would provide that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES NO</p>
COMPTROLLER		<p>QUESTION 2 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION</p> <p>Do you believe that the addition of an amendment to the Constitution, submitted before, which was approved by the Governor and passed by a majority of the House of Representatives and Senate on June 21, 1978, by a vote of 204-10, and on September 7, 1977, by a vote of 204-10?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY</p> <p>The proposed constitutional amendment would provide that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES NO</p>
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS		<p>QUESTION 3 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION</p> <p>Do you believe that the addition of an amendment to the Constitution, submitted before, which was approved by the Governor and passed by a majority of the House of Representatives and Senate on June 21, 1978, by a vote of 204-10, and on September 7, 1977, by a vote of 204-10?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY</p> <p>The proposed constitutional amendment would provide that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES NO</p>
SENATOR		<p>QUESTION 4 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION</p> <p>Do you believe that the addition of an amendment to the Constitution, submitted before, which was approved by the Governor and passed by a majority of the House of Representatives and Senate on June 21, 1978, by a vote of 204-10, and on September 7, 1977, by a vote of 204-10?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY</p> <p>The proposed constitutional amendment would provide that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES NO</p>
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT		<p>QUESTION 5 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION</p> <p>Do you believe that the addition of an amendment to the Constitution, submitted before, which was approved by the Governor and passed by a majority of the House of Representatives and Senate on June 21, 1978, by a vote of 204-10, and on September 7, 1977, by a vote of 204-10?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY</p> <p>The proposed constitutional amendment would provide that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES NO</p>
COMPTROLLER IN SENATE COURT		<p>QUESTION 6 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION</p> <p>Do you believe that the addition of an amendment to the Constitution, submitted before, which was approved by the Governor and passed by a majority of the House of Representatives and Senate on June 21, 1978, by a vote of 204-10, and on September 7, 1977, by a vote of 204-10?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY</p> <p>The proposed constitutional amendment would provide that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES NO</p>
DISTRICT ATTORNEY		<p>QUESTION 7 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION</p> <p>Do you believe that the addition of an amendment to the Constitution, submitted before, which was approved by the Governor and passed by a majority of the House of Representatives and Senate on June 21, 1978, by a vote of 204-10, and on September 7, 1977, by a vote of 204-10?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY</p> <p>The proposed constitutional amendment would provide that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES NO</p>
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT		<p>QUESTION 8 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION</p> <p>Do you believe that the addition of an amendment to the Constitution, submitted before, which was approved by the Governor and passed by a majority of the House of Representatives and Senate on June 21, 1978, by a vote of 204-10, and on September 7, 1977, by a vote of 204-10?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY</p> <p>The proposed constitutional amendment would provide that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate. The amendment also provides that the Governor shall have the power to appoint and remove members of the Executive Council, subject to the approval of the Senate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">YES NO</p>

Sample Voting Machine

This sample shows part of voting machine of a type used in parts of Boston and Malden. The ballot questions are printed on yellow paper and are located to the extreme right of the listing of candidates. Press the "Yes" or "No" pointer down to vote on each question.

Full Text of Amendments, Questions 1-7

Question 1

Proposal for a Legislative Amendment to the Constitution authorizing the classification of property according to its use for the purposes of taxation.

A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state election next following]:

Article of Amendment

ART. . . Article IV of chapter 1 of Part the Second of the Constitution is hereby amended by inserting after the words "and to impose and levy proportional and reasonable assessments, rates and taxes, upon all the inhabitants of, and persons resident, and estates lying, within said Commonwealth" the words:—, except that, in addition to the powers conferred under Articles XLI and XCIX of the Amendments, the general court may classify real property according to its use in no more than four classes and to assess, rate and tax such property differently in the classes so established, but proportionately in the same class, and except that reasonable exemptions may be granted.

Question 2

Proposal for a Legislative Amendment to the Constitution further regulating submission of a budget by a governor who has not served in the preceding year as governor.

A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state election next following]:

Article of Amendment

ART. . . Section 2 of Article LXIII of the Articles of Amendment to the

Constitution of the Commonwealth is hereby annulled and the following is adopted in place thereof:—

Section 2. The Budget. — Within three weeks after the convening of the general court the governor shall recommend to the general court a budget which shall contain a statement of all proposed expenditures of the commonwealth for the fiscal year, including those already authorized by law, and of all taxes, revenues, loans and other means by which such expenditures shall be defrayed. In the first year of the term of office of a governor who has not served in the preceding year said governor shall recommend such budget within eight weeks after the convening of the general court. The budget shall be arranged in such form as the general court may by law prescribe, or, in default thereof, as the governor shall determine. For the purpose of preparing his budget, the governor shall have power to require any board, commission, officer or department to furnish him with any information which he may deem necessary.

Question 3

Proposal for a Legislative Amendment to the Constitution relative to submitting certain information to voters.

A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state election next following]:

Article of Amendment

ART. . . Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth is hereby amended by striking out, under the heading "GENERAL PROVISIONS", all of subheading "IV. Information for Voters.", as amended by section 4 of Article LXXIV of said Amendments, and inserting in place thereof the following subheading:

IV. Information for Voters.

The secretary of the commonwealth shall cause to be printed and sent to

each person eligible to vote in the commonwealth or to each residence of one or more persons eligible to vote in the commonwealth the full text of every measure to be submitted to the people, together with a copy of the legislative committee's majority and minority reports, if there be such, with the names of the majority and minority members thereon, a statement of the votes of the general court on the measure, and a fair, concise summary of the measure as such summary will appear on the ballot; and shall, in such manner as may be provided by law, cause to be prepared and sent other information and arguments for and against the measure.

Question 4

Proposal for a Legislative Amendment to the Constitution relative to the taking of the state census.

A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state election next following]:

Article of Amendment

ART. . . The first paragraph of Section 1 of Article CI of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following two sentences:—

For purposes of said census every person shall be considered an inhabitant of the city or town of his usual place of residence in accordance with standards used by the United States from time to time in conducting the federal census required by Section 2 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States subject to such exceptions as the general court may provide by law. Said census shall specify the number of inhabitants of each precinct of each town and of each precinct and ward of each city.

continued, next page

Question 5

Proposal for a Legislative Amendment to the Constitution increasing the time within which a proposed charter or charter revision shall be submitted to the city council of a city or the selectmen of a town.

A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state election next following]:

Article of Amendment

ART. . The first sentence of the sixth paragraph of Section 3 of Article II of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, as appearing in Article LXXXIX of said Amendments, is hereby amended by striking out the words "ten months" and inserting in place thereof the words:—
eighteen months.

Question 6

Proposal for a Legislative Amendment to the Constitution providing that no student shall be assigned to or denied admittance to a public school on the basis of race, color, national origin or creed.

A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state election next following]:

Article of Amendment

ART. . No student shall be assigned to or denied admittance to a public school on the basis of race, color, national origin or creed.

Question 7

Proposal for a Legislative Amendment to the Constitution providing a method of taxation of lands retained in a natural state for preservation of natural resources and lands for recreational uses.

A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state election next following]:

Article of Amendment

Article XLI of the Amendments to the Constitution is hereby annulled and the following Article is adopted in place thereof:—

Full power and authority are hereby given and granted to the general court to prescribe for wild or forest lands and lands retained in a natural state for the preservation of wildlife and other natural resources and lands for recreational uses, such methods of taxation as will develop and conserve the forest resources, wildlife and other natural resources and the environmental benefits of recreational lands within the commonwealth.

General Information About Elections Held in Massachusetts

There are several different kinds of elections held in Massachusetts. Here is a description of these elections and a chart showing the offices to be filled at each one.

As a voter in Massachusetts you may vote in state and local elections.

- In state elections you vote to fill **federal, state and county** offices
- In local elections, you vote for your city or town officials
- In both elections you may also vote on ballot questions

STATE ELECTIONS

There are three kinds of statewide elections. All of these—the state primary, the state election and the presidential primary—take place in the even-numbered years, 1978, '80, '82 and so on.

Terms of office vary in length; you do not vote to fill every office in every election. Consult the Statewide Election Chart opposite to find out when you elect different federal, state and county officials.

The State Primary

In state primaries you choose your party's candidate for each office that will be filled in the November state election. If you are not enrolled in a political party, you are considered an independent and may vote the ballot of any party you choose. You become enrolled in that party when you vote. If you want to become an independent again or change your enrollment, write to your city or town clerk.

This year the primary was held on September 19th. The names which appear on your November ballot as candidates of the Democratic, Republican or American party were the winners of the September primary.

The State Election, November 7, 1978

In the state election on November 7th, you will choose people to actually fill the federal, state and county offices which are listed on the ballot.

Usually there are several candidates listed on the ballot for each office; these are winners from the party primaries, and perhaps some independent or minor party candidates. You may vote for one candidate for each office. The candidate receiving the most votes will become your newly elected official.

In this state election you will also vote on the statewide constitutional questions which are described in this booklet. Other questions may appear on the ballot in some cities and towns.

The Presidential Primary—Next Held in 1980

In March of the years in which the U.S. President is elected, you may vote in your political party's presidential primary.

In the presidential primary you will also elect people to serve on your party's town or ward and state committees.

STATEWIDE ELECTION CHART					
Offices to be elected (years of term)	Elected every 2 years	Elected at 4-year intervals '78, '82, '86	Elected at 4-year intervals '76, '80, '84	Elected when 6-year term of office ends	Voted for in Presidential Primary*
President (4)			*****		*****
Vice-President (4)			*****		
U.S. Senator (6)				*****	
U.S. Representative (2)	*****				
Governor (4)		*****			
Lt. Governor (4)		*****			
Secretary of State (4)		*****			
Attorney General (4)		*****			
Treasurer (4)		*****			
Auditor (4)		*****			
Governor's Councillor (2)	*****				
State Senator (2)	*****				
State Rep. (2)	*****				
County Commissioner (4)		elect one	elect two		
District Attorney (4)		*****			
County Treasurer (6)				*****	
Register of Probate (6)				*****	
Register of Deeds (6)				*****	
Clerk of Courts (6)				*****	
Sheriff (6)				*****	
Ballot Questions	*****				
Town or ward party committees (4)					*****
State party committees (4)					*****

*Presidential primary is held in March of presidential election years. Party candidates for all other offices on this chart are nominated in the September state primary.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

As a voter in Massachusetts you may also vote in local elections to choose community officials and express your views on local questions.

Some localities conduct a primary or preliminary election or a caucus before the regular local election in order to nominate or to reduce the number of candidates who will appear on the ballot for each office.

Check with your city or town clerk to find out about elections in your community. As a rule, **city** elections are held in November of odd-numbered years; **town** elections are held every year, usually in the spring.

Elected Offices to Be Filled in This Election

Voters will be electing candidates for important national, state, and county offices. Candidates for the following offices will appear on your ballot.

National Office

U.S. Congress	The federal legislative or lawmaking body includes both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives.	Governor's Councillor —2 year term	The Governor's Council approves gubernatorial judicial appointments and pardons, and approves expenditures from the treasury. The state elects eight councillors. You elect one from your councillor district.
Senator —6 year term	There are two senators from each state. You elect one senator this year.	General Court	The state legislature or lawmaking body includes both the Senate and the House of Representatives.
Representative —2 year term	Massachusetts elects twelve representatives. You elect one representative from your congressional district.	State Senator —2 year term	Massachusetts elects forty senators. You elect one from your senatorial district.

State Office

Governor —4 year term	As chief executive officer of the state, the governor administers state government, prepares the budget, appoints department heads, makes judicial appointments, and approves or vetoes bills passed by the legislature.	State Representative —2 year term	Massachusetts elects 160 representatives. You elect one from your representative district.
Lieutenant Governor —4 year term	This officer performs all of the functions of the governor in the governor's absence, presides over the Governor's Council, and fulfills responsibilities delegated by the governor.	<hr/> County Office	
Attorney General —4 year term	The attorney general is the chief legal officer, and advises and represents the Commonwealth in all its legal matters. He may also initiate criminal or civil actions on behalf of the state.	District Attorney —4 year term	The district attorney prosecutes criminal cases, enforces the law and may initiate investigations. The state is divided into 11 districts. You elect one district attorney from your district.
Secretary —4 year term	The secretary administers state elections, registers corporations, enforces the state securities laws, and maintains public records.	Register of Probate and Insolvency —6 year term	The register of probate and insolvency manages records concerning probate and insolvency proceedings.
Treasurer —4 year term	The treasurer manages monies received by the state and disburses state funds.	County Commissioner —4 year term	The county commissioners administer county government, prepare the budget and manage county business and properties. There are three commissioners in each county. You elect one commissioner from your county this year.*
Auditor —4 year term	The auditor examines and verifies the accounts and financial records of all state agencies and authorities.	County Treasurer —6 year term	The county treasurer is the custodian and accountant for all county funds and may disburse funds in accordance with applicable law.*
		Sheriff (to fill a vacancy)	Sheriffs will be elected in Franklin; Suffolk and Worcester counties to fill vacancies for the remaining 2 years of 6 year terms. The sheriff's primary responsibility is to supervise county jails and houses of correction and to serve summonses and other legal papers.

*except Suffolk and Nantucket counties

Ballot Question Checklist

After you have made your decisions, you may wish to note them below as a reminder to take to the polls. These questions will appear on all ballots.

- | | | |
|------------|--|----------------|
| Question 1 | Property Classification for Tax Purposes | Yes ___ No ___ |
| Question 2 | State Budget Deadline | Yes ___ No ___ |
| Question 3 | Distributing Information for Voters | Yes ___ No ___ |
| Question 4 | Residence Standards for State Census | Yes ___ No ___ |
| Question 5 | Charter Commission Deadline | Yes ___ No ___ |
| Question 6 | Student Assignments to Public Schools | Yes ___ No ___ |
| Question 7 | Taxation of Land Used for Recreation
or Left in a Natural State | Yes ___ No ___ |

Candidates Checklist

There are many people running for many offices. You may wish to note your choices of candidates as a reminder to take to the polls. These offices will appear on your ballot. You will be voting for candidates for other offices only if there is a vacancy in your district.

- Senator in Congress _____
- Governor _____
- Lieutenant Governor _____
- Attorney General _____
- State Secretary _____
- State Treasurer _____
- State Auditor _____
- Representative in Congress _____
- Governor's Councilor _____
- Senator in General Court _____
- Representative in General Court _____
- District Attorney _____
- Register of Probate and Insolvency _____
- County Commissioner _____
- County Treasurer _____

It's Easy to Vote!

WHO CAN VOTE?

All registered voters.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

If you will be 18 years old by November 7, and are a Massachusetts resident, you are eligible to register. You may do so at your local city or town hall. You must be registered by October 10th to vote in the November 7th election.

WHEN AND WHERE DO I VOTE?

Polls open by 10:00 A.M. at the latest and close at 8:00 P.M. Some polls open as early as 5:45 A.M. Check with your city or town hall for the place and hours to vote.

CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

If you will be away from home or are disabled, apply for an absentee ballot in person or by mail at your city or town hall no later than noon of November 6. Include in your written request:

- Name as registered
- Address where registered
- Ward and precinct (if known)
- Address to which ballot should be sent
- Signature

Allow for mail delivery both ways so that the ballot will reach election officials by

8:00 P.M. on Election Day, or apply before noon of November 6 to arrange a time to cast your ballot at your city or town hall prior to election day.

WHAT IF MY NAME IS NOT ON THE LIST AT THE POLLS?

Are you sure you're registered? Ask the election official at the polls to call the city or town hall and check to see if you were registered last year and dropped by mistake.

MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

- Read the sample ballot posted at the polls.
- If you have a language or physical problem, you may ask for help from a registered voter of your choice, or from an election official.
- Make your X's clear. *Do not* make other marks or erase. If you spoil a paper of punch card ballot, return it and ask for another.
- If you are voting by machine and need help, call the election officer. *Do not* use the big lever to open the curtain. Once you have pulled the lever, your vote cannot be changed.

INFORMATION FOR VOTERS

Sent to each registered voter as required by law.

Information for Voters is sent to each registered voter by mailing to all residential addresses and to each voter residing in group residential quarters and by distribution to convenient public locations throughout the Commonwealth. Where there is more than one voter at a residential address, Information for Voters is sent to, and is intended for,

all voters at that address. Additional copies may be obtained without charge at local city and town halls, post offices, banks and libraries or by writing to Secretary of the Commonwealth, State House, Boston, MA 02133, or by calling 727-7030 in the Boston Metropolitan area or toll-free 1-800-392-6090.

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
STATE HOUSE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02133

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VOTERS

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

You may remove this page and take your checklist with you to the polls.