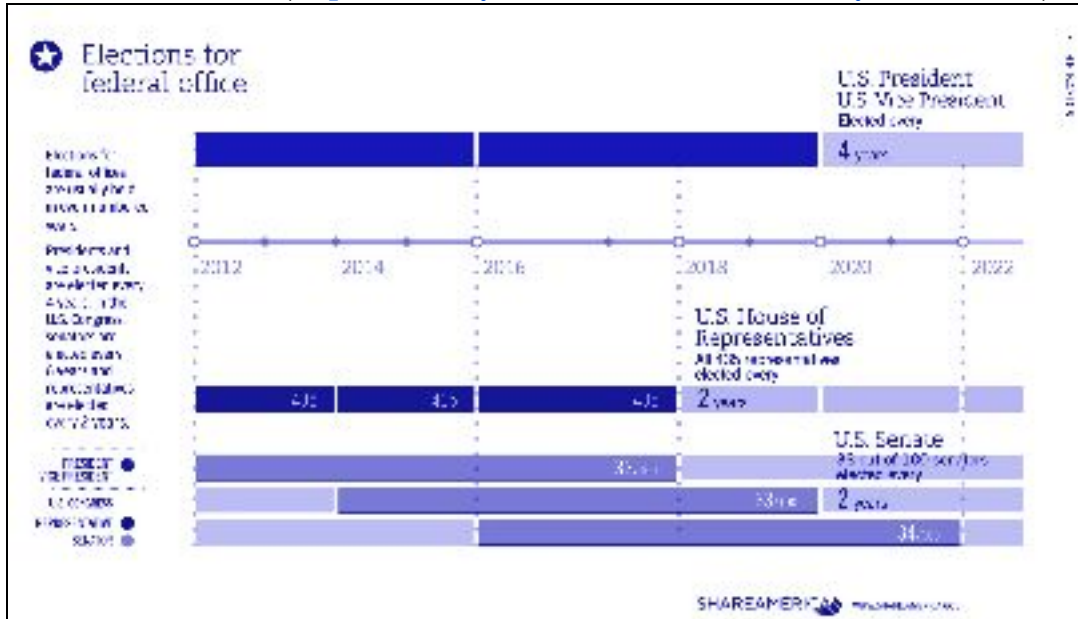


2018 Midterm Elections

What are midterm elections? (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZy8CACTFOQ>)



How is turnout typically in midterm elections?

Why do/can midterm elections matter? What impact do the results have?

Why are the 2018 midterms news?

What are MA residents voting on when they go to the polls this Nov. 6th?

→ → → → → → → →

Federal Elections

- Senate
 - Elizabeth Warren - D (incumbent)
 - Geoff Diehl - R
 - Shiva Ayyadurai - I
- House of Representatives
 - Lincoln, all and Sudbury's precinct 1, 2, 3 4 and 5:
 - Katherine Clark - D (incumbent) v. John Hugo - R
 - Sudbury, precinct 1A:
 - Rick Green - R v. Lori Loureiro Trahan - D v. Michael Mullin - I
 - Boston:
 - Ayanna Pressley - D

Offices on the Ballot in 2018

This year the following offices will appear on the ballot:

- Senator in Congress
- Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- Treasurer
- Auditor
- Representative in Congress
- Councillor
- Senator in General Court
- Representative in General Court
- District Attorney
- Clerk of Courts
- Register of Deeds
- County Commissioner (Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Norfolk, Plymouth, or Franklin Council of Governments)
- County Treasurer (Norfolk County only)
- Register of Probate (Dukes County only)

State Elections (a few of the many...)

- Governor & Lt. Governor
 - Charlie Baker & Karyn Polito - R (incumbent)
 - Jay Gonzalez & Quentin Palfrey - D
- Attorney General
 - Maura Healey - D (incumbent)
 - James McMahan - R
- Sec. of State
 - William Galvin - D (incumbent)
 - Anthony Amore - R
 - Juan Sanchez - Green-Rainbow

3 state Ballot Questions (see attached)

Sudbury has 2 additional local ballot questions:

Question 4: Fairbanks Community Center design funds

Question 5: Broadacres Farm acquisition

Brief history of the ballot initiative (Thank you, Progressive Era!)

Currently, 26 states, as well as Washington, D.C., offer initiative and/or veto referendum rights for their citizens. Initiatives and referenda are examples of direct democracy, and were reforms that emerged from the Progressive Era. These forms of ballot measures are an alternative to laws written/enacted by elected representatives, and sometimes act as a direct check on state legislatures. This is just another form of the checks and balances of republican government.

- An **initiative** process allows citizens to propose or initiate a statute or constitutional amendment. Citizens initiating such legislation are known as the measure's proponents.
- The **referendum** process allows citizens to refer a statute passed by the legislature to the ballot so that voters can enact or repeal the measure. Once enough signatures are gathered on petitions, the law is stopped from going into effect until the voters have decided the question.

Read on for Massachusetts's 2018 Ballot Initiatives...

If you have more questions about the 2018 elections, check out:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/10/02/us/politics/2018-midterm-election-guide.html?module=inline>

Massachusetts Question 1, the Nurse-Patient Assignment Limits Initiative, is on the ballot in Massachusetts as an indirect initiated state statute on November 6, 2018.

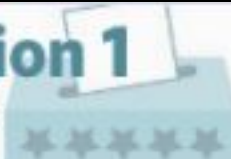
- A **yes** vote supports establishing patient assignment limits for registered nurses working in hospitals.
- A **no** vote opposes this initiative to establish patient assignment limits for registered nurses working in hospitals, thereby leaving the existing laws and rules in place.

Ballot Question 1

NURSE-PATIENT RATIOS

In Plain English...

If this referendum passes, there would be legal limits on the number of patients that could be assigned to each nurse in Massachusetts hospitals. This number would vary based on the hospital unit and the patients' conditions.



A Yes Vote Would:

Enact nurse-patient ratios. The law would take effect in January 2019.

The Massachusetts Nurses Association, a union representing about 20 percent of nurses statewide, is the main group pushing for this ballot initiative.

A No Vote Would:

Keep the current system in place, allowing hospitals to determine nurses' assignments.

The Massachusetts chapter of the American Nurses Association, a professional organization, and the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association lead the opposition.

Advocates Claim:

PATIENT SAFETY
Current nurse staffing levels are unsafe, resulting in medical errors and hospital-acquired infections.

HIRING MORE NURSES
The Bay State has one of the highest number of nurses per capita, enabling hospitals to hire more nurses as needed. Lower caseloads could attract more people into the profession.

HOSPITAL WAIT TIMES
Increasing the number of nurses would allow nurses to spend more time with each patient, and quality of care would improve. It would not lead to longer wait times.

COST
Many Massachusetts hospitals are owned by wealthy corporations, which pay large CEO salaries. This law could force hospitals to put more money toward direct patient care.

Opponents Claim:

Strict government-mandated ratios override nurses' professional judgment and would not lead to better care.

Hospitals would need to hire less-qualified nurses to meet the ratios and could be forced to recruit nurses away from places like nursing homes.


Once a unit reaches its maximum staffing ratio, new patients would be forced to wait for another patient to be transferred, or hospitals could face big lines — even in significant crises.

Complying with these ratios would be a huge financial burden. It could force hospitals to close unprofitable units, which often serve the most vulnerable.

Other Things To Know:

- The Health Policy Commission, an independent state agency, estimates the cost at \$676 million to \$949 million annually, possibly forcing unprofitable units to close and insurance premiums to increase. Proponents dispute these figures.
- California is the only U.S. state that has implemented nurse-patient ratios. The results, according to UCSF research:
 - There was no clear link between staffing ratios and improved quality of care.
 - Nurses saw improved pay, lower burnout and lower injury rate.
 - Neither long wait times nor unit closures materialized.

But there are differences: California's law was implemented over five years, compared to eight weeks in Massachusetts. The California bill is more flexible — with the ability to adjust nurse-patient ratios and other hospital staffing levels.



Massachusetts Question 2, an initiative to create an advisory commission for amendments to the U.S. Constitution regarding corporate personhood and political spending, is on the ballot in Massachusetts as an indirect initiated state statute on November 6, 2018.

- A **yes** vote is a vote in favor of establishing a 15-member citizens' commission to advocate for certain amendments to the United States Constitution regarding political spending and corporate personhood.
- A **no** vote is a vote against creating a 15-member citizens' commission to advocate for certain amendments to the United States Constitution regarding political spending and corporate personhood.

Ballot Question 2

COMMISSION TO EXAMINE LIMITING MONEY IN POLITICS

★★★★★

In Plain English...

If this referendum passes, it would create a commission of 15 unpaid citizens to write a report on money in politics.

Among other things, the report would propose language for a new amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would let Congress regulate political contributions and ensure that only people — not corporations or unions — could spend money on campaigns.

The ballot question is being billed as a way for Massachusetts voters to go on record as opposing the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision, which allowed unlimited outside political contributions by corporations.

A Yes Vote Would:

Establish a commission on limiting money in politics.

American Promise — a group established to pass a campaign finance amendment — is the main group pushing for this ballot question. They are working on this issue nationally.

Advocates Claim:

CITIZENS UNITED

This court case made it so that corporations, unions and people are all treated the same and can pour unlimited amounts of money into politics. But average people don't have the money to compete against billion-dollar companies.

In this system, we do not have equal representation. Overturning Citizens United is critical.

A 28TH AMENDMENT?

Amending the U.S. Constitution is the only way to overturn a Supreme Court decision.

IMPACT

Nineteen states have called on Congress to overturn Citizens United. If more states join the effort, there will be more pressure on politicians to act.

A No Vote Would:

Not create a commission. Nothing would change.

There is no official opposition to this ballot question. However, the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance — a conservative fiscal watchdog group — has spoken out against it.

Opponents Claim:

This court case clarified a cobweb of confusing rules around campaign finance. It created a system that is clear and fair. Everyone knows the rules, and everyone — corporations, unions, individuals — have an equal voice.

How you spend your money is how you express your opinions. This is about freedom of speech.

Politicians use campaign finance regulations to silence their opponents. This amendment would further limit our freedoms.

A commission that writes a report is a waste of time and resources. At the end of the day, it won't change anything since Citizens United is settled law.

Other Things To Know:

- Amending the U.S. Constitution requires support from two-thirds of the U.S. House and Senate as well as ratification by three-quarters of the states (38 states).
- In 2012, Massachusetts lawmakers passed resolutions to "restore ... fair elections to the people." Advocates of this ballot question say it shows that people — not just Massachusetts politicians — support limiting corporate and union money in politics.



Massachusetts Question 3, Gender Identity Anti-Discrimination Veto Referendum, is on the ballot in Massachusetts as a veto referendum on November 6, 2018.

- A **"yes"** vote supports upholding Senate Bill 2407, a bill to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity in public places—such as hotels, restaurants, and stores.
- A **"no"** vote opposes SB 2407 and repeals the law designed to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity in public places—such as hotels, restaurants, and stores.

Ballot Question 3

MAINTAINING TRANSGENDER PROTECTIONS IN PUBLIC PLACES

★★★★★

In Plain English...

This referendum asks voters whether to keep a 2016 state law that prohibits discrimination against transgender people in places open to the public, including restaurants, hospitals, hotels, sports stadiums and gym locker rooms.

Under the 2016 law, if there are separate public spaces for males and females — like restrooms — transgender people can use the space that matches their gender identity, rather than their biology or sex at birth.

A Yes Vote Would:

Keep the 2016 law on the books, protecting transgender people. *Freedom For All Massachusetts — an transgender advocacy group — is leading the effort to keep the 2016 law.*

A No Vote Would:

Repeal the 2016 law that protects transgender people. *The Massachusetts Family Institute — which says it affirms Judeo-Christian values — helped initiate the referendum.*

Advocates Of The 2016 Law Claim:

SAFETY IN BATHROOMS

Since the law went into effect, there's been no increase in safety incidents in places like restrooms. The law makes it safer for transgender people who can face harassment.

DEFINING GENDER IDENTITY

The 2016 law only protects someone if their gender identity is sincerely held and part of their core identity. It does not protect people falsely claiming to be transgender.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Industries come to Massachusetts because they can attract employees from all backgrounds. North Carolina's "bathroom bill" prompted boycotts and cost the state billions.

Opponents Of The 2016 Law Claim:

Opportunistic men or convicted sex offenders could exploit the 2016 law and pretend to be transgender, so they can access women's spaces — like locker rooms and restrooms.

There is no way to distinguish between those who are supposed to be protected and those using the law to prey on vulnerable people.

There are no long-term economic consequences. North Carolina's economy is now doing fine, despite a contentious fight over its "bathroom bill."

Other Things To Know:

- This is the first statewide referendum on transgender rights in the country.
- The federal government does not explicitly prohibit discrimination against transgender people. The Trump administration's Justice Department reversed an Obama-era interpretation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that protected transgender people.
- State laws prohibit discrimination against transgender people in housing, employment, credit and public education. These laws are not being challenged.
- A UCLA study found no change in the number of criminal incidents in bathrooms after Massachusetts cities and towns passed their own laws protecting transgender people in public accommodations.