

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

STATE ELECTION

OFFICIAL EARLY / ABSENTEE BALLOT

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

SHREWSBURY



529

To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval to the right of the candidate's name. To vote for a person not on the ballot, write the person's name and residence in the blank space provided and fill in the oval.

ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

- BIDEN and HARRIS Democratic
HAWKINS and WALKER Green-Rainbow
JORGENSEN and COHEN Libertarian
TRUMP and PENCE Republican

REGISTER OF PROBATE

- STEPHANIE K. FATTMAN Republican
JOHN B. DOLAN, III Democratic

QUESTION 1 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would require that motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities be provided with expanded access to mechanical data related to vehicle maintenance and repair.

Starting with model year 2022, the proposed law would require manufacturers of motor vehicles sold in Massachusetts to equip any such vehicles that use telematics systems -- systems that collect and wirelessly transmit mechanical data to a remote server -- with a standardized open access data platform.

Under the proposed law, manufacturers would not be allowed to require authorization before owners or repair facilities could access mechanical data stored in a motor vehicle's on-board diagnostic system, except through an authorization process standardized across all makes and models and administered by an entity unaffiliated with the manufacturer.

The proposed law would require the Attorney General to prepare a notice for prospective motor vehicle owners and lessees explaining telematics systems and the proposed law's requirements concerning access to the vehicle's mechanical data.

Motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities could enforce this law through state consumer protection laws and recover civil penalties of the greater of treble damages or \$10,000 per violation.

A YES VOTE would provide motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities with expanded access to wirelessly transmitted mechanical data related to their vehicles' maintenance and repair.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law governing access to vehicles' wirelessly transmitted mechanical data.

YES NO

CONTINUE ON BACK

SENATOR IN CONGRESS

- EDWARD J. MARKEY Democratic
KEVIN J. O'CONNOR Republican

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

- JAMES P. MCGOVERN Democratic
TRACY LYN LOVVORN Republican

COUNCILLOR

- PAUL M. DePALO Democratic

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

- MICHAEL O. MOORE Democratic

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

- HANNAH E. KANE Republican

**QUESTION 2**  
**LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION**

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

**SUMMARY**

This proposed law would implement a voting system known as "ranked-choice voting," in which voters rank one or more candidates by order of preference. Ranked-choice voting would be used in primary and general elections for all Massachusetts statewide offices, state legislative offices, federal congressional offices, and certain other offices beginning in 2022. Ranked-choice voting would not be used in elections for president, county commissioner, or regional district school committee member.

Under the proposed law, votes would be counted in a series of rounds. In the first round, if one candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, that candidate would be declared the winner and no other rounds would be necessary. If no candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, then the candidate or candidates who received the fewest first-place votes would be eliminated and, in the next round, each vote for an eliminated candidate would instead be counted toward the next highest-ranked candidate on that voter's ballot. Depending on the number of candidates, additional rounds of counting could occur, with the last-place candidate or candidates in each round being eliminated and the votes for an eliminated candidate going to the voter's next choice out of the remaining candidates. A tie for last place in any round would be broken by comparing the tied candidates' support in earlier rounds. Ultimately, the candidate who was, out of the remaining candidates, the preference of a majority of voters would be declared the winner.

Ranked-choice voting would be used only in races where a single candidate is to be declared the winner and not in races where more than one person is to be elected.

Under the proposed law, if no candidate received more than 50 percent of first-place votes in the first round, the rounds of ballot-counting necessary for ranked-choice voting would be conducted at a central tabulation facility. At the facility, voters' rankings would be entered into a computer, which would then be used to calculate the results of each round of the counting process. The proposed law provides that candidates in a statewide or district election would have at least three days to request a recount.

The Secretary of State would be required to issue regulations to implement the proposed law and conduct a voter education campaign about the ranked-choice voting process. The proposed law would take effect on January 1, 2022.

**A YES VOTE** would create a system of ranked-choice voting in which voters would have the option to rank candidates in order of preference and votes would be counted in rounds, eliminating candidates with the lowest votes until one candidate has received a majority.

**A NO VOTE** would make no change in the laws governing voting and how votes are counted.

YES

NO

**QUESTION 3**

Shall the Town of Shrewsbury be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two-and-one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond(s) issued in order to construct and equip a police station on property located at 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, MA, including the costs of architectural, engineering, and site work, abatement of hazardous materials and demolition services relative to existing buildings on the site, and payment of all other costs and expenses incidental or related thereto?

YES

NO

**QUESTION 4**

Shall the Town of Shrewsbury accept sections 3 to 7, inclusive of chapter 44B of the General Laws, as approved by its legislative body (Town Meeting) on August 8, 2020, a summary of which appears below?

**SUMMARY**

If accepted, Sections 3 to 7 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws of Massachusetts, also known as the Community Preservation Act, will enable the Town to establish a dedicated funding source which may be used to (1) acquire and preserve open space, which includes land for the protection of public drinking water supplies, well fields, aquifers and recharge areas, wetlands, farm land, forest land, scenic areas and other conservation areas, and land for recreational use, such as parks, playgrounds, trails, and athletic fields (2) acquire and restore historic resources, such as buildings and sites; and (3) create low and moderate income housing for individuals and families, including low or moderate income senior housing.

In Shrewsbury, the funding source for these Community Preservation purposes will be a surcharge of one percent (1%) on the annual property tax assessed on real property, beginning in Fiscal Year 2022, and by annual distributions made by the state from a trust fund established by the Act. The state trust fund benefits only municipalities that have accepted the Community Preservation Act.

The following exemptions will apply to the 1% surcharge on real property taxes: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who qualifies for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the Town as defined in Section 2 of said Act; (2) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property; and (3) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of class three, commercial property, and class four, industrial property, as defined in General Laws Chapter 59, Section 2A. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in the surcharge.

If accepted, a Community Preservation Committee will be established by Town bylaw, to be a public body composed of local citizens. The Community Preservation Committee will be responsible to study the needs, possibilities and resources of the Town regarding community preservation. The Community Preservation Committee shall make recommendations on the use of funds for any of the purposes listed above; all expenditures must be approved by vote of Town Meeting. In each fiscal year, at least 10% of the annual revenue collected under the Act must be appropriated or reserved for future spending by the Town for acquisitions and initiatives in each of the categories of allowable community preservation purposes: (1) open space (including recreational land), (2) historic resources, and (3) community housing.

YES

NO