



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Elections Division

## ELECTION DIRECTIVE

Locking Drop Boxes on Halloween

October 26, 2020

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On October 25, 2020, the Elections Division issued an Election Directive regarding enhanced security of ballot drop boxes, which supplemented guidance provided in Election Advisory #20-01 regarding drop boxes generally.

As noted in the Directive, there is increased concern over attempts to interfere with ballots and ballot drop boxes, malicious or otherwise, as evidenced by a recent attack on a drop box in the City of Boston. In addition to added recommended security measures, we are particularly concerned with potential damage that may arise on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you are unable to have personal security of your ballot drop box on Halloween throughout the evening, that box should be closed for the night. Unattended ballot drop boxes, even those that have video surveillance, should be emptied no later than 5 p.m. and immediately locked until Sunday morning. When locking the ballot drop box, you must include a notice on your website and on the box itself.

Please contact the Elections Division at 617-727-2828 or [elections@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:elections@sec.state.ma.us) with any questions.