

**LAWS RELATING TO  
ELECTIONS. TO AND  
INCLUDING ACTS OF 1907**

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Laws relating to elections. To and including acts of 1907 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**LAWS RELATING TO  
ELECTIONS. TO AND  
INCLUDING ACTS OF 1907**



Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Laws, 1907

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L A W S

RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

[To and including Acts of 1907.]

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PREPARED BY THE  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.



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# LAWS RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

Acts of 1907, Chapter 560.

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

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

## PART 1.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS.

SECTION 1. Terms used in this chapter and in statutes relative to 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:

“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 chapter for the nomination of a candidate for election, for the election of a political committee or of delegates to a political convention.

“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 or primaries.

“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.

Certain terms defined.  
R. L. 11, §§ 1, 130.  
1902, 346, § 3.  
1903, 454, § 1.  
1906, 444.  
1907, 429, §§ 1, 16.

R. L. 11, § 1.

R. L. 11, § 1.  
1906, 444.

R. L. 11, §§ 1, 130.  
1903, 454.  
1906, 444, § 3.

R. L. 11, § 1.

Certain terms defined.

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

1907, 429, § 1.

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

R. L. 11, § 1.

“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.

1903, 454, § 1.  
1907, 429, § 16.

“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, or in Boston with the election commissioners, at least sixty days before the annual municipal election, a petition to be allowed to place caucus nominations 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 in a city are concerned, such a party shall also be deemed a political party within the meaning of this chapter; but the term “municipal party” shall be used only with reference to caucuses for the nomination of city or town officers.

R. L. 11, § 1.  
1903, 454.

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

“Political committee” shall apply only to a committee elected in pursuance of this chapter.

“Political convention” shall apply only to a convention called and held in pursuance of this chapter.

“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.

"Polling place" shall apply to a room or place provided by a city or town for an election, caucus, or primary. Certain terms defined. R. L. 11, § 1. 1903, 454.

"Presiding officer" shall apply to the warden or chairman at a caucus, or primary, to the warden, chairman of the selectmen, moderator, moderator pro tempore or town clerk in charge of a polling place at an 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 selectman present who shall have charge of a polling place. R. L. 11, § 1. 1902, 346, § 3. 1903, 451.

"Primary" shall apply to a caucus of political parties held under the provisions of sections one hundred and forty-four to one hundred and sixty of this chapter. 1903, 454.

"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. R. L. 11, § 1.

"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 three hundred and ninety-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 cast the highest and next highest number of votes for governor at the preceding annual state election.

"Voter" shall mean a registered male voter.

SECTION 2. In all elections of civil officers by the people, the person receiving the highest number of votes for an office shall be deemed and declared to be elected to such office; and if two or more persons are to be elected to the same office, the several persons, to the number to be chosen to such office, receiving the highest number of votes, shall be deemed and declared to be elected; but persons receiving the same number of votes shall not be deemed Results of election, how determined. R. L. 11, § 2.