



City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division

Guide to the Voter Registration records

Finding aid prepared by Kristen Swett
This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

Repository:	City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division
Title:	Voter registration records
Collection No.:	4700.001
Dates:	circa 1857-1972 with gaps
Quantity:	34.0 Cubic feet (391 volumes)

TABLE OF CONTENTS SERIES LIST

[Historical note](#)

[Series I: Naturalized male voter indexes](#)

[Scope and Contents note](#)

[Series II: Naturalized male voter registers](#)

[Series III: Naturalized and Native male voter registers](#)

[Series IV: Women voter registers](#)

[Series V: Miscellaneous volumes](#)

Historical note

The Board of Registrars of Voters was first appointed in May of 1874 and was succeeded July 1, 1895 by the Board of Election Commissioners. This department exercises all the powers and duties formerly conferred upon the Board of Registrars of Voters (including the preparation of the jury list), except the power and duty of giving notice of elections and fixing the days and hours for holding the same. The Board also exercises all the powers and duties formerly conferred upon the City Clerk and other officers by chapter 504 of the Acts of 1894.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents note

This collection includes voter registration records for men from 1857-1900, women from 1920-1940 and men from 1921-1940. The registers are not a comprehensive listing of all registered voters. The period 1857-1895 includes only naturalized males and for the period 1920-1940 other sets of registers were used to register voters. The collection has been divided into four series: Naturalized male voter indexes; Naturalized male voter registers; Naturalized and Native male voter registers; and Women voter registers. The fourth series is labelled "Women voters" because the books were initially used to register women in 1920 and are labeled as such. These volumes do include men after 1920.

The indexes cover the years 1857-1900 and include naturalized male voters only. The second index covering the years 1878-1888 includes two A-Z listings.

The Naturalized male voter registers cover the period 1864-1895 and include volumes 2-4, 7-44 and Office volumes 1-7 and 21-24. Volumes 1 and 5 are missing and presumed destroyed. The information included in the registrations changes over time. In the early volumes, the registrations include name, signature, residence, occupation, date of naturalization, remarks, and confirmation of literacy. Later volumes also include court of naturalization, place of birth, and place of business. The registrations also include references to the entry for the individual in the tax records.

The Naturalized and Native male voter registers cover the period 1896-1897. These registers are arranged by ward and precinct. Both naturalized males and native males are included in the registers which are arranged by street address. Native men are not included in the index that is a part of this collection. Registrations for native men can be found by searching the address. The naturalized male voter index book makes reference to ward, precinct, book and page. Each volume in this series includes books 1-4. Any name in the index that makes reference to book 5 or higher are for registrations from 1898-1900. The volumes for these registrations are missing and presumed destroyed. These volumes also include age, height and weight in addition to name, address, birthplace, occupation, place of occupation and naturalization information.

The Women Voter registers were used in 1920 to register women voters after women won the right with the passage of the 19th amendment. Prior to this time, women were allowed to vote in elections for school committee only. See Guide to the Women Voter registrations. Generally, these registers are arranged by ward. However, on two days in 1920, several volumes in Register sets 3, 4 and 5 were used to record all wards. After 1920, some men are included in these registers. There is no index to these volumes and they must be searched by ward. Please make note of a ward change effective January 1, 1925. Addresses prior to 1925 are found under one ward and after 1925 in a separate ward.

The Miscellaneous volumes include registers for special elections and registers from sets that probably did not survive. For information on holdings in the Election Department, please contact that department directly.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

Series I: Naturalized male voter indexes, 1857-1900 (5 volumes)

Volume	
I-1	1857-1878
I-2	1878-1888
I-3	1888-1892
I-4	1892-1896
I-5	1896-1900

[Return to the Series List](#)

Series II: Naturalized male voter registers, 1864-1895 (53 volumes)

Volume

II-1	Book 2, 1864 October 31-1872 November 2
II-2	Book 3, 1868 July 31-1877 December 4
II-3	Book 4, 1873 October 22-1877 December 4
II-4	Book 6, 1868-1878
II-5	Book 7, 1874-1877
II-6	Book 8, 1878-1883
II-7	Book 9, 1878-1883
II-8	Book 10, 1878-1883
II-9	Book 11, 1884-1895
II-10	Book 12, 1884-1895
II-11	Book 13, 1884-1895
II-12	Book 14, 1884-1895
II-13	Book 15, 1884-1895
II-14	Book 16, 1884-1895
II-15	Book 17, 1884-1895
II-16	Book 18
II-17	Book 19, 1888-1895
II-18	Book 20, 1892-1895
II-19	Book 21 (Ward 1)
II-20	Book 22 (Ward 2)
II-21	Book 23 (Ward 3)
II-22	Book 24 (Ward 6)
II-23	Book 25 (Ward 7)
II-24	Book 26 (Ward 8)
II-25	Book 27 (Ward 12)
II-26	Book 28 (Ward 13)
II-27	Book 29 (Ward 12)
II-28	Book 30 (Ward 16)
II-29	Book 31 (Ward 17)
II-30	Book 32 (Ward 22)
II-31	Book 33 (Ward 21)
II-32	Book 34 (Ward 23)
II-33	Book 35 (Ward 24)
II-34	Book 36 (Ward 25)
II-35	Book 37 (Ward 5)
II-36	Book 38 (Ward 9)
II-37	Book 39 (Ward 15)
II-38	Book 40 (Ward 19)
II-39	Book 41 (Ward 20)
II-40	Book 42 (Ward 4)
II-41	Book 43 (Ward 11)

II-42	Book 44 (Ward 18)
II-43	Office Book 1, 1878-1883
II-44	Office Book 2, 1878-1883
II-45	Office Book 3, 1878-1883
II-46	Office Book 4, 1878-1883
II-47	Office Book 5, 1878-1883
II-48	Office Book 6, 1878-1883
II-49	Office Book 7, 1878-1883
II-50	Office Book 21, 1895
II-51	Office Book 22, 1895
II-52	Office Book 23, 1895
II-53	Office Book 24, 1895

[Return to the Series List](#)

Series III: Naturalized and Native male voter registers, 1896-1897 (191 volumes)

Volumes

III-1	Ward 1 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-2	Ward 1 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-3	Ward 1 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-4	Ward 1 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-5	Ward 1 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-6	Ward 1 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-7	Ward 1 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-8	Ward 1 Precinct 8, 1896-1897
III-9	Ward 1 Precinct 9, 1896-1897
III-10	Ward 2 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-11	Ward 2 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-12	Ward 2 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-13	Ward 2 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-14	Ward 2 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-15	Ward 2 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-16	Ward 2 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-17	Ward 2 Precinct 8, 1896-1897
III-18	Ward 3 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-19	Ward 3 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-20	Ward 3 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-21	Ward 3 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-22	Ward 3 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-23	Ward 3 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-24	Ward 4 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-25	Ward 4 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-26	Ward 4 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-27	Ward 4 Precinct 4, 1896-1897

III-28	Ward 4 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-29	Ward 4 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-30	Ward 5 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-31	Ward 5 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-32	Ward 5 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-33	Ward 5 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-34	Ward 5 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-35	Ward 5 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-36	Ward 6 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-37	Ward 6 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-38	Ward 6 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-39	Ward 6 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-40	Ward 6 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-41	Ward 6 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-42	Ward 6 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-43	Ward 6 Precinct 8, 1896-1897
III-44	Ward 7 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-45	Ward 7 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-46	Ward 7 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-47	Ward 7 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-48	Ward 7 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-49	Ward 7 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-50	Ward 8 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-51	Ward 8 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-52	Ward 8 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-53	Ward 8 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-54	Ward 8 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-55	Ward 8 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-56	Ward 9 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
Volume	
III-57	Ward 9 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-58	Ward 9 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-59	Ward 9 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-60	Ward 9 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-61	Ward 9 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-62	Ward 9 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-63	Ward 10 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-64	Ward 10 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-65	Ward 10 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-66	Ward 10 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-67	Ward 10 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-68	Ward 10 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-69	Ward 10 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-70	Ward 10 Precinct 8, 1896-1897

III-71	Ward 10 Precinct 9, 1896-1897
III-72	Ward 11 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-73	Ward 11 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-74	Ward 11 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-75	Ward 11 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-76	Ward 11 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-77	Ward 11 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-78	Ward 11 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-79	Ward 11 Precinct 8, 1896-1897
III-80	Ward 11 Precinct 9, 1896-1897
III-81	Ward 12 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-82	Ward 12 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-83	Ward 12 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-84	Ward 12 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-85	Ward 12 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-86	Ward 12 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-87	Ward 12 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-88	Ward 13 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-89	Ward 13 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-90	Ward 13 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-91	Ward 13 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-92	Ward 13 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-93	Ward 13 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-94	Ward 13 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-95	Ward 13 Precinct 8, 1896-1897
III-96	Ward 14 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-97	Ward 14 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-98	Ward 14 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-99	Ward 14 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-100	Ward 14 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-101	Ward 14 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-102	Ward 14 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-103	Ward 14 Precinct 8, 1896-1897
III-104	Ward 15 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-105	Ward 15 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-106	Ward 15 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-107	Ward 15 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-108	Ward 15 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-109	Ward 15 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-110	Ward 15 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-111	Ward 15 Precinct 8, 1896-1897
III-112	Ward 16 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-113	Ward 16 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-114	Ward 16 Precinct 3, 1896-1897

III-115	Ward 16 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-116	Ward 16 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-117	Ward 16 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-118	Ward 16 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-119	Ward 17 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-120	Ward 17 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-121	Ward 17 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-122	Ward 17 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-123	Ward 17 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-124	Ward 17 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-125	Ward 17 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-126	Ward 17 Precinct 8, 1896-1897
III-127	Ward 17 Precinct 9, 1896-1897
III-128	Ward 18 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-129	Ward 18 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-130	Ward 18 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-131	Ward 18 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-132	Ward 18 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-133	Ward 18 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-134	Ward 19 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-135	Ward 19 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-136	Ward 19 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-137	Ward 19 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-138	Ward 19 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-139	Ward 19 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-140	Ward 19 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-141	Ward 19 Precinct 8, 1896-1897
III-142	Ward 20 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-143	Ward 20 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-144	Ward 20 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-145	Ward 20 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-146	Ward 20 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-147	Ward 20 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-148	Ward 20 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-149	Ward 20 Precinct 8, 1896-1897
III-150	Ward 21 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-151	Ward 21 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-152	Ward 21 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-153	Ward 21 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-154	Ward 21 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-155	Ward 21 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-156	Ward 21 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-157	Ward 21 Precinct 8, 1896-1897
III-158	Ward 21 Precinct 9, 1896-1897

III-159	Ward 22 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-160	Ward 22 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-161	Ward 22 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-162	Ward 22 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-163	Ward 22 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-164	Ward 22 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-165	Ward 22 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-166	Ward 22 Precinct 8, 1896-1897
III-167	Ward 23 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-168	Ward 23 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-169	Ward 23 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-170	Ward 23 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-171	Ward 23 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-172	Ward 23 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-173	Ward 23 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-174	Ward 23 Precinct 8, 1896-1897
III-175	Ward 23 Precinct 9, 1896-1897
III-176	Ward 24 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-177	Ward 24 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-178	Ward 24 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-179	Ward 24 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-180	Ward 24 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-181	Ward 24 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-182	Ward 24 Precinct 7, 1896-1897
III-183	Ward 24 Precinct 8, 1896-1897
III-184	Ward 24 Precinct 9, 1896-1897
III-185	Ward 25 Precinct 1, 1896-1897
III-186	Ward 25 Precinct 2, 1896-1897
III-187	Ward 25 Precinct 3, 1896-1897
III-188	Ward 25 Precinct 4, 1896-1897
III-189	Ward 25 Precinct 5, 1896-1897
III-190	Ward 25 Precinct 6, 1896-1897
III-191	Ward 25 Precinct 7, 1896-1897

[Return to the Series List](#)

Series IV: Women voter registers, circa 1920-1940 (130 volumes)

Registers 1A-5 are labelled "Women Voter Registers" and were used to register women to vote in 1920. After 1920, men are included in these registers.

Subseries A: Register 1A

Volume	
IVA-1	Ward 1
IVA-2	Ward 2

IVA-3	Ward 3
IVA-4	Ward 4
IVA-5	Ward 5
IVA-6	Ward 6
IVA-7	Ward 7
IVA-8	Ward 8
IVA-9	Ward 9
IVA-10	Ward 10
IVA-11	Ward 11
IVA-12	Ward 12
IVA-13	Ward 13
IVA-14	Ward 14
IVA-15	Ward 15
IVA-16	Ward 16
IVA-17	Ward 17
IVA-18	Ward 18
IVA-19	Ward 19
IVA-20	Ward 20
IVA-21	Ward 21
IVA-22	Ward 22
IVA-23	Ward 23
IVA-24	Ward 24
IVA-25	Ward 25
IVA-26	Ward 26

Subseries B: Register 2

Volume	
IVB-1	Ward 1
IVB-2	Ward 2
IVB-3	Ward 3
IVB-4	Ward 4
IVB-5	Ward 5
IVB-6	Ward 6
IVB-7	Ward 7
IVB-8	Ward 8
IVB-9	Ward 9
IVB-10	Ward 10
IVB-11	Ward 11
IVB-12	Ward 12
IVB-13	Ward 13
IVB-14	Ward 14
IVB-15	Ward 15
IVB-16	Ward 16
IVB-17	Ward 17
IVB-18	Ward 18

IVB-19	Ward 19
IVB-20	Ward 20
IVB-21	Ward 21
IVB-22	Ward 22
IVB-23	Ward 23
IVB-24	Ward 24
IVB-25	Ward 25
IVB-26	Ward 26

Subseries C: Register 3

The registers for wards 2-7, 9-13, 15-17, and 20-25 include registrations of women from all wards on two days: August 20 and October 13, 1920.

Volume

IVC-1	Ward 1
IVC-2	Ward 2
IVC-3	Ward 3
IVC-4	Ward 4
IVC-5	Ward 5
IVC-6	Ward 6
IVC-7	Ward 7
IVC-8	Ward 8
IVC-9	Ward 9
IVC-10	Ward 10
IVC-11	Ward 11
IVC-12	Ward 12
IVC-13	Ward 13
IVC-14	Ward 14
IVC-15	Ward 15
IVC-16	Ward 16
IVC-17	Ward 17
IVC-18	Ward 18
IVC-19	Ward 19
IVC-20	Ward 20
IVC-21	Ward 21
IVC-22	Ward 22
IVC-23	Ward 23
IVC-24	Ward 24
IVC-25	Ward 25
IVC-26	Ward 26

Subseries D: Register 4

The registers for wards 1-8, 11, 18, 22-23, and 25-26 include registrations of women from all wards on two days: August 20 and October 13, 1920

Volume

IVD-1	Ward 1
IVD-2	Ward 2

IVD-3	Ward 3
IVD-4	Ward 4
IVD-5	Ward 5
IVD-6	Ward 6
IVD-7	Ward 7
IVD-8	Ward 8
IVD-9	Ward 9
IVD-10	Ward 10
IVD-11	Ward 11
IVD-12	Ward 12
IVD-13	Ward 13
IVD-14	Ward 14
IVD-15	Ward 15
IVD-16	Ward 16
IVD-17	Ward 17
IVD-18	Ward 18
IVD-19	Ward 19
IVD-20	Ward 20
IVD-21	Ward 21
IVD-22	Ward 22
IVD-23	Ward 23
IVD-24	Ward 24
IVD-25	Ward 25
IVD-26	Ward 26

Subseries E: Register 5

The registers for wards 2-14, 17-23, 15-17, and 25-26 include registrations of women from all wards on two days: August 20 and October 13, 1920.

Volume	
IVE-1	Ward 1
IVE-2	Ward 2
IVE-3	Ward 3
IVE-4	Ward 4
IVE-5	Ward 5
IVE-6	Ward 6
IVE-7	Ward 7
IVE-8	Ward 8
IVE-9	Ward 9
IVE-10	Ward 10
IVE-11	Ward 11
IVE-12	Ward 12
IVE-13	Ward 13
IVE-14	Ward 14
IVE-15	Ward 15
IVE-16	Ward 16

IVE-17	Ward 17
IVE-18	Ward 18
IVE-19	Ward 19
IVE-20	Ward 20
IVE-21	Ward 21
IVE-22	Ward 22
IVE-23	Ward 23
IVE-24	Ward 24
IVE-25	Ward 25
IVE-26	Ward 26

[Return to the Series List](#)

Series V: Miscellaneous volumes, circa 1894-1972 with gaps (12 volumes)

This series includes miscellaneous volumes that were transferred to the Archives. Most register sets post 1920 did not survive.

Volume	
V-1	Special Election, 1894-1898
V-2	Register 8 - Ward 10, circa 1912-1940 with gaps
V-3-11	Mobile registrations, 1968-1972
V-12	Six Month Special Election, 1970

[Return to the Series List](#)