

HOUSE No. 1456

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act combating misinformation about ex-offender voting rights.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/11/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 1456

By Representative Decker of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1456) of Marjorie C. Decker and Lindsay N. Sabadosa relative to the notification of voter eligibility status of ex-offenders. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1532 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act combating misinformation about ex-offender voting rights.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 51 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 66 the following section:-

3 Section 67. (a) Any person who is convicted of a felony, as defined in section 1 of
4 chapter 274, in the commonwealth, but is not sentenced to incarceration in a jail or correctional
5 facility, shall be notified in writing by the ruling court, immediately following such conviction
6 and sentencing, of his or her voter eligibility, and shall confirm, in writing, that he or she was so
7 notified.

8 (b) A probation officer shall immediately notify, in writing, any person that is placed in
9 their care, who was convicted of a felony or incarcerated due to a felony conviction, of said

10 person's voter eligibility status, shall provide said person with written information on voter
11 eligibility and voter registration, and shall obtain written confirmation from said person that he
12 or she was so notified.

13 (c) A parole officer shall immediately notify, in writing, any person that is placed in their
14 care, who was incarcerated due to a felony conviction, of said person's voter eligibility status,
15 shall provide said person with written information on voter eligibility and voter registration, and
16 shall obtain written confirmation from said person that he or she was so notified.

17 (d) Any person who is incarcerated due to a felony conviction shall, upon release from a
18 jail or correctional facility, be notified, in writing, by said jail or facility of his or her voter
19 eligibility and provided with written voter eligibility and voter registration information, and shall
20 confirm, in writing, that he or she was so notified.

21 (e) The office of the commissioner of probation shall notify, in writing, any person that
22 was convicted of a felony by a court of the commonwealth within the period of 10 years prior to
23 the effective date of this section, who is not currently incarcerated, of their voter eligibility, shall
24 provide said person with written voter eligibility and voter registration information and shall
25 obtain written confirmation from said person that he or she was so notified.