

AAC Voter Translation Project

About AAC:

The AAC is a permanent body dedicated to advocacy on behalf of Asian Americans throughout Massachusetts. The Commission's goal is to recognize and highlight the vital contributions of Asian Americans to the social, cultural, economic, and political life of the Commonwealth; to identify and address the needs and challenges facing residents of Asian ancestry; and to promote the well-being of this dynamic and diverse community, thereby advancing the interests of all persons who call Massachusetts home.

In order to fully participate in our democracy, Asian Americans must exercise the right to vote in local, state, and national elections.

MA AAPI Facts

- 78% of Asian Americans in Massachusetts speak a language other than English at home, and of those, more than 44% speak English less than "very well."
- Turnout is 9% lower for Limited-English Proficient (LEP) than non-LEP registered voters according to the 2012 AAPI Post-Election Survey, and 63% say that Asian language support at polling places would be useful.
- About 14,427 Asian Americans in Massachusetts (3%) lack health insurance
- About 57,813 Asian Americans in Massachusetts (14%) live in poverty.
- About 306 Native Hawaiian Pacific Islanders (NHPI) in Massachusetts (14%) live in poverty.

(Data credits to APIA Vote)

Upcoming Important Dates for voting in MA

Federal

- *Massachusetts General Election:* November 3, 2020
- *Early Voting:* Oct 17, 2020 - Oct 30, 2020
- *Voter Registration Deadline:* Sat Oct 24, 2020 8:00PM EDT
- *Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot:* Wed Oct 28, 2020 12:00PM EDT
- *Deadline to Return Completed Absentee Ballot:* Tue Nov 3, 2020 8:00PM EST

How to vote by mail

- As required by the new law, a Vote by Mail application will be mailed to every person who was registered to vote by July 1 and who had not already requested an absentee ballot for the State Primary or for all elections this year. Please submit your application ASAP, so that you will have enough time to receive your ballot and return it in time to be counted.
- A second mailing will be sent out in September to all voters who have not already applied for a Vote by Mail ballot for the November election. The applications are pre-addressed to your local election official and no postage is necessary.
- Vote by Mail applications must be delivered to your local election office no later than 4 business days before the election. For a State Election ballot, your application must reach your local election office no later than October 28.
- If you wish to vote by mail, you are strongly encouraged to return your application as early as possible, to make sure that you will receive your ballot in time to return it and have it be counted.

Elected Official Roles & Definition:

President: The President is both the head of state and head of government of the United States of America, and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces

State Representative: Introduce and vote on bills that represent the interests of their constituents (people who live in their voting district). They create new laws, modify or update old laws and serve on research committees within the legislative branch. A State Rep serves for two years.

State Senator: Elected by voters to represent them in the State Senate, where their primary duties are creating, debating, and voting on legislation that either makes new laws or modifies existing ones. A State Senator represents more than one district and serves for six years.

US Congressperson: each representative is elected to a two-year term serving the people of a specific congressional district. Among other duties, representatives introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments and serve on committees.

US Senator: The primary duty of Congress is to write, debate, and pass laws, which are then sent to the president for his approval and final signature. Other congressional duties include investigating pressing national issues and supervising the executive and judicial branches.

Governor's Council: Also known as the Executive Council, is a governmental body that provides advice and consent in certain matters – such as judicial nominations, pardons, and commutations

Links here for voter registration forms:

English: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/Voter-reg-mail-in.pdf>

Chinese: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/Voter-reg-mail-in-Chinese.pdf>

Khmer: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/Voter-reg-mail-in-Khmer.pdf>

Viet: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/Voter-reg-mail-in-Vietnamese.pdf>

National Asian American Voter Hotline

If you, or anyone you know, has difficulty with language access or needs any other type of voting assistance (including questions about polling locations or voting procedures), please call the National Asian American Voter Hotline at 1-888-API-VOTE (1-888-274-8683)