



BULLETIN #122/2020 NOVEMBER 2, 2020

REMINDER: ELECTION DAY VOTING – EMPLOYEE UNPAID TIME

GOV. BAKER PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY AT 1:30 P.M. ON NEW RE-OPENING ORDERS

Election Day Voting

Summary: Under state law, an employer must give an employee up to two hours off to vote if the employee requests it. The employee does not have to be paid for this time but should be allowed a two-hour absence after the opening of the polls in the employee's voting precinct.

The right to vote is the most essential right of our democratic system. This year, Election Day for federal, state, and county races is tomorrow, Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Voting on Election Day. All registered voters who do not vote by mail or vote early in-person will be able to vote in person on Election Day on November 3, 2020. Polling places across the Commonwealth will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. If you are in line to vote at the 8 p.m. closing time, you still must be allowed to cast your ballot. If voting in-person, wear a mask and practice social distancing. You can bring your own BLACK-INK pen with you to mark your ballot if you do not want to use a pen provided at the polling site. Voters who have already cast ballots by mail or during the early voting period will already be checked off on the voter list so they cannot vote again.

Reminder – Bring Personal Identification to the Polls. If it is your first time voting in Massachusetts or if you are on the inactive voter list, you may be asked to show identification in order to vote. It is recommended that all voters be prepared to show identification on Election Day. Photo identification can be used but is not required. Acceptable identification must include your name and the address at which you are registered to vote, for example: a current and valid driver's license, photo identification card, current utility bill, bank statement, pay stub, government check, letter from your dormitory on school letterhead, or any other official and current document that shows your name and the address at which you are registered to vote. You may present electronic identification to the poll worker, such as on a smart phone, if you do not have a hard copy.

ELECTION DAY VOTING – EMPLOYEE UNPAID TIME

On Election Day Tuesday, November 3, the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. This may seem like a long span, but commuting times can impact a citizen's ability to get to the polls either when they open or before they close.

State law makes an accommodation for this. Under Massachusetts law (MGL Chapter 149, Section 178), an employer must give an employee up to two hours off to vote if the



149, Section 178), an employer must give an employee up to two hours off to vote if the employee requests it. The employee does not have to be paid for this time but should be allowed a two-hour absence after the opening of the polls in the employee's voting precinct.

The law specifically states: "No owner, superintendent or overseer in any manufacturing, mechanical or mercantile establishment shall employ or permit to be employed therein any person entitled to vote at an election, during the period of two hours after the opening of the polls in the voting precinct, ward or town in which such person is entitled to vote, if he shall make application for leave of absence during such period."

New Gov. Baker Re-Opening Orders to Address Rise in Cases

[Courtesy of *State House News Service*.]

After a weekend that saw the number of COVID-19 deaths surpass 10,000 and as the number of people who need hospital care for a Coronavirus infection rises, this afternoon Gov. Charlie Baker will announce new orders related to the state's economic re-opening.

The governor's office said he, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, and Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders will detail "new executive orders affecting the re-opening process due to recent increases in new cases and hospitalizations of COVID-19 across the state" at a 1:30 p.m. press conference Monday.

There were 2,431 new cases of COVID-19 confirmed in Massachusetts over the weekend, 10,013 people with confirmed or probable cases of the virus have died here since mid-March, and the autumn resurgence of the virus appears to be underway. The state has reported more than 1,000 new cases of COVID-19 each day for more than a week.

Baker's press conference will be [livestreamed](#) from the State House shortly after 1:30 p.m.

On Friday, Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo announced that she was cutting her state's gathering limit from 15 to 10 people, prohibiting spectators at youth sporting events for the next two weeks, curtailing visits at hospitals and nursing homes, and closing indoor athletic facilities for one week. She said Rhode Island was "on a path" to opening a field hospital in the next few weeks, according to WPRI.

MSADA - YOUR DEALER ANSWER PLACE

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Robert O'Koniewski, Esq., MSADA Executive Vice President, by e-mail at rokoniewski@msada.org, or Peter Brennan, Esq., MSADA staff attorney, by e-mail at pbrennan@msada.org, or either by phone at (617) 451-1051.