

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS. LAWS
RELATING TO PRIMARIES,
CAUCUSES AND ELECTIONS.
[CHAPTER 835, ACTS OF 1913]**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649626854

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Laws Relating to Primaries, Caucuses and Elections.
[Chapter 835, Acts of 1913] by Secretary of the Commonwealth Massachusetts

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SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH MASSACHUSETTS

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS. LAWS
RELATING TO PRIMARIES,
CAUCUSES AND ELECTIONS.
[CHAPTER 835, ACTS OF 1913]**

Massachusetts. Laws, statutes, etc. Election law

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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L A W S

RELATING TO

PRIMARIES, CAUCUSES AND ELECTIONS.

[Chapter 835, Acts of 1913.]

PREPARED BY THE

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.



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BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
32 DERNE STREET.

1913.

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L A W S
RELATING TO
PRIMARIES, CAUCUSES AND ELECTIONS.

Chapter 835, Acts of 1913.

AN ACT TO CODIFY THE LAWS RELATIVE TO PRIMARIES,
CAUCUSES AND ELECTIONS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

P A R T I.

General Provisions.

SECTION 1. Terms used in this act and in statutes relative to primaries, caucuses or elections shall be construed as follows, unless other meaning is clearly apparent from language or context, or unless such construction is inconsistent with the manifest intent of the legislature:

Certain terms defined.
1907, 580 § 1,
214,
1911, 580, § 1.
1912, 398, §§ 1,
2.

"Aldermen" shall include the boards or officials having the powers of aldermen in a city which does not have a board of aldermen.

"Assessors" shall mean the assessors of taxes of a city or town.

"Caucus" shall apply to any public meeting of the voters of a precinct, ward, or town, held under the provisions of this act relating to caucuses.

"Caucus officers" shall apply to chairmen, wardens, secretaries, clerks and inspectors, and, when on duty, to additional officers appointed or elected, or elected to fill a vacancy, and taking part in the conduct of caucuses.

"City election" shall apply to any election held in a city for the choice of a city officer by the voters whether for a full term or for the filling of a vacancy.

"City officer" shall apply to any person to be chosen by the voters at a city election.

Certain terms defined.

"Convention" shall apply only to a meeting of delegates duly chosen in primaries or caucuses, representing two or more subdivisions of the district for which the convention is held.

"Election" shall apply to the taking of a vote upon a proposed amendment to the constitution; upon the question of granting licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors; and upon any other question by law submitted to the voters.

"Election officer" shall apply to wardens, clerks, inspectors and ballot clerks, and to their deputies when on duty, and also to selectmen, town clerks, moderators and tellers when taking part in the conduct of elections.

"Elective office" shall apply to any office to be filled by the voters at any state, city or town election.

"Municipal party" shall apply to a party other than a political party which at the preceding city or town election polled for mayor or a selectman at least three per cent of the entire vote cast in the city or town for that office or, in a city, which files with the city clerk, at least sixty days before the annual municipal election, a petition to be allowed to place nominations of such party on the official ballot, which petition is signed in person by a number of registered voters of the city equal to at least three per cent of the entire vote polled in the city for mayor at the preceding election, and so far as municipal elections are concerned, such a party shall also be deemed a political party within the meaning of this act; but the term "municipal party" shall be used only with reference to primaries or caucuses for the nomination of city or town officers.

"Official ballot" shall mean a ballot prepared for any primary, caucus or election by public authority and at public expense.

"Political committee", under the provisions of this act relative to corrupt practices, shall apply to every committee or combination of three or more persons who shall aid or promote the success or defeat of a political party or principle in a public election or shall aid or take part in the nomination, election or defeat of a candidate for public office. The term "Political committee" otherwise shall apply only to a committee elected in pursuance of this act.

"Political convention" shall apply only to a convention called and held in pursuance of this act.

"Political party" shall apply to a party which at the preceding annual state election polled for governor at least

three per cent of the entire vote cast in the commonwealth for that office, but when a candidate for governor receives two or more nominations for that office, "political party" shall for the purpose of determining the status of the parties making such nominations be defined as a political party which at the preceding primary held for the nomination of candidates for state offices nominated such candidate and polled for nomination for governor at least three per cent of the entire vote cast in said primary in the commonwealth for nomination for that office.

Certain terms defined.

"Polling place" shall apply to a room or place provided by a city or town for a primary, caucus or election.

"Presiding officer" shall apply to the warden or chairman at a caucus, to the warden, chairman of the selectmen, moderator, moderator pro tempore or town clerk in charge of a polling place at a primary or election, or to a justice of the peace acting as moderator at a town meeting; or, in the absence of any such officer, to the deputy warden or the clerk or senior inspector or senior selectmen present who shall have charge of a polling place.

"Primary" shall apply to a joint meeting of political or municipal parties held under the provisions of this act relating to primaries.

"Primary officers" shall apply to all election officers when taking part in the conduct of primaries.

"Registrars" shall mean the board of registrars of voters of a city or town or the board of election commissioners of the city of Boston, when applicable.

"State election" shall apply to any election held for the choice of a national, state, district or county officer by the voters, whether for a full term, or for the filling of a vacancy.

"State officer" shall apply to any person to be chosen at a state election.

"Town election" shall apply to any meeting held for the election of town officers by the voters, whether for a full term or for the filling of a vacancy.

"Town elections or meetings at which official ballots are used" shall be construed to mean town elections or meetings in towns to which section four hundred and thirty-two applies.

"Town officer" shall apply to any person to be chosen at a town meeting.

"Two leading political parties" shall apply to the political parties which elect the highest and next highest number