



City of New Bedford
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Sent via email: Timothy.f.mellett@usdoj.gov

August 10, 2026

Timothy Mellett
Deputy Chief, Voting Section
U.S. Department of Justice

Re: Election Information and Monitoring for 2026 Primary Election

Dear Deputy Chief Mellett:

This correspondence is in response to your July 9, 2026, request for various information concerning election materials for the upcoming September 1, 2026, Primary Election in New Bedford. The information that you have requested is largely available on the Elections Department page of the City's website or on publicly available websites.

To that end, please see below:

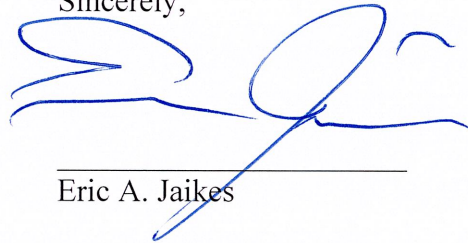
<https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/election-commission/voter-info/polling-locations/>;
<https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/election-commission/ward-maps/>;
<https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/election-commission/voter-info/>;
<https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/election-commission/voter-info/voting-persons-disabilities/>;
<https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/election-commission/voter-info/polling-locations/>;
<https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/election-commission/voter-info/voting-absentee-voting/>;
<https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/election-commission/voter-info/voting-tips/>; and -
<https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/election-commission/voter-info/enrollment-voter/>.

Other requested election materials are available on the Secretary of State's website:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/publications/voters-bill-of-rights.htm>;
<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/research-and-statistics/info-for-voters-2024.htm> (there will be a 2026 version issued shortly);
<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voting-information/vote-by-mail.htm>;
<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voter-resources/registering-to-vote.htm>; and
<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/elections-and-voting.htm>.

You requested voter lists as well. I am unsure how those lists will enable you to determine how voters with limited English proficiency have difficulty exercising their voting rights. The only evidence you point to in your request for voter lists is the existence in New Bedford of a significant number of limited- English proficient voting age citizens. This alone is not a basis to believe that voters in New Bedford are being deprived of their rights under the Voting Rights Act.

Sincerely,



Eric A. Jaikes

Cc: Manuel DeBrito, Election Commissioner
Manuel.Debrito@newbedford-ma.gov;
Election@newbedford-ma.gov