



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## AN INITIATIVE PETITION

### FOR A LAW

Under Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth

### SUMMARY

This proposed law would create a system for primary and general elections for certain offices under which, if three or more candidates were on the ballot for a covered office, a voter could rank, in order of preference, as many candidates as the voter desired, by marking numbered ovals next to candidates' names. When the ballots were counted, each candidate would be credited with one vote for each ballot on which the candidate was ranked as the first choice. Then the candidate credited with the fewest first-choice votes would be eliminated, and the remaining candidates would advance to the next round of counting. Each ballot initially counted as a vote for an eliminated candidate would then be re-counted, and the highest-ranked remaining candidate marked on that ballot would be credited with another vote. This process would be repeated as many times as necessary until two candidates remained. At that point, the candidate with the most votes would be declared the winner.

The system would apply to primary and general elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of the Commonwealth, State Treasurer, State Auditor, State Representative, State Senator, Representative in Congress, and United States Senator.

The proposed law would call this system "instant runoff voting." The Secretary of the Commonwealth would be required to issue regulations to make the ballot design and instructions simple and easy to understand, and to conduct a voter education campaign and train poll workers to ensure familiarity with the system. The Secretary would have to ensure that all voting equipment in the state could accommodate instant runoff voting. The number of votes credited to each candidate in each round of counting would be made publicly available along with the final vote count.

The proposed law would apply to elections held after January 1, 2012.

**FILING DEADLINES.** Initiative petitions must be submitted to local election officials for certification of signatures no later than **5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18, 2009.** Local election officials must complete their certification no later than November 30, 2009. Thereafter, initiative petitions containing certified signatures must be retrieved by petitioners from the local election officials and then filed with the Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, One Ashburton Place, Room 1705, Boston, MA, no later than **5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2, 2009.**

<b>FIRST TEN SIGNERS</b>	<b>Francis Sandy Eaton</b> 53 Quarry Street <b>Zaxaro M. Bennett</b> 32 Longview Drive <b>Tim D. Carpenter</b> 18 Beacon Street <b>Melvin H. King</b> 4 Yarmouth Street <b>Jill E. Stein</b> 17 Trotting Horse Drive <b>David England</b> 20 White Place <b>Adam M. Friedman</b> 20 Waldo Avenue, # 2 <b>Susan W. Lees</b> 39 Jason Street <b>Judith Foster</b> 17 Weld Hill Street, # 2 <b>Rand E. Wilson</b> 3 Lester Terrace	<b>Quincy</b> <b>Marblehead</b> <b>Northampton</b> <b>Boston</b> <b>Lexington</b> <b>Brookline</b> <b>Somerville</b> <b>Arlington</b> <b>Boston</b> <b>Somerville</b>	REGISTRAR USE ONLY:  ONLY REGISTRAR MAY WRITE IN THIS AREA
	These names have been certified as names of registered voters in their places of residence. Original petition was filed on September 2, 2009.		

*William Francis Galvin*  
 SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**CIRCULATOR AND SIGNER INFORMATION**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CIRCULATORS AND SIGNERS**

- **DO NOT ALTER THIS INITIATIVE PETITION IN ANY WAY. ADDITIONAL MARKINGS ON THIS PETITION WILL DISQUALIFY ANY SIGNATURES ON THIS PETITION SHEET.**
- For your signature to be valid, you must be a registered voter in the city or town named below and your signature should be written substantially as registered. DO NOT sign the same petition more than once.
- If you are prevented by physical disability from writing, you may authorize some person to write your name and residence in your presence.

	REGISTRAR USE ONLY	I. SIGNATURE to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated above)	II. NOW REGISTERED AT (street, number and apartment number, if any) (city or town will be the same as stated below)	WARD	PREC.
1					
2					
3					

City or Town

**ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS OF**  **MAY SIGN THIS SHEET.**

(OVER)

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