



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Secretary of the Commonwealth
State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

April 3, 2025

Andrea Joy Campbell
Massachusetts Attorney General
One Ashburton Place, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Attorney General Campbell,

As the state constitutional officer charged with the administration of state and federal elections in Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am writing to you regarding the recent Executive Order signed by the President of the United States relating to voter registration and election administration.

I understand that the Commonwealth is intending to join a multi-state lawsuit to challenge this unconstitutional attempt to disenfranchise citizens of Massachusetts and disrupt elections in the Commonwealth. I wish to express my full support of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts joining other states throughout the country in challenging the patently unconstitutional actions of the President.

As you are aware, my Director of Elections has worked closely with your staff to identify a number of legal and administrative issues with the Executive Order which would prevent eligible citizens from registering to vote, impose undue burdens on active duty service members, and disqualify ballots cast legally under state law. I have instructed my staff to provide any additional information or assistance that you may require to litigate this matter.

First and foremost among the issues with the Executive Order is the lack of constitutional authority for the President of the United States to dictate the manner in which states may administer their elections. While the federal government possesses the authority to regulate the time, place, and manner of the election of federal officers, such authority must be enacted through congressional legislation, and not by presidential fiat.

Further, the provisions of the Order appear to be designed to disrupt election administration at every level and prevent lawful citizens from exercising their constitutional right to vote. Section 2 of the Order attempts to impose a requirement for registrants to provide documented evidence of citizenship prior to registration. This would, of course, place an excessive burden on citizens who do not have easy access to a certified birth certificate or passport; those whose evidence of citizenship was issued under a former name; and those were recently naturalized.

Perhaps most egregiously, Section 3 of the Order would require certain active duty service members to obtain and submit documentary proof of citizenship and residence in order to request an absentee ballot, even if that service member is actively serving in a conflict overseas, and even if they are already registered to vote. It is also unclear, due to the poor drafting of the Order, if service members deployed overseas would still be provided with the additional ten days of mailing time for ballots postmarked by Election Day to arrive and be counted, which is currently allowed by state law.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that all legally qualified voters in Massachusetts have a fair and unimpeded right to exercise their franchise in a manner consistent with the lawfully enacted state and federal laws.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "William Francis Galvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Galvin" being the most prominent parts.

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth