

## **Massachusetts Voters' Bill of Rights**

**You have the right** to vote if you are a qualified registered voter.

**You have the right** to cast your ballot in a manner that ensures privacy. You have the right to vote without any person trying to influence your vote and to vote in a booth that prevents others from watching you mark your ballot.

**You have the right** to remain in the voting booth for five minutes if there are other voters waiting and for ten minutes if there are no other voters waiting.

**You have the right** to receive up to two replacement ballots if you make a mistake and spoil your ballot.

**You have the right** to request assistance when voting from a poll worker or anyone of your choice, except your employer or an officer of your union or their representatives.

**You have the right** to vote if you are disabled. The polling place must be accessible, and there must be an accessible voting booth.

**You have the right** to vote if you cannot read or write or cannot read or write English.

**You have the right** to vote but must show identification if: you are a first-time voter who registered to vote by mail and did not submit identification with the voter registration form; or your name is on the inactive voter list; or your vote is being challenged; or if requested by the poll worker. Acceptable forms of identification are: Massachusetts driver's license, other printed documentation containing your name and address such as a recent utility bill, rent receipt on landlord's letterhead, lease, or a copy of a voter registration acknowledgment or receipt.

**You have the right** to vote by absentee ballot if: you will be absent from your city or town on Election Day; or if you have a physical disability that prevents your voting at the polling place; or if you cannot vote at the polls due to religious belief.

**You have the right** to cast a provisional ballot if you believe you are a qualified registered voter but a poll worker tells you that you are ineligible to vote.

**You have the right** to follow up any challenge to your right to vote through the complaint process.

**You have the right** to vote if you are not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction and have registered as a voter after your release.

**You have the right** to take this Voters' Bill of Rights or any other papers, including a sample ballot, voter guide or campaign material, into the voting booth with you. Please remember to remove all papers when you leave the booth.

**You have the right** to vote at your polling place any time between 7 am and 8 pm for state and federal elections - hours may vary for local elections. If you are in line at your polling place when the polls close at 8 pm, you have the right to vote.

**You have the right** to bring your children into the voting booth with you.

*If you feel that your right to vote has been violated in any way, call the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division at 1-800-462-VOTE (8683). This call is free within Massachusetts.*

*Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, June 2004*