

HOUSE No. 678

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mindy Domb

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 relative to random placement for candidate names and removal of incumbent information on primary and state ballots.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/13/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 678

By Representative Domb of Amherst, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 678) of Mindy Domb relative to random placement of candidate names and removal of incumbent information on primary and state ballots. Election Laws.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 776 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to random placement for candidate names and removal of incumbent information on primary and state ballots.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 34 of said chapter 53 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the second and third paragraphs.

3 SECTION 2. Section 70E of said chapter 53, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
4 striking out, in line 32, the words “in the manner provided in section thirty-four”.

5 SECTION 3. Section 41 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
6 amended by striking out, in line 16, the words “state or”.

7 SECTION 4. Section 42 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
8 striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

9 Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or chapter 53, or any other general or
10 special law to the contrary, on any ballot, under the designation of the office, the names of
11 candidates for nomination for all offices to be voted for at a state primary, and names of
12 candidates for election to any state office, shall be listed in an order generated at random by the
13 state secretary; and no ballot shall include any notation or designation indicating that a candidate
14 is an incumbent or candidate for re-election.

15 SECTION 5. Sections 1 through 4, inclusive, shall take effect on January 1, 2024.