



Get Ready for Super Tuesday, on March 5, to Cast Vote in Presidential Primaries, Caucuses

By Yizhen Zhang

Super Tuesday -- when a large number of states will hold presidential primary elections and caucuses -- is on March 5.

The states holding primary elections on Super Tuesday will be Alabama, Alaska Republican presidential caucuses, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Iowa Democratic caucus main vote, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah Democratic presidential primary and Republican presidential caucuses, Vermont, and Virginia. U.S. presidential primary elections typically start in February and end in June. In some states, such as Alaska, Iowa, and Utah, the primaries and caucuses are held separately by each party. In other states, the primaries and caucuses are held, allowing members



of all political parties to participate. Primaries award delegates. During the primary elections or caucuses, the number of delegates each party's national nominating convention will receive from their respective states will be determined.

3月5日是“超级星期二”，届时许多州将举行总统初选和党团会议

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to July 18. The 2024 Democratic National Convention is scheduled to be held at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois from August 19 to 22 after the Republican National Convention, since the Democrats currently hold the White House. At the national convention, state delegates vote to confirm their choice of candidates or in the case that no candidate gets votes from the majority of a party's delegates, state delegates choose the nominee after additional rounds of voting during the national convention.

On Super Tuesday, March 5, the polls will open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Any U.S. citizen who is a registered voter can vote in the Massachusetts primaries. Voters do not need to be a party member to participate in the primaries. Nevertheless, voters registered as a party member will not be allowed to vote in the primaries of other parties while independent voters are allowed to

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Boston Water and Sewer Commission Meeting Provides a Platform for Residents' Infrastructure Concerns in Chinatown and Downtown Neighborhoods

By Derek He

"My tap water is reaching temperatures of nearly 100 degrees." described Robert Qua, a South St Leather District resident, at a recent meeting called by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission to Announce Capital Improvements and StormWater Remediation Installation. He spoke about the adverse effects of high groundwater levels on civil infrastructure. By highlighting the impact of groundwater on infrastructure integrity, he underscored the urgency of implementing measures to mitigate potential risks and safeguard critical infrastructure assets. His insights served as a wake-up call to prioritize groundwater management strategies in urban planning and infrastructure development efforts. He explained that the presence of "high water levels combined with high heat can accelerate rotting," pointing out that the effects of climate change



may impact the further deterioration of our infrastructure.

Infrastructure is the backbone of any city, providing essential services and facilitating daily life for its residents. Boston continues to grow and the strain on its infrastructure becomes increasingly evident. In the meeting, key stakeholders and city officials discussed a myriad of infrastructure challenges, ranging from infrastructure deterioration to stormwater management issues. The meeting was a result of multiple water main breaks over the year and it was an opportunity to inform the community of recent requirements to implement storm-

water retention systems for rehabs and new constructions.

Irene McSweeney, Chief of Operations, and John Sullivan, Chief Engineer of the Boston Water and Sewer Commission acknowledged the persistent challenges faced by Chinatown and Downtown neighborhoods. Also in attendance was Dolores Randolph, Deputy Director of Communications. All emphasized the critical importance of maintaining infrastructure projects, fostering collaborations with Chinatown residents, and ensuring the resilience of its infrastructure against future challenges. Sullivan took the opportunity to announce at the

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vote in any party primary. The voter registration deadline is February 24 and the vote by mail application deadline is February 27. Massachusetts allows early voting for primaries. Early voting for the presidential primaries will be held from Saturday February 24 to Friday March 1 during designated hours.

There are 3 recognized political parties in Massachusetts: Democratic Party, Libertarian Party, and Republican Party. On each ballot, voters will also see contests for state party positions, including State Committee Man, State Committee Woman, and Ward Committee. On the ballot for the Democratic Party, voters will see incumbent President Joe Biden as well as US representative Dean Phillips, and author and politician Marianne Williamson. Back in December in 2023, the Massachusetts Democratic Party submitted only Biden's name for the Massachusetts Super Tuesday presidential primary ballot. Massachusetts Democrats are the latest in a string of state parties to leave president Biden's rivals off their lists of candidates for the primary ballot. Both Phillips and Williamson were placed on

the ballot by Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin after Williamson cried foul over the incumbent protection. On the Democratic ballot, voters will also see state representative Tommy Vitolo and state treasurer Deborah Goldberg for State Democratic Committee seats.

On the ballot for the Libertarian Party, voters will see attorney, author, and politician Jacob George Hornberger, author Michael Rectenwald, political activist Chase Russell Oliver, former candidate for Congress Mike ter Maat and Lars Damian Mapstead. The Libertarian Party does not have a state committee or ward committee. Voters will only see presidential candidates on the ballot.

On the ballot for the Republican Party, voters will see former president Donald Trump, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Ryan Binkley, Vivek Ramaswamy, former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, and former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. There has been an ongoing legal battle across the country between advocacy groups and the state's courts to bar former president Donald Trump from being listed on the ballot. As of early February 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court was consid-

ering a Colorado case to drop Trump from the ballot. A decision in this case will have national implications.

In Massachusetts, Free Speech For People and Massachusetts-based civil rights firm Lichten & Liss-Riordan, P. C filed an objection with the Massachusetts Ballot Law Commission to having Trump's name on the ballot, citing Section 3 of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution which is also known as the Insurrectionist Disqualification Clause. Section 3 of the 14th Amendment prohibits the election of anyone who previously under an oath of office engaged in insurrection or rebellion. The challenge considers Trump to be ineligible for any future public office, after the attack on Congress on January 6 2020 to prevent the certification of the election results. The challenge asks the Massachusetts Ballot Law Commission to bar Trump from appearing on the state ballot, abiding by Section 3 of the 14th Amendment. Massachusetts Ballot Law Commission denied the request to remove Trump's name and after the petitioners appealed to the state's highest court, a Supreme Judicial Court judge has ruled that Trump's name can appear on the primary ballots in Massachusetts because the statute petitioners cite as reasons for the commission to remove Trump's

name does not apply as Trump is not yet a nominee for president.

The objection has been filed in many states. Trump was disqualified from the primary ballots in Colorado and Maine but Trump has appealed the decision. On the Republican ballot, voters will also see Tom Mountain and Vladislav S. Yanovsky running for one Republican State Committee Man seat and Susan Huffman and Rosann Palermo Fleischauer running for one Republican State Committee Woman seat.

Several of the candidates, including Chris Christie, Ron DeSantis, and Asa Hutchinson on the Republican ballot and Marianne Williamson on the Democratic ballot have suspended their presidential campaigns since the printing of the ballots in early January. Voters might still be able to cast ballots for them and these candidates may still amass delegates if party rules allow for it.

Full details on where and how to vote in your neighborhood can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/news/voting-early-in-massachusetts-heres-what-you-need-to-know>

Boston Water and Sewer Commission

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meeting that on April 1st there will be a new stormwater fee and 60 percent of residents should expect to see their bill go down." because of the plan to lower sewer fees and allocate funds to stormwater efforts,

Katherine, a local resident on Edinboro Street, voiced concerns about the current stormwater management, drawing attention to the unpleasant odor emanating from drains. She noted, "There are still issues with rain/snow with storm drains at street level, which drain in her building and smell really bad." Her observations highlighted the need for comprehensive solutions to address not only drainage issues but also the environmental and health implications associated with poor stormwater management practices. The group discussion explored innovative approaches to mitigate odor and improve overall stormwater quality in Boston's urban environment.

Wilson Lee and Tran shared their frustrations about the water main breaks and the infrastructure maintenance work on Edinboro Street and Washington Street. Lee is a long-time landlord in Chinatown. Their comments provided their personal experiences about the impact of infrastructure failures in Chinatown emphasizing the need for proactive maintenance and investment in upgrading aging systems. Their input reinforced the importance of a better approach to infrastructure management, including preventive maintenance and responsive measures to address immediate concerns, especially the need for closer communication with community residents. Tran questioned, "How would we know how the plans are progressing?" Tran informed the panel, "Lots of elderly, stores, and everyday people would be affected by this service disruption."

Margaret asked about timelines for the infrastructure projects on Boylston and Tremont Streets expressing concern about delays in implementation and the need for expedited action. Her query opened up the group's feeling of urgency for efficient project management and timely execution to

meet the evolving needs of Boston's growing population. Her question also brought to the fore a recurring concern with the problem of pipes still being in use.

Chulan Huang, a Chinatown resident and Mayor Wu's Liaison for Chinatown, Downtown, and the Leather District, emphasized the responsibility of the Boston Sewer Department in addressing cracks around pothole covers and underscored the interconnected nature of infrastructure management. His remarks also included the need for collaboration among various city departments. By recognizing the role of each entity in maintaining the city's infrastructure, Chu emphasized the importance of collective action in addressing Boston's infrastructure needs.

At the meeting, Sampan heard from the community members who came that infrastructure challenges are still not being handled effectively and efficiently. Aging infrastructure, coupled with the effects of climate change, pose significant risks to public health, safety, and the environment. Water main breaks, stormwater flooding, and high groundwater levels were described as leading to property damage, disruption of essential services, and compromised infrastructure integrity. Furthermore, inadequate infrastructure maintenance can exacerbate these challenges, resulting in increased repair costs and prolonged service interruptions. Boston Water and Sewer Commission reported that they plan to strengthen Boston's resilience to environmental hazards and ensure the sustainability of essential services for future generations.

Various solutions were proposed to address the concerns voiced by residents regarding the infrastructure challenges facing Boston. Irene and John Sullivan outlined plans for new infrastructure projects in Chinatown, emphasizing collaboration with the city and securing federal funding. "Working with the fire department to abandon the old system and remove lead services which are being mandated." They also highlighted efforts to address water and sewer rate affordability and ensure public health and safety. Irene discussed strategies to address water main breaks and improve hydrant maintenance, including a master plan to update inventory and remove old services. Katherine suggested investigating issues with storm

drains and odor emanation, with Irene offering to conduct investigations and ensure proper maintenance of catch basins. She also mentioned a commitment to furthering the process of "switching hydrants to a different system." Robert Qua's insights into high groundwater temperatures prompted discussions on infrastructure upgrades and closer collaboration with adjacent areas. John Sullivan emphasized the need for comprehensive planning and collaboration to address aging infrastructure and slow processes due to design work. Margaret's inquiry about project timelines prompted reassurance

of progress updates and feedback mechanisms for residents. Chu's comments about infrastructure maintenance around potholes covers prompted commitments to prompt action and coordination among relevant departments and contractors. For instance, Irene addressed the issue and promised "a pavement contractor to do the casting."

The meeting provided a platform for residents' concerns to be heard and actionable solutions to be proposed, signaling a proactive approach towards addressing Boston's infrastructure challenge

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