

Please send all responses and questions to litvolma@aol.com or steve.reuys@umb.edu. Thanks!

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**ALERT SUMMARY:**

**1. PURVIEW: State and federal**

**2. MOBILIZATION: Very important information re voting on Tuesday, November 4; please share with your staff and students**

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**GOVERNOR PATRICK SIGNS VOTING LAW CHANGE THAT WILL AFFECT NOVEMBER 4 ELECTION**

- Yesterday, Governor Patrick signed House Bill 5121 which allows individuals who have failed to re-register within 18 months of moving to go back and vote on national and statewide races and issues at their old polling place. However, people cannot vote on local referendum questions since they no longer live in their old neighborhood.

**- This new law applies to the upcoming election on November 4.**

- City and town clerks are concerned about the confusion this new law might cause. It's important to let your students know about the change and prepare them to deal with any problems they might have at the polling place.

**FEDERAL LAW ALLOWS VOTING ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE HAVING DIFFICULTY READING**

- Federal law (Public Law 97-205), Section 208 states: "Any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union."

**WHAT YOU SHOULD DO WITH THIS INFORMATION:**

**1. Print a copy of this email to keep for reference at your program in case:**

a. Any students ask you questions about whether or not they can vote because they moved within the last 18 months and didn't re-register in their new location.

b. Any students are turned away at the polling place on Tuesday and come to you for assistance, give them a copy of this email to take back to the polling place to insist that they can vote.

c. Any students ask if they can get help in the voting booth or are not allowed to bring someone into the booth with them in violation of federal law. (Remember, the person providing assistance cannot be connected to the student's employer or union in any way.)

**2. Forward this email to your staff and urge them to share this information with their students.**

**3. Tell everyone you know about this change and the federal law, and ask them to spread the word.**

**PLEASE DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO MAKE VOTING GO SMOOTHLY FOR YOUR STUDENTS  
SO THEIR VOICES CAN BE HEARD, AND ENCOURAGE EVERYONE YOU KNOW TO VOTE ON  
NOVEMBER 4.**

**THANK YOU!**