



Ballot Initiative Information

Do's and Don'ts

- If you signed the petitions from fall of 2013 (B or N) you can't sign the new petitions labeled "BB" for the Patient Safety Act and "NN" for the Transparency Act. **Only registered voters who did not sign in the fall can sign the new petitions.**
- Ask people:
 - Did you sign the petition in the fall regarding Patient Safety? If yes, they are ineligible to sign the new petition. If no, they can sign the new petition. If not sure, have them sign.
 - Did you sign the petition in the fall regarding the Hospital Profit Transparency Act? If yes, they are ineligible to sign the new petition. If no, they can sign the new petition. If not sure, have them sign.
- **Do Not use any old petitions from the fall of 2013 labeled "B" or "N". Those should be thrown away.**
- The new petitions will have "BB" for the Patient Safety Act and "NN" for the Transparency Act in the lower right hand corner.
- **It is one petition for one city or town.**
 - Ask the person if they are a registered voter in Massachusetts
 - If **yes** then ask them the city or town they are registered to vote in. If **no** they are unable to sign the petition.
 - Write the name of the city or town in the box at the bottom of the petition
 - Now only residents of that city or town can sign **THAT** petition.
 - You need to start a new petition for each city or town
- You do not need to worry about filling out the Ward or Precinct column.
- The person must sign full name-no nicknames or abbreviated versions of names
- Use residential addresses only-**no PO Boxes**. The address should be the address where they are currently registered to vote.
- If a mistake is made by the signer, you don't need to cross out anything, just have the person sign on the next line. **Do not cross out or write on the petitions. Extra markings may disqualify the entire sheet.**
- **Note: signing the petition only indicates one's support to have the questions on the ballot; it does not commit anyone to vote for it.**
- Double check the signature to make sure it is legible; if you can't read someone's signature, just ask them to print their name in the same box as their signature.
- Persons who are prevented from signing by a physical disability may authorize another individual to sign for them in the voter's presence.
- One spouse/family member **may not** sign for another.

Ballot Initiative and House Bill 3843

The Patient Safety Act

Help Protect Patients in Massachusetts Hospitals

In response to deteriorating patient care conditions in the state's acute care hospitals, the Campaign to Ensure Safe Patient Care is working to place a measure on the 2014 ballot -- The Patient Safety Act (**House Bill 3843**) -- that will set a safe maximum limit on the number of patients assigned to a nurse at one time, while also requiring hospitals to adjust nurses' patient assignments based on the specific needs of the patients.

- The primary reason you are admitted to a hospital is because your condition is so severe you require around-the-clock attention by a registered nurse. Nurses are specially trained to monitor your condition from minute-to-minute and to take immediate action to prevent complications or to save your life.
- The filing of the initiative follows the release of dozens of prominent research studies and reports that show beyond any doubt the need to set a maximum limit on the number of patients that can be assigned to each registered nurse if we are to avoid -- mistakes, serious complications and preventable readmissions.
- The call for this law has intensified in recent years in reaction to dramatic changes within the hospital industry driven by state and national health care reform, including the merger, and conversion of non-profit hospitals into larger corporate networks. None of this has been beneficial for patients as the industry's response has been to cut staff and to reduce services in an attempt to boost hospital profit margins at the expense of patients' safety.
- Currently there is no law and there are no standards in existence for the number of patients that can be assigned to a nurse at one time in Massachusetts' hospitals, and there are no requirements for hospitals to provide an adequate level of nursing care. It is not uncommon for nurses in Massachusetts to have six, seven or even eight patients at a time, when a safe limit would be no more than four patients for a nurse on a typical medical/surgical floor.
- The Patient Safety Act will set maximum safe patient limits for nurses for different types of units/departments in a hospital. The proposed law calls for one nurse for every four patients in medical/surgical units, where most patient care takes place. In emergency departments, the proposed regulations require nurses to care for between one and three patients depending on the severity of the patient conditions, and for nurses in critical care units to have between one and a maximum of two patients based on the needs of those patients.
- To provide flexibility in staffing and to account for patients who require more care, the bill calls for the creation of a system to evaluate patients' needs for care, and for hospitals to adjust the RN's patient assignment should that patient require closer monitoring to stay safe.

To learn more about this issue, visit www.PatientSafetyAct.com



Ballot Initiative and House Bill 3844

The Hospital Profit Transparency and Fairness Act (HPTFA)

It's About Access to Safe Patient Care...It's About Our Taxpayer Dollars...It's About Transparency

Fact Sheet

The Issues with the current system:

- Massachusetts health care costs are among the highest in the world.
- Our taxpayer dollars are subsidizing the lion's share of every hospital's operating budget.
- Meanwhile, hospital CEO compensation packages continue to increase.
- In fact, many hospital CEO's in Massachusetts are now earning more than \$2 million dollars annually in salary alone (and hundreds of thousands if not millions more in unreported additional compensation).
- At the same time, the lowest paid full-time hospital employee is earning roughly \$16,000 annually – barely enough to survive.
- Health care is following the corporate 'bigger is better' business model emulating Wall Street firms driven by profit, not patient safety.
- The disparity between hospitals continues to grow, creating a system of "haves and have nots," resulting in the loss of essential services for some communities, particularly those serving the poor and the most vulnerable.
- Consequently, our hospitals today are driven by profit, not patient safety.
- The result -- access to essential and basic health care services as well as patient safety has declined across the Commonwealth.
- The bottom line -- there is a lack of transparency for the full spectrum of hospital system investments and financial holdings, including the size and scope of funds stashed in offshore accounts.

What the proposed ballot initiative would do:

- Require any hospital receiving taxpayer dollars to disclose all financial assets, including those held in offshore accounts.
- Assess a clawback penalty on any hospital (receiving a certain level of revenue from taxpayer dollars) that has an annual operating margin above a predetermined cap.
- Assess a clawback penalty on any hospital receiving a certain amount of taxpayer dollars that provides a compensation package for its CEO that is greater than 100 times that of hospital's lowest paid employee.
- Establish a Medicaid Reimbursement Enhancement Fund (MREF). The MREF will be funded by the assessments and used to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates to eligible hospitals to ensure access to essential health care services.





THE CORRECT WAY TO FILL OUT SAFE STAFFING BALLOT PETITION



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 impose an obligation and duty on the state Legislature and executive officials, on behalf of the Commonwealth, to enact and implement laws to ensure that no Massachusetts

health insurance that is comprehensive, affordable, equitably distributed, and financially necessary preventive, acute and chronic health care services, prescription drugs and devices.

FILING DEADLINES. Initiative petitions must be submitted to local election officials for certification of signatures no later than **5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23, 2011.** Local election officials must complete their certification no later than December 5, 2011. 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, November 23, 2011.**



FIRST TEN SIGNERS	Lauren K. Werman	893 Dewey Street	West Springfield
	Nicole M. Lachapelle	225 Main Street	West Springfield
	Joseph P. McCoy	11 Clapp Street	West Springfield
	Sophia E. Jeffery	115 Wellington Street	West Springfield
	Norma J. Hill	62 Bates Road	West Springfield
	Warren H. Hill	62 Bates Road	West Springfield
	Corinne Wingard	194 Elm Street	West Springfield
	Paul E. Boucher	194 Elm Street	West Springfield
	Phyllis M. Boucher	194 Elm Street	West Springfield
	Richard Peck	194 Elm Street	West Springfield

These names have been certified as names of registered voters in their places of residence. Original petition was filed on September 7, 2011.

William Francis Galvin

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

REGISTRAR USE ONLY:

ONLY REGISTRAR MAY WRITE IN THIS AREA

INSTRUCTIONS TO CIRCULATORS AND SIGNERS

- 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.

REGISTRAR USE ONLY	CIRCULATOR AND SIGNER INFORMATION	I. SIGNATURE to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated above)		II. NOW REGISTERED AT (street, number and apartment number, if any) (city or town will be the same as stated below)		WARD	PREC.
		1		<i>Ellen F. Norton</i>	8 Old Field Rd. Plymouth		
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							

1. In this box: NO NICKNAMES! Sign your name as it appears on your driver's license. You must be a Massachusetts registered voter.

2. Enter your address here. NO PO BOXES.

3. Insert the name of the city or town. Only residents of this city or town can sign this petition.

ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS OF Plymouth MAY SIGN THIS SHEET.



THE INCORRECT WAY TO FILL OUT SAFE STAFFING BALLOT PETITION



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts AN INITIATIVE PETITION FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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

SUMMARY

This proposed constitutional amendment would impose an obligation and duty on the state Legislature and executive officials, on behalf of the Commonwealth, to enact and implement laws to ensure that no Massachusetts resident lacks access to health care services that is comprehensive, affordable, equitably distributed, and medically necessary preventive, acute and chronic health care services, prescription drugs and devices.

FIRST TEN SIGNERS	Lauren K. Werman	893 Dewey Street	West Springfield
	Nicole M. Lachapelle	225 Main Street	West Springfield
	Joseph P. McCoy	11 Clapp Street	West Springfield
	Sophia E. Jeffery	115 Wellfleet Street	West Springfield
	Norma J. Hill	62 Barre Road	Westfield
	Warren H. Hill	62 Pine Road	Westfield
	Corinne Wingard	79 Elm Street	Agawam
	Paul E. Boucher	100 Maple Avenue	West Springfield
	Phyllis M. Boucher	100 Maple Avenue	West Springfield
	Richard Peck	100 Maple Avenue	West Springfield

These names have been certified as names of registered voters of residence. Original petition was filed on September 20, 2011.

William J. ...
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

REGISTRARS ONLY:
ONLY REGISTRAR MAY WRITE IN THIS AREA

NON-QUALIFYING SIGNATURES

INSTRUCTIONS TO CIRCULATORS AND SIGNERS

- 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.

REGISTRAR USE ONLY	I. SIGNATURE to be made in person with name substantially as registered (except in case of physical disability as stated above)	II. NOW REGISTERED AT (street, number and apartment number, if any) (city or town will be the same as stated below)	WARD	PREC.
1	<i>Jan E. Flaming</i>	893 Dewey St. W. Spfld		
2	<i>Eugene F. ...</i>	8 Old Field Rd Plymouth		
3	<i>Stephanie H. ...</i>	26 Armstrong St. JP		
4	<i>Harold Hubert</i>	11 Lincoln place #2 Brookline		
5				
6				
7				
8				

This is wrong because the signatures are from different cities and towns. This petition is for Boston registered voters.

ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS OF BOSTON MAY SIGN THIS SHEET.





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Elections Division

SOLICITATION OF SIGNATURES IN PUBLIC PLACES

Both the United States and Massachusetts Constitutions protect the right to solicit signatures on nomination papers and ballot question petitions in a reasonable and unobtrusive manner in open public areas. This includes the public areas of municipal property as well as the common areas of privately owned shopping centers. Distribution of printed material in connection with signature solicitation is also protected. The right of signature solicitation (along with other free-speech activities) on municipal sidewalks, in parks and in similar open public areas is clear. Hague v. CIO, 307 U.S. 496, 515-16 (1939).

Public Areas of Privately Owned Shopping Centers:

The state Supreme Judicial Court has provided guidance specifically to those persons gathering signatures in privately owned shopping centers. Batchelder v. Allied Stores International, Inc., 388 Mass. 83, 445 N.E.2d 590 (1983). Although the Batchelder Court ruling was limited to gathering signatures on candidates' nomination papers, this standard also applies to gathering signatures on initiative and referendum petitions, under the Massachusetts Constitution. Mass. Const. amend art. 48. Shopping centers may adopt reasonable regulations that require signature gatherers to identify themselves, prevent them from harassing customers and obstructing pedestrian traffic, and allocate space and times among different groups of petitioners. It is therefore suggested that solicitors contact the management company of a privately owned shopping center to arrange for a mutually convenient time for such activity.

Municipal Property:

In Batchelder the Supreme Judicial Court held that Article 9 of the Massachusetts Constitution protects the right to solicit signatures, and to distribute related printed material, in the common areas of privately owned shopping centers, subject to reasonable regulations. At least the same amount of protection must apply on municipal property that is regularly open to the general public for municipal business. Therefore, ballot-access and nomination paper signature solicitation must be allowed on municipal property that is regularly open to the general public for municipal business, subject only to reasonable time, place and manner regulations.

Please do not hesitate to contact Michelle K. Tassinari, Legal Counsel, at 617.727.2828 or 1.800.462.VOTE for more information on the right of individuals to gather signatures in public places.

03/02

One Ashburton Place, 17th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 727-2828 · 1-800-462-VOTE (8683)
website: www.state.ma.us/sec/ele · e-mail: election@sec.state.ma.us



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth

**SOLICITING SIGNATURES ON NOMINATION PAPERS
AND BALLOT QUESTION PETITIONS AT SHOPPING CENTERS**

The Massachusetts Constitution protects the right to solicit signatures on candidate nomination papers and ballot question petitions, in a reasonable and unobtrusive manner, in the common areas of privately owned shopping centers. Distribution of printed material in connection with signature solicitation is also protected.

Shopping centers may adopt reasonable regulations that require petitioners to identify themselves, prevent them from harassing customers and obstructing pedestrian traffic, and allocate space and times among different groups of petitioners.

However, the Secretary advises that shopping centers may not:

- require petitioners to give significant advance notice (more than 24 hours).
- substantially limit the days and times when petitioning can occur.
- prevent petitioners from actively soliciting signatures in a reasonable area. For example, petitioners may not be restricted to standing behind a table or booth.
- require petitioners to have insurance coverage, agree to assume liability, or make a deposit of money.
- discriminate in favor of or against any group of petitioners.

The above advice by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the chief elections officer of Massachusetts, is based in part on a 1983 decision by the state Supreme Judicial Court and on later court cases. Petitioners should notify shopping centers before soliciting signatures, and should try to resolve problems with shopping center managers before contacting the Secretary's Election Division.

In the Secretary's view, failure to allow petitioners the rights outlined above violates the state constitution. In addition, interference or attempted interference with these rights by threats, intimidation, or coercion violates the state civil rights law, which provides for money damages and attorney's fees. Petitioners or the state Attorney General may obtain a court order against any violations.

For more information or assistance, please contact: Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, One Ashburton Place, Room 1705, Boston, MA 02108, telephone (617) 727-2828 or 1-800-462-VOTE.

Tools for the Ballot Initiative Battle

- **“Just Ask” at PatientSafetyAct.com:** The recently launched “Just Ask” campaign is a grassroots effort to create awareness with the public about the safety and protections that should be available to every patient who is admitted to a hospital. Found online at PatientSafetyAct.com, the web site is replete with facts and background information, and also includes an easy-to-use letter writing tool that the public can use to contact the legislature about safe patient care.
- **Facebook:** Located at facebook.com/JustAskAboutPatientSafety, this public forum provides a perfect venue to networking, collaborating and organizing in support of patient safety. Visit and “like!”
- **Twitter:** Read tweets, share your tweets, and re-tweet what's hot on and from twitter.com/PatientSafetyMA
- **Petition Drive:** For MNA members ready to jump into signature gathering, the MNA can teach you and give you everything you need for easy success. From background info to petition forms, everything you'll need is ready to go. Simply contact Eileen Norton at 781-830-5777.



SAFE STAFFING BALLOT INITIATIVE DEADLINES

2014

MAY JUN JUL

May 7

First day we can notify Secretary of State that we intend to collect the second round of signatures

May 14

By this date the Secretary of State must give us blank petitions

June 9

Deadline to submit petitions with signatures to the MNA

June 18

Deadline to submit petitions with signatures to the city/town clerks for certification

June 30

Deadline for city/town clerks to complete certifications and return petitions to us

July 2

Deadline for us to deliver petitions to the Secretary of State

