

Guide to Primary March 1, 2016

The March 1, 2016, Primary is both a presidential primary and a party election.

The most well known aspect of the election is voting for candidates for President in a **preference** primary. The voter will vote for one candidate appearing on the ballot for the particular party ballot chosen. (Voters do not vote for the actual delegates to the conventions – delegates are selected by the parties later in the spring)

The Massachusetts Primary is a **PROPORTIONAL** primary. In the proportional type of presidential preference primary, the district delegates are apportioned among the top vote-getters in each congressional district while the at-large delegates are apportioned among the top vote-getters statewide by the percentage of the vote received above a certain threshold. The parties set their own rules as to the number of delegates and how those delegates are awarded to candidates. Democratic candidates must achieve a 15% support level in each district. Republican must achieve a 5% support level in each district.

Massachusetts Republicans will have 42 total delegates awarded. (27 congressional districts/10 at large/ 3 party/2 bonus)

Massachusetts Democrats will have 116 total delegate votes awarded. (59 congressional districts /20 at large; 12 Pledged PLEOs; 25 Unpledged PLEOs – including all members of the congressional delegation and certain state elected officials)

VOTER ELIGIBILITY – Massachusetts is a **MODIFIED OPEN** primary state. This means that voters registered in a political party may only take the ballot for their own party. Voters registered as independent (or in a political designation in Massachusetts) may choose the party ballot when checking in to vote (or requesting an absentee ballot). Voters registered in a party may not cross over to select the other party ballot.

Presidential Preference Primary –

As of January 19, 2016 the following candidates have qualified for the Republican ballot.

Gilmore, Jim
Trump, Donald J
Cruz, Ted"

Pataki, George E.
Carson, Ben
Huckabee, "Mike"
Paul, Rand
Fiorina, Carly
Santorum, Rick
Christie, Chris
Rubio, Marco
Bush, Jeb
Kasich, John Richard

As of January 19, 2016 the following candidates have qualified for the Democratic ballot.

Sanders, Bernie
O'Malley, Martin
Clinton, Hillary
DeLaFuente, Roque "Rocky"

Political Party Elections –

The ballot will also ELECT certain party officials for 4 year terms.

Each state senatorial district will elect a State Committee Man and a State Committee Woman.

Precincts B, F, and G are in the Norfolk Bristol and Middlesex Senatorial District

Precincts A, C, D, and E, H are in the 1st MIDDLESEX AND NORFOLK DISTRICT

Democratic and Republican Town Committees- 35 members ELECTED for 4 years as a slate nominated by the local town committee.

Absentee Ballots – NOW AVAILABLE IN TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

Voters may apply for a ballot by mail, email(signature required) (Knagle@wellesleyma.gov) or in person.

Voters may apply for an absentee ballot at any time until NOON, February 29, 2016.

There are special absentee ballot distribution options for active duty military serving abroad and citizens living abroad.

Polling Places:

Precinct A - Bates School

Precinct B - Sprague School

Precinct C - Upham School

Precinct D - Schofield School

Precinct E - Fiske School

Precinct F - Dana Hall - Shipley Center- 142 Grove Street -

Precinct G - Wellesley Free Library

Precinct H – Wellesley High School – Band Room

Prepared by
Kathleen Nagle
Town Clerk Wellesley

Source documents: www.thegreenpapers.com