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*The Voice of
Adult Education
in Massachusetts*

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McAllister

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**Adult Learners Deliver a Landslide Victory to Patrick,
Preserve Affordable Housing and Keep the Sales Tax**

BOSTON, MA: Sales and alcohol taxes will prevail, affordable housing will be preserved, and Deval Patrick will win by a landslide if the votes of adult education students are any indicator of how the rest of the Commonwealth will vote on November 2. In October, hundreds of adult learners from adult education centers across the state participated in a mock election that simulates the three Massachusetts referendum questions and the statewide candidates.

Organized by the Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education (MCAE), the mock election is a way to both motivate and prepare adult learners to vote in the real elections. According to Miranda Blanca a student at El Centro del Cardenal of the Catholic Charities, "It was a good idea to prepare us before the election. I had time to read everything in the Ballot. Now I've already decided for who and what to vote." Miranda added, "I'm now an informed voter."

Like an 18 year old female student, from an ABE program in Attleboro says, "The mock election was a good opportunity to learn about the candidates and think about the election before we had to make the real decisions." The student did not want to be identified because they are in an At Risk Youth Program.

Mariana, a 23 year-old single mother from Puerto Rico, taking classes at Holyoke Works said, ""My opinion about voting at first was that I felt like my opinion didn't matter, and I thought it wasn't important. Today in class I learned that voting is very important. Voting can help our community, economy, and businesses." She added "Now that I know how voting works I'm definitely going to register, and I'm going to vote."

Being registered to vote is no guarantee that people know much about the referendum questions or candidates or have taken time to consider the pros and cons of various issues. Dwight Jarret, an ABE teacher from ABCD Learning Works in Boston, said "The students enjoyed researching the candidates online and discussing the proposed initiatives." The mock elections also provided an opportunity for immigrants who cannot vote to feel part of the elections. When they do obtain citizenship they will be that much better prepared for the real thing.

MCAE is a statewide membership organization of educators, adult students, and others who support equal educational opportunities for adults. MCAE is dedicated to the advancement of adult education through high quality services and professionalism in the field from basic literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages through transitions to post-secondary education.

Mock Election Results

Governor

Patrick	271
Baker	45
Cahill	15
Stein	4

Lt. Governor

Murray	239
Tisei	39
Loscocco	15
Purcell12	

Attorney General

Coakley	257
McKenna	44

Secretary of State

Galvin	210
Campbell	55

Auditor

Bump	196
Connaughton	53
Fortune	17

Question 1 - Alcohol Tax

Yes	74
No	239

Question 2 - Affordable Housing

Yes	99
No	217

Question 3 - Sales Tax

Yes	91
No	229

Total ballots cast:335

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Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education

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