



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

AN INITIATIVE PETITION

FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Under Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth

SUMMARY

This proposed constitutional amendment would amend the Massachusetts Constitution to provide that for the purpose of transparency, the internal rules and proceedings of the Legislature would be set by each respective branch, except for certain rules and proceedings that would be set by law.

The Senate and House of Representatives would be required to establish bill subject committees that would operate as joint committees to review legislative bills. All committees crucial to the joint legislative process would be joint committees, including the subject committees, the committee for bills in the third reading, and the committee for ways and means.

Joint committee assignments would be equally distributed with a minimum of 5 members of the Senate and 9 members of the House on a committee. Committee assignments could be traded in the first two weeks of the legislative session among legislative members of the same branch. The Committee for Ways and Means and the Committee for Bills in the Third Reading would additionally require a minimum of eleven percent of each legislative body on each committee.


The vote for Speaker of the House and for Senate President would be by majority vote on secret paper ballots at the start of each legislative session. The committees, not House or Senate leadership, would select chairpersons by majority vote on secret paper ballots; and the committees, not leadership, could also change the chairperson by majority vote upon the request of the chairperson or of any two committee members. Committee members could only be removed by: request of the member with the committee's agreement;

evidence of relevant corruption; or a call by a majority of the respective legislative branch to remove the member alongside a majority vote by secret paper ballot.

Bills and amendments would not be voted upon in consolidated bundles. Any bill cosponsored by a majority of legislators in either the House or Senate would receive a floor vote. Except for bills addressing emergencies, all bills in the Ways and Means Committee and Bills in the Third Reading would emerge from those committees in the order received before other bills could be addressed. Four members of the Legislature could demand a roll call vote. There would be a public record of committee roll call votes and of floor votes on all bills. The Senate and House clerks would post all recorded votes of each legislative committee member on the Legislature's website as soon as practicable, generally no later than 48 hours of the vote. Bills would be available for a minimum of 72 hours before a vote occurs on a bill.

All members of the Legislature would earn the same salary regardless of seniority or position, but could reasonably be docked salary for leaving the position. Additionally, any office funds, assistance, and staffing would be the same for all members of the Legislature. No payment of additional funds or assistance could be made as influence for votes. All members of the Senate and the House would have the same number and type of staff, and each staff member would be chosen by the member employing that staff member, and could not be removed by another member.

FILING DEADLINES. Initiative petitions must be submitted to local election officials for certification of signatures no later than **5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22, 2023**. Local election officials must complete their certification no later than December 4, 2023. Thereafter, initiative petitions containing certified signatures must be retrieved by petitioners from the local election officials and then filed with the Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, One Ashburton Place, Room 1705, Boston, MA, no later than **5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6, 2023**.

FIRST TEN SIGNERS	Kirstin Rebecca Beatty 149 Central Park Drive Pamela Ann Hibbard 33 Knipfer Avenue Jean Yun Pao Wilson 377 Main Street Darlene A. Orvieto-DC 44 Cherry Street Christopher J. Colby 118 Maple Street, # 2 Beverly A. Colby 118 Maple Street, # 2 Alexandria S. Moynihan 70 Plain Street Shelly E. Fournier 80 Maple Street, # A Deborah A. Chandler 75 Hadley Village Road, # C Yitzark Kaluche 80 Maple Street, # A	Holyoke Easthampton Easthampton Easthampton Easthampton Easthampton Easthampton Easthampton South Hadley Easthampton	REGISTRAR USE ONLY: <i>ONLY REGISTRAR MAY WRITE IN THIS AREA</i>
	These names have been certified as names of registered voters in their places of residence. Original petition was filed on September 6, 2023.  SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS	CIRCULATOR INFORMATION SPONSORS OF THIS PETITION MAY BE CONTACTED AT: Petition I 149 Central Park Drive Holyoke, MA 01040	

CIRCULATOR AND SIGNER INFORMATION	INSTRUCTIONS TO CIRCULATORS AND SIGNERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO NOT ALTER THIS INITIATIVE PETITION IN ANY WAY. ADDITIONAL MARKINGS ON THIS PETITION WILL DISQUALIFY ANY SIGNATURES ON THIS PETITION SHEET. • For your signature to be valid, you must be a registered voter in the city or town named below and your signature should be written substantially as registered. DO NOT sign the same petition more than once. • If you are prevented by physical disability from writing, you may authorize some person to write your name and residence in your presence.
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ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS OF MAY SIGN THIS SHEET.

(OVER)



ATTENTION VOTERS: Before signing, read signer information on other side. CITY OR TOWN:

	REGISTRAR USE ONLY	I. SIGNATURE to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated on other side)	II. NOW REGISTERED AT (street, number and apartment number, if any) (city or town will be the same as stated above)	WARD	PREC.
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WARNING - criminal penalty for unlawfully signing, altering, defacing, mutilating, destroying, or suppressing this petition: fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to one year.

INSTRUCTIONS TO REGISTRARS

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|----------------------------------|--|---|
| REGISTRAR
INFORMATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must time-stamp or write in date and time these papers are received. • Check thus ✓ against the name of each qualified voter to be certified. For names not certified, use the code at the right. Draw a line through any blank spaces not containing signatures. • Each sheet must be certified by at least three registrars. A facsimile stamp is acceptable. • You must complete certification no later than December 4, 2023. | <p>N - no such registered voter at that address, or address is illegible.</p> <p>S - unable to identify signature as that of voter because of form of signature, or signature is illegible.</p> <p>W - wrong community.</p> <p>T - already signed papers for this question.</p> |
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CERTIFICATION OF NAMES

At least three registrars' names must be signed or stamped below.

We certify that _____
number of names (use numbers and words)

above signatures checked thus ✓ are the names of qualified voters from this city or town.

_____ date

Registrars of Voters or Election Commissioners of

_____ city or town _____ county

City or Town

ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS OF

MAY SIGN THIS SHEET.

