

## Voter Registration Drive Overview: compiled by Erin around 6/1/2018

### Summary:

- I called the Secretary of State's office to ask about the legal end of running a registration drive. (<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/seccon.htm> > called the Elections and Voting number, listed as 617-727-2828.)
- Anyone can run a registration drive; we don't need any special permissions or to give any special notice to the Secretary's office.
- The Secretary's office will mail us the resources we need to prepare for and carry out a voter registration drive; they include some literature on how to run a registration drive, how to handle pre-registration, and the forms themselves.

### Resources:

- There's the Secretary of State site's [voter registration page](#), which has some basic info.
- It also has download links for the voter registration form in English, Spanish, Chinese (presumably Mandarin), Khmer, Cape Verdean Creole, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Russian, and Vietnamese, so we can print off copies in more languages if needed.
  - We can also call and ask for them to send us the forms, but that'll take a little longer. Free but slower than printing them off ourselves.
- We're already getting 50 English- and 50 Spanish-language voter registration forms to start, along with stuff explaining how to run a drive and how pre-registration works.
  - (the lady I spoke with thought the idea of running a registration drive after a show was pretty cool).
  - The forms are being mailed to me and should all be here by mid next week, since they didn't arrive this past week.
- In the meantime, I found a one-page PDF (titled "Massachusetts-Guide-to-Voter-Registration-Drives.pdf") from the [Fair Elections Legal Network](#) on running a registration drive in MA, last updated August 2017.
- The Fair Elections Legal Network also has a page of [MA-specific voter registration resources](#) - it's got important dates, links to the Secretary of State site, ID requirement info, etc., and some FAQs.
  - There's a decent amount of overlap with the official Secretary of State page, but this one is all in one place and in plain English.

### Other Considerations:

- Have not found anything yet on the submit-your-forms-here cart James mentioned last time
- Both the lady I spoke with at the Secretary's office and the FELN registration drive guidelines suggested that, while MA has no restrictions on who can run a drive, we may want to ask each town's City Hall what their rules on solicitation are before we start a drive.
  - Not sure how much of a problem this would be, say, after a show, but if we're just gonna be out in public asking passerby, it's probably worth checking.
- And of course we'll have to ask the colleges before we go soliciting their students.
- So the best course of action for student voter registration seems to be to draw up a list of the colleges we want to run drives at, check with the towns they're in, and then consult the colleges.
  - We'll want to make sure we're very clear on whether the students registering are MA residents or just 'visiting' for school.
- I think we're basically good to go for a registration drive after a show / without students

- (though I, being a skittish person, would want to call the Secretary's office again once we've got our final plan and say "hey we want to do X Y Z that's okay right?")

#### We've Got:

- Voter registration forms on the way, including drive-running info - should be here by next week
- Confirmation that we don't need special permits or whatnot

#### We Still Need:

- The forms to get here via mail (update: they arrived and were handed off to James)
- A list of which schools we want to have registration drives at, or want to put up flyers for a drive elsewhere at
  - I figure schools like BC, BU, Bunker Hill, and Tufts are good starting points, since they're likely to have high percentages of MA resident students.
- To double-check with the towns those schools are in
- To ask the colleges themselves about setting up a registration drive
  - I kinda wonder if they'll balk at having a nebulous non-student organization ask to solicit their students, even if it's a good cause - we'd probably be well-served to come up with a polite-sounding summary for what Bummer City does
  - For max jargon, something like "a socially progressive citizen organization interested in using historical context to inform local citizen engagement..."
  - Corollary: if the schools don't want strange adults asking their students stuff, maybe we can ask some student clubs if they want to work with us on that.

Thoughts? Questions? Additional things to ask?