

Democracy Modernization Act

1. ***Implement Ranked Choice Voting***
2. ***Expand absent voter mechanism to a no-excuse system.*** Absentee voting should be expanded so that *anyone*, regardless of reasoning, can file a ballot. This will expand access to the ballot box, especially for people travelling during the election, who work unconventional hours, or who are otherwise unable to physically be at their polling place.
3. ***Allow active duty veterans to use mobile phone voting for electronic absentee balloting.***
4. ***Implement same day voter registration.*** 17 states plus D.C. already do this.
5. ***Use HAVA funds to modernize our voting equipment.*** As a safeguard and to ensure accuracy, we should be bringing our voting equipment up to at least the federally set minimum, if not beyond. To implement RCV, early voting, and same day registration, we'll use these already existing funds.
6. ***Implement early voting in the primaries.***
7. ***Allow 17-year-olds to vote in primaries (if eligible for generals) and in municipal elections.*** We intend to create an opt-in system for cities and towns to allow 17 y/os to vote in their municipal elections.
8. ***Create a commission to study the primary date in Massachusetts.*** It's clear through my research that our current primary date only contributes to low voter turnout, difficulty in insurgent campaigns, and lower voter enthusiasm. Studying the ideal date for optimal voter turnout would allow us to see *when* the primary should actually be held in Massachusetts.
9. ***Allowing childcare to be a valid expense for campaigns.*** This is a logical fix for a state that should be creating more paths to candidacy. It helps to level the playing field *and* mirrors a federal ruling.