

Know Your Rights: Voting in Person After Requesting a Mail-in Ballot

1. How can I check the status of my mail-in ballot?

- You can check the status at Track My Ballot here: www.TrackmyballotMA.com.

2. Track My Ballot shows both when a ballot was “received” and the “status” of the ballot. What is the difference between these two things?

- “Received” means that your ballot has *reached* the election office.
- “Status” shows whether your ballot has been *accepted or rejected* by election officials. Once the ballot is received, election officials are required to open the outer envelope, and inspect the affidavit on the outside of the internal envelope as soon as possible. If the affidavit is missing information or there is a problem with the signature, the ballot will be “rejected.” Otherwise, it will be “accepted.”
- Election officials are supposed to mark both entries at the same time. As a result, when your ballot is marked “received,” it will likely also be marked either “accepted” or “rejected.”

3. Can I vote in person if I requested a mail-in ballot but did not mail it back?

- Yes. If you requested a mail-in ballot but did not mail it back, you can vote in person either on Election Day or during the early voting period.

4. Can I vote in person if I already put my mail-in ballot in the mail?

- It depends on the status of your mail-in ballot.
- If your ballot has *not yet been received by election officials*, you *can* vote in person either on Election Day or during the early voting period. Your mail-in ballot will then be rejected if it is later received.
- If your ballot has been *received and rejected*, you *can* vote in person either on Election Day or during the early voting period.
- If your ballot has been *received and accepted*, your ballot has been cast and you *cannot* vote in person. If your ballot has been accepted, it should be marked with an X on the voting list.

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5. **I decided to vote in person after requesting a mail-in ballot, and the election official said there is an “EV” or “AV” next to my name on the voting list—does that mean I can’t vote in person?**
- No. These notations only mean that you *requested* a mail-in ballot, which by itself does *not* preclude you from voting in person. So long as there is not an “X” next to your name (which indicates that your mail-in ballot has been received and accepted), you can still vote in person during early voting or on Election Day.
 - The Secretary’s office has confirmed to ACLUM that they do *not* want local election officials to make voters wait during early voting or on Election Day to call the clerk’s office if there is an EV or AV next to their name and no X.
6. **Will there be extra steps at the polls in order to be able to vote in person after having requested a mail-in ballot?**
- If your mail-in ballot has *not been received* or if it was *received and rejected*, you should be allowed to vote in person without any delay.
 - If your mail-in ballot is listed as *received and accepted* (marked with an X on the voting list), but you did *not* send in your mail-in ballot, you can demand to cast a provisional in-person ballot which will be counted if election officials determine that you never sent in the mail-in ballot.
7. **If I think I have wrongly been denied the right to cast an in-person ballot because I previously requested a mail-in ballot, what should I do?**
- You can show the information in this document to a supervisor at the polling place.
 - You can direct your election officials to the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s Election Advisory #20-07, which confirms that you can vote in person if you did not mail in your ballot, or you mailed in a ballot that was rejected or has not yet been received and accepted: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/ele20/advisories20.htm>.
 - You can call the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s Elections Division at 1-800-462-8683 (800-462-VOTE).
 - You can call Election Modernization Coalition hotline at:
 - English: 1-866-687-8683 (1-866-OUR-VOTE)
 - Spanish: 1-888-839-8682 (1-888-VE-Y-VOTA)
 - Asian Languages: 1-888-274-8683 (1-888-API-VOTE)
 - Arabic: 1-844-925-5287 (1-844-YALLA-US)