



City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division

## Guide to the Women voter registers

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<b>Repository:</b>	City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division
<b>Title:</b>	Women voter registers
<b>Collection No.:</b>	4700.002
<b>Dates:</b>	1884-1920
<b>Quantity:</b>	12.0 Cubic feet (123 volumes)

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### TABLE OF CONTENTS SERIES LIST

[Historical Note](#)

[Series I: Naturalized voter registers](#)

[Scope and Content](#)

[Series II: Native voter registers](#)

[Series III: Office books](#)

[Series IV: Voter register No. 1](#)

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### Historical Note

In the United States women were given the right to vote after the ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920. In Massachusetts, women were allowed to vote in school board elections in 1879. This law (Chapter 223, Acts of 1879) required that they follow the same provisions that were set for men; these included, paying a poll tax, the capabilities to read and write in the English language, and were at least 21 years of age. According to Section 3 of the 1854 City of Boston Charter, Boston was divided into twenty five wards. In 1886 the wards were further divided into precincts, to ensure that each ward had an equal number of voters. A voter's residency determined their ward and voting place. Women were supposed to have lived within the Commonwealth of Boston for at least one year and at least six months within the town or city that they were voting.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Content

This collection contains registers documenting naturalized and native women registered to vote in school board elections from 1884-1920. Naturalized women immigrated to the United States and acquired citizenship. Native women were citizens by birth. Women who became citizens through their native husbands were registered as native voters (Chapter 223, Acts of 1879). Registers are labeled with a ward number, a volume number or both. Only the Naturalized Women voter registers books C-1-C-24 in series II and books 1-3 in Series III have an index, all others must be searched by women's last name and/or by date. Complete entries include a woman's age, birthplace, citizenship status, and address, although some entries are incomplete. According to the inventory in the index to the Naturalized Women Voter Registers, no women registered to vote in 1896.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

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### Series I: Naturalized voter registers, 1888-1904 (25 volumes)

From 1888-1904, each register covers a single ward; the top number on the spine indicates the ward number and the lower number on the spine, beginning with "C", indicates the volume number. However, the register for ward 10 does not have a volume number assigned to it.

#### Volume

1	Ward 1, C-1
2	Ward 2, C-2
3	Ward 3, C-3
4	Ward 4, C-4
5	Ward 5, C-5
6	Ward 6, C-6
7	Ward 7, C-7
8	Ward 8, C-8
9	Ward 9, C-9
10	Ward 10
11	Ward 11, C-10
12	Ward 12, C-11
13	Ward 13, C-12
14	Ward 14, C-13
15	Ward 15, C-14
16	Ward 16, C-15
17	Ward 17, C-16
18	Ward 18, C-17
19	Ward 19, C-18
20	Ward 20, C-19
21	Ward 21, C-20
22	Ward 22, C-21
23	Ward 23, C-22
24	Ward 24, C-23
25	Ward 25, C-24

[Return to the Series List](#)

**Series II: Native voter registers, 1884-1920**

See volume 123 in series III for index to these books. The entries in each book in this series are arranged alphabetically by last name. Registers are not numbered but each ward has one to three books. The second volume of Ward 25 is missing the first page.

Volumes

26-28                      Ward 1

Volume

29                         Ward 2

2                          Ward 3

33-34                     Ward 4

One of the three volumes is missing for Ward 4.

35-37                     Ward 5

38                         Ward 6

39-40                    Ward 7

41-42                    Ward 8

43                        Ward 9

44                        Ward 10

45-46                    Ward 11

47-48                    Ward 12

49-50                    Ward 13

51-53                    Ward 14

54-56                    Ward 15

57-58                    Ward 16

59-60                    Ward 17

61                        Ward 18

62-63                    Ward 19

64-65                    Ward 20

66-67                    Ward 21

68-69                    Ward 22

1                         Ward 23

72                        Ward 24

73-74                    Ward 25

[Return to the Series List](#)

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**Series III: Office books, 1884-1904**

This series consists of three sub-series, Naturalized voters, Native voters, and All women voters. All wards are included in each volume.

**Naturalized voter registers, 1884-1904**

The entries in the Naturalized voter registers are arranged chronologically and then alphabetically. They record the woman's name, signature, place of

residence, age, place of birth, occupation, and place of business. In addition the date, place and method of naturalization are recorded if applicable.

Volume	
75	Book 1
76	Book 2
77	Book 3
123	Index to Naturalized voters Books C-1-C-24 and Books 1-3

**Native voter registers, 1884-1904**

The entries in the Native voter registers are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically. They also record the woman’s name, signature, place of residence, age, place of birth, occupation and place of business.

Volume	
78	Book 11
79	Book 12
80	Book 13
81	Book 14
82	Book 15
83	Book 16
84	Book 17

**All women voter registers, 1905-1920**

The All women voter registers contain entries for both native and naturalized women, from 1905-1920. Each volume is arranged chronologically and contains entries for all wards. However, each volume does not cover all years from 1905-1920. Some volumes cover just one year, while others cover a range of years. Furthermore, the years covered are usually non-consecutive and/or have gaps in between.

**1905-1920**

Volume	
85	Book 20, 1905-1910
86	Book 21, 1905-1917
87	Book 22, 1905-1917
88	Book 23, 1906-1918, with gaps
89	Book 24, 1906-1918, with gaps
90	Book 25, 1911-1918, with gaps
91	Book 26, 1911-1920, with gaps
92	Book 27, 1911-1920, with gaps
93	Book 28, 1915-1920, with gaps
94	Book 29, 1920
95	Book 30, 1920
96	Book 31

[Return to the Series List](#)

This series consists of both naturalized and native women who voted in the School Board Elections from 1905-1920. There is a separate book for each ward and the entries are arranged chronologically. Complete entries include the women's name, signature, residence, place of birth, occupation and naturalization information if applicable.

Volume	
97	Ward 1
98	Ward 2
99	Ward 3
100	Ward 4
101	Ward 5
102	Ward 6
103	Ward 7
104	Ward 8
105	Ward 9
106	Ward 10
107	Ward 11
108	Ward 12
109	Ward 13
110	Ward 14
111	Ward 15
112	Ward 16
113	Ward 17
114	Ward 18
115	Ward 19
116	Ward 20
117	Ward 21
118	Ward 22
119	Ward 23
120	Ward 24
121	Ward 25
122	Ward 26

[Return to the Series List](#)