

# IN THE NEWS



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## RECORD NUMBER BALLOT QUESTIONS ADVANCE

On December 4 Secretary of State Bill Galvin's office announced a record setting 11 ballot campaigns had filed signatures with their election division by the December 3 deadline. If they all make it through several hurdles between now and next June, they will appear before voters on the November 3 ballot. His office must now certify that each campaign has submitted at least 74574 valid signatures approved by local registrars. Signatures submitted include campaigns on the following issues:

1. **All-party state primaries:** If passed, Massachusetts' state elections would be like how they are in California, Louisiana and Boston effective 2028: candidates of all political parties would be on a single ballot in the primary with the top two finishers advancing to the general election.
2. **Government transparency:** If passed this would make the governor's office and Legislature subject to the state's public records law, with some exceptions.
3. **Rent control:** If passed this would repeal Massachusetts' ban on rent control and limit yearly rent increases across the state to the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is lower. There are exceptions for newer buildings and smaller, owner-occupied buildings.
4. **Conservation fund:** If passed this would appropriate half of all state sales tax revenue from sporting goods, recreational vehicles and golf courses for a nature conservation fund dedicated to parks, trails and open spaces.
5. **Legislative stipends:** If passed, this would change how leadership pay or stipends are calculated and require rules of attainment for them.
6. **Union rights for public defenders:** If passed, this would allow members of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (public attorneys) to unionize.
7. **Same-day voter registration:** If passed this would allow same day registration and voting.
8. **Minimum lot sizes:** If passed this would require cities and towns to allow single-family homes to be built on minimum lot sizes an eighth of an acre.
9. **State income tax rate:** If passed this would cut the state's income tax from 5% to 4% by 2029.
10. **Chapter 62F:** If passed this would change [the state revenue surplus cap law](#) to account for money from the millionaire's surtax triggering an increase in tax rebates.
11. **Legalized marijuana repeal:** If passed this would repeal legalization of recreational marijuana sales.
12. **Gun law repeal:** If passed this would put a referendum on next year's ballot in an attempt to repeal the recently signed gun control law.

## TAX COLLECTIONS UP IN NOVEMBER

On December 4 the MA Department of Revenue reported that state tax collections in November rose by \$107 million or 4.4% compared to November 2024. The Department of Revenue brought in \$2.562 billion last month. That haul is \$89 million or 3.6% above the state's benchmark. Massachusetts has brought in \$15.572 billion five months into the fiscal year, which DOR said is \$657 million or 4.4% more than this point last year. Revenues are \$188 million or 1.2% above the year-to-date benchmark.

## MA SNAP FUNDS THREATENED

The federal government has threatened to withhold Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) administrative funds from Massachusetts and other Democratic-led states unless those states provide certain information by December 8 about those receiving assistance. Agriculture Secretary Rollins said the administration may cut SNAP funds because some states have refused to provide data about recipients, including names and immigration status, to help identify potential fraud. MA and 21 other states are challenging this order in court. This story is ongoing; we will keep you updated.