

By Mr. Lees, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 346) of Brian P. Lees, Michael R. Knapik, Robert L. Hedlund, Richard R. Tisei and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to voting list access and distribution. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Three.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO VOTING LIST ACCESS.

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 2000 Offi-
2 cial Edition, is hereby amended by striking out section 55 and
3 inserting in place thereof the following section:—
4 Section 55. Registrars shall, from the names entered in the
5 annual register of voters, prepare voting lists for use at elections,
6 but shall not enter the names of women voters in separate columns
7 or lists. In such voting lists, the registrars shall place: the names
8 of all voters entered on the annual register, and no others; oppo-
9 site to the name of each, his or her residence on January first, pre-
10 ceding or at the time of his becoming an inhabitant of such place
11 after said day; and his or her party enrollment. Names shall be
12 added thereto or taken therefrom as persons are found to be quali-
13 fied or not qualified to vote. In cities registrars shall prepare such
14 voting lists by wards, and if a ward or town is divided into voting
15 precincts, by those precincts. In all such cities, and in towns
16 having 5,000 or more inhabitants, the voting lists shall be
17 arranged in the numerical order of the street numbers of their resi-
18 dences, so far as possible. All first voting lists shall be printed and
19 available for public distribution not later than the first day of July
20 in state election years. Said lists shall remain available in off-elec-
21 tion years. A sufficient number of voting lists shall be printed so
22 that they can be furnished free of charge, upon request, to all duly

23 organized political committees, and to all political candidates for
24 public office in the various districts in which the city or town is
25 located. No fee shall be charged for said lists. However, the regis-
26 trar may limit distribution to two lists per person or political com-
27 mittee in one calendar year. Said lists shall be available for a
28 reasonable fee, not to exceed the cost of printing such list, to any
29 person upon request. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the voting
30 lists to be used at presidential primaries or any primary or election
31 held prior to July first in any year may be that of the year pre-
32 ceding, revised as aforesaid.