

SENATE No. 436

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Rebecca L. Rausch

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 to modernize the central registry of voters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Rebecca L. Rausch

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex

SENATE No. 436

By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 436) of Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation to modernize the central registry of voters. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to modernize the central registry of voters.

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. Chapter 51 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph of section 47C in its entirety and inserting
3 in place thereof the following section:-

4 (a) The secretary of state shall maintain a central registry of voters in accordance with
5 this section.

6 (b) Information contained in the central registry shall be provided by the registrars or
7 equivalent in the commonwealth’s cities and towns.

8 (c) The central registry shall contain, without limitation, the following information about
9 each registered voter in the commonwealth:

10 (1) Full name;

11 (2) Former name, if any;

12 (3) Residential address;

13 (4) Date of birth;

14 (5) Political party enrollment or designation; and

15 (6) Effective date of registration.

16 (d) The central registry may contain, without limitation, the following information about
17 residents of the Commonwealth age 16 and over:

18 (1) Full name;

19 (2) Former name, if any;

20 (3) Residential address on January first in the current year;

21 (4) Residential address on January first in the preceding year;

22 (5) Date of birth;

23 (6) Occupation;

24 (7) Veteran status; and

25 (8) Nationality, if not a citizen of the United States.

26 (e) The central registry shall be digitally maintained using the most advanced applicable
27 technology reasonably available to the state secretary.

28 (f) The information contained in the central registry pursuant to paragraph (c) shall be:

29 (1) available to state party committees, statewide candidate committees, state ballot
30 question committees, the jury commissioner, adjutant general and any other individual, agency
31 or entity that the state secretary shall designate by regulation consistent with the purposes of this
32 section, at a fair and reasonable cost not to exceed the cost of printing in hard copy, if requested,
33 or issuing computer-readable data files; and

34 (2) provided by the state secretary to the election officials at each polling place in the
35 commonwealth in digital format sufficient to allow for designated election officials to conduct
36 real-time searches of the registry and to modify a voter's registration information upon
37 presentation by the voter of appropriate documentation to justify the modification.

38 (g) The state secretary shall use all reasonable efforts to secure federal funding to
39 maintain the central registry consistent with the provisions of this section and provide its
40 information as required in paragraph (f)(2).

41 (h) The state secretary shall adopt regulations governing the operation of the central
42 registry consistent with the provisions of this section.

43 (i) SECTION 2. The state secretary shall certify compliance with section 23 of chapter 92
44 of the acts of 2022 and file such certification with the clerks of the senate and house of
45 representatives and the chairs of the joint committee on election laws not later than 10 days after
46 the enactment of this act. If the secretary has failed to comply with said section 23 of chapter 92
47 of the acts of 2022, he shall instead file a report detailing the specific reasons for such
48 noncompliance, as well as all specific efforts undertaken to achieve compliance in each of the
49 calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.