

How to Form an LLC in Massachusetts Yourself (2026 Costs and Steps)

A free step-by-step guide from BusinessOwner.com. State information verified from official sources on September 17, 2026.

Quick answer

Filing online (or by fax) costs \$520: the \$500 filing fee plus a required \$20 expedite fee. By mail, the filing fee is \$500. You file the Certificate of Organization with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Corporations Division using the form available at [Certificate of Organization PDF](#).

Step 1: Check that your LLC name is available

Search the agency's business name records before filing.

Step 2: Choose a registered agent

Each LLC must maintain a resident agent in Massachusetts, which may be an individual resident of the Commonwealth (so a resident member may serve), a domestic corporation, or an authorized foreign corporation. The agent's office address must be a street address, not a post office address, and the agent's written consent must be in or attached to the certificate.

Step 3: File your Certificate of Organization

File the Certificate of Organization with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Corporations Division. You can use the form available at [Certificate of Organization PDF](#). The filing fee is \$500 by mail or hand delivery. Filing online or by fax adds a required \$20 expedite fee, so the total state cost to file online is \$520. Online payment is by MasterCard, Visa, American Express, or personal or company e-check.

Step 4: Create an operating agreement

Create an operating agreement that covers ownership, roles, voting, and what happens if a member leaves.

Step 5: Get your EIN from the IRS

Get your Employer Identification Number from the IRS for free at <https://www.irs.gov/ein>.

Step 6: Keep your LLC in good standing

File an Annual Report on or before the anniversary date of filing the original certificate of organization. The fee is \$500. You must restate the certificate information and may amend it (except resident agent/office changes).

Frequently asked questions

How much does it cost to file an LLC in Massachusetts?

Filing online (or by fax) costs \$520: the \$500 filing fee plus a required \$20 expedite fee. By mail, the filing fee is \$500.

When is the annual report due?

The Annual Report is due on or before the anniversary date of filing the original certificate of organization.

Can a member serve as the registered agent?

Yes, each LLC must maintain a resident agent in Massachusetts, which may be an individual resident of the Commonwealth (so a resident member may serve), a domestic corporation, or an authorized foreign corporation.

What information must be included in the annual report?

You must restate the certificate information and may amend it (except resident agent/office changes).

Want us to file it for you? \$249 plus state fees.

Want the whole business set up? Book a call with BusinessOwner.com.

Sources

Official sources, last verified September 17, 2026:

- [www.sec.state.ma.us: c156c512dllccert.pdf](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/c156c512dllccert.pdf)
<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/corporations/download/c156c512dllccert.pdf>
- [General Law - Part I, Title XXII, Chapter 156C, Section 12](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXXII/Chapter156C/Section12)
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- [General Law - Part I, Title XXII, Chapter 156C, Section 5](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXXII/Chapter156C/Section5)
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- [www.sec.state.ma.us: 950_cmr_112_limited_liability_companies.pdf](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/corporations/download/950_cmr_112_limited_liability_companies.pdf)
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- [www.sec.state.ma.us: Fee_Schedule.pdf](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/corporations/download/Fee_Schedule.pdf)
https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/corporations/download/Fee_Schedule.pdf
- [IRS: Get an employer identification number](https://www.irs.gov/ein)
<https://www.irs.gov/ein>

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