

PUBLIC DOCUMENT NO. 43

*Massachusetts  
Elections  
Statistics*

◆ *1988* ◆



The Elections Division



Office of the  
Massachusetts Secretary of State  
Michael J. Connolly

Sixth Essex District	Democratic Primary			Republican Primary				
	Francis F. Alexander of Beverly	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	No Nomination	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
BEVERLY .....	615	-	191	806	-	-	350	350
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>350</b>

**State Election**

Sixth Essex District	Francis F. Alexander of Beverly Democratic	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
BEVERLY				
Wd. 1, Pct. 1 .....	1131	-	443	1574
Wd. 1, Pct. 2 .....	1242	-	416	1658
Wd. 2, Pct. 1 .....	1006	-	378	1384
Wd. 2, Pct. 2 .....	1283	-	420	1703
Wd. 3, Pct. 1 .....	916	-	313	1229
Wd. 3, Pct. 2 .....	1065	-	398	1463
Wd. 4, Pct. 1 .....	1226	1	512	1739
Wd. 4, Pct. 2 .....	1310	2	527	1839
Wd. 5, Pct. 1 .....	1212	-	464	1676
Wd. 5, Pct. 2 .....	1170	-	486	1656
Wd. 6, Pct. 1 .....	944	1	428	1373
Wd. 6, Pct. 2 .....	1289	-	476	1765
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>13794</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5261</b>	<b>19059</b>

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT**

Seventh Essex District	Democratic Primary				Republican Primary			
	J. Michael Ruane of Salem	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	No Nomination	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
SALEM .....	1102	1	232	1335	-	-	328	328
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>1102</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>1335</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>328</b>

**State Election**

Seventh Essex District	J. Michael Ruane of Salem Democrat	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
SALEM				
Wd. 1, Pct. 1 .....	1117	1	250	1368
Wd. 1, Pct. 2 .....	541	-	143	684
Wd. 2, Pct. 1 .....	976	-	235	1211
Wd. 2, Pct. 2 .....	855	1	275	1131
Wd. 3, Pct. 1 .....	1206	-	334	1540
Wd. 3, Pct. 2 .....	1076	-	213	1289
Wd. 4, Pct. 1 .....	1187	-	233	1420
Wd. 4, Pct. 2 .....	1056	-	223	1279
Wd. 5, Pct. 1 .....	923	-	224	1147
Wd. 5, Pct. 2 .....	918	-	202	1120
Wd. 6, Pct. 1 .....	1196	-	222	1418
Wd. 6, Pct. 2 .....	1075	-	235	1310
Wd. 7, Pct. 1 .....	916	2	206	1124
Wd. 7, Pct. 2 .....	1368	1	400	1769
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>14410</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3395</b>	<b>17810</b>

Eighth Essex District	Democratic Primary				Republican Primary			
	Lawrence R. Alexander of Marblehead	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	Robert E. Perry of Swampscott written	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
LYNN .....	77	-	32	109	107	-	38	38
Marblehead .....	461	10	77	548	200	-	367	474
Swampscott .....	328	-	165	493	-	-	156	356
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>868</b>

**State Election**

Eighth Essex District	Lawrence R. Alexander of Marblehead Democrat	Robert E. Perry of Swampscott Republican	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
LYNN					
Wd. 3, Pct. 4 .....	747	377	-	109	1233
Marblehead					
Pct. 1 .....	1129	704	-	108	1941
Pct. 2 .....	1138	726	-	98	1962
Pct. 3 .....	1014	558	-	77	1649
Pct. 4 .....	894	619	-	62	1575
Pct. 5 .....	1311	498	-	59	1868
Pct. 6 .....	1073	650	-	56	1779
Pct. 7 .....	1027	718	-	53	1798
Swampscott					
Pct. 1 .....	673	608	-	39	1320
Pct. 2 .....	660	615	-	47	1322
Pct. 3 .....	583	694	-	50	1327
Pct. 4 .....	656	679	-	45	1380
Pct. 5 .....	733	579	-	67	1379
Pct. 6 .....	890	461	-	36	1387
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>12528</b>	<b>8486</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>21920</b>

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT**

Ninth Essex District	Democratic Primary				Republican Primary			
	Steven Angelo of Saugus	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	No Nomination	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
LYNN .....	347	-	172	519	-	-	29	29
MALDEN .....	70	-	35	105	-	-	384	384
Saugus .....	1388	-	293	1681	-	-	259	259
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>1805</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>2305</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>672</b>

**State Election**

Ninth Essex District	Steven Angelo of Saugus Democrat	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
LYNN				
Wd. 1, Pct. 1 .....	1200	-	635	1835
Wd. 1, Pct. 2 .....	1117	-	440	1557
Wd. 1, Pct. 3 .....	1063	-	411	1474
MALDEN				
Wd. 8, Pct. 2 .....	751	-	501	1252
Saugus				
Pct. 1 .....	1029	-	270	1299
Pct. 2 .....	1047	-	232	1279
Pct. 3 .....	945	-	200	1145
Pct. 4 .....	1130	-	296	1426
Pct. 5 .....	1197	-	249	1446
Pct. 6 .....	967	-	209	1176
Pct. 7 .....	1117	-	311	1428
Pct. 8 .....	963	-	212	1175
Pct. 9 .....	1017	-	301	1318
Pct. 01 .....	973	-	235	1208
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>14516</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4502</b>	<b>19018</b>

Tenth Essex District	Democratic Primary				Republican Primary			
	Vincent J. Lozzi of Lynn	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	James I. Lamothe, Jr. of Lynn	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
LYNN .....	1183	2	390	1575	241	-	41	282
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>1183</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>1575</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>282</b>

Tenth Essex District	State Election				
	Vincent J. Lozzi of Lynn Democratic	James I. Lamothe, Jr. of Lynn Republican	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
LYNN					
Wd. 1, Pct. 4 .....	792	475	-	89	1356
Wd. 2, Pct. 1 .....	1047	588	-	93	1728
Wd. 2, Pct. 2 .....	894	494	-	66	1454
Wd. 2, Pct. 3 .....	590	276	-	65	931
Wd. 2, Pct. 4 .....	531	270	-	55	856
Wd. 3, Pct. 1 .....	724	557	-	69	1350
Wd. 3, Pct. 2 .....	608	329	-	78	1015
Wd. 3, Pct. 3 .....	759	345	-	90	1194
Wd. 4, Pct. 1 .....	554	237	-	86	877
Wd. 4, Pct. 2 .....	454	187	-	63	704
Wd. 4, Pct. 3 .....	578	334	-	117	1029
Wd. 4, Pct. 4 .....	618	319	-	169	1106
Wd. 5, Pct. 4 .....	758	339	-	94	1191
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>8907</b>	<b>4750</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1134</b>	<b>14791</b>

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT**

Eleventh Essex District	Democratic Primary				Republican Primary			
	Thomas W. McGee of Lynn	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	Howard N. Frank of Nahant	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
LYNN .....	1010	-	230	1240	85	-	32	117
Nahant .....	159	-	44	203	70	-	7	77
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>1169</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>1443</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>194</b>

Eleventh Essex District	State Election				Total Votes Cast
	Thomas W. McGee of Lynn Democrat	Howard N. Frank of Nahant Republican	All Others	Blanks	
LYNN					
Wd. 5, Pct. 1 .....	957	182	-	69	1208
Wd. 5, Pct. 2 .....	596	148	-	73	817
Wd. 5, Pct. 3 .....	649	113	-	93	855
Wd. 6, Pct. 1 .....	1004	171	-	78	1253
Wd. 6, Pct. 2 .....	793	162	-	83	1038
Wd. 6, Pct. 3 .....	538	75	-	50	663
Wd. 6, Pct. 4 .....	669	123	-	60	852
Wd. 7, Pct. 1 .....	955	265	-	74	1294
Wd. 7, Pct. 2 .....	819	221	-	67	1107
Wd. 7, Pct. 3 .....	911	174	-	74	1159
Wd. 7, Pct. 4 .....	922	263	-	77	1262
Nahant .....	1418	872	-	175	2465
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>10231</b>	<b>2769</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>13973</b>

Twelfth Essex District	Democratic Primary				Republican Primary			
	Thomas P. Walsh of Peabody	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	No Nomination	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
PEABODY .....	1444	23	303	1770	-	26	203	229
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>1444</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>1770</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>229</b>

**State Election**

Twelfth Essex District	Thomas P. Walsh of Peabody Democratic	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
PEABODY				
Wd. 1, Pct. 1 .....	800	7	156	963
Wd. 1, Pct. 2 .....	1108	12	345	1465
Wd. 1, Pct. 3 .....	1220	16	259	1495
Wd. 2, Pct. 1 .....	623	18	172	813
Wd. 2, Pct. 2 .....	865	8	248	1121
Wd. 2, Pct. 3 .....	864	14	186	1064
Wd. 3, Pct. 1 .....	753	18	254	1025
Wd. 3, Pct. 2 .....	1101	16	281	1398
Wd. 3, Pct. 3 .....	1318	21	392	1731
Wd. 4, Pct. 1 .....	1183	13	304	1500
Wd. 4, Pct. 2 .....	503	8	155	666
Wd. 4, Pct. 3 .....	949	20	288	1257
Wd. 5, Pct. 1 .....	791	10	263	1064
Wd. 5, Pct. 3 .....	1032	17	384	1433
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>13110</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>3687</b>	<b>16995</b>



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT**

Thirteenth Essex District	Democratic Primary				Republican Primary			
	No Nominating	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	Peter G. Torkildsen of Danvers	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
Danvers .....	-	3	407	410	251	-	24	275
PEABODY .....	-	62	318	380	109	-	6	115
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>390</b>

  

Thirteenth Essex District	State Election			
	Peter G. Torkildsen of Danvers Republican	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
Danvers				
Pct. 1 .....	1169	-	311	1480
Pct. 2 .....	1530	-	370	1900
Pct. 3 .....	1206	-	336	1542
Pct. 4 .....	1242	-	205	1447
Pct. 5 .....	1372	-	295	1667
Pct. 6 .....	1322	-	217	1539
Pct. 7 .....	1359	-	288	1647
Pct. 8 .....	1187	-	247	1434
PEABODY				
Wd. 5, Pct. 2 .....	1394	34	540	1968
Wd. 6, Pct. 1 .....	1003	20	308	1331
Wd. 6, Pct. 2 .....	1066	19	338	1423
Wd. 6, Pct. 3 .....	1085	22	380	1487
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>14935</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>3835</b>	<b>18955</b>

Fourteenth Essex District	Democratic Primary				Republican Primary			
	Joseph N. Hermann of North Andover	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	No Nomination	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
LAWRENCE .....	513	-	133	646	-	-	49	49
Middleton .....	98	-	52	150	-	2	356	358
North Andover .....	517	-	93	610	-	2	161	163
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>1128</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>1406</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>570</b>

**State Election**

Fourteenth Essex District	Joseph N. Hermann of North Andover Democrat	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
LAWRENCE				
Wd. 5, Pct. 4 .....	600	-	182	782
Wd. 5, Pct. 5 .....	709	-	184	893
Wd. 6, Pct. 1 .....	816	-	168	984
Wd. 6, Pct. 2 .....	469	-	120	589
Wd. 6, Pct. 3 .....	497	-	116	613
Wd. 6, Pct. 4 .....	536	-	123	659
Middleton .....	1694	3	962	2659
North Andover				
Pct. 1 .....	1613	-	351	1964
Pct. 2 .....	1696	-	340	2036
Pct. 3 .....	1393	-	335	1728
Pct. 4 .....	1451	-	445	1896
Pct. 5 .....	1509	-	508	2017
Pct. 6 .....	1575	-	526	2101
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>14558</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4360</b>	<b>18921</b>

### STATE REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

Fifteenth Essex District	Democratic Primary				Republican Primary			
	Larry F. Giordano of Methuen	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	No Nomination	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
Methuen .....	1407	-	204	1611	-	-	300	300
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>1407</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>1611</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>

#### State Election

Fifteenth Essex District	Larry F. Giordano of Methuen Democrat	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
Methuen				
Pct. 1 .....	1218	-	295	1513
Pct. 2 .....	607	-	201	808
Pct. 3 .....	1382	-	302	1684
Pct. 4 .....	1208	-	463	1671
Pct. 5 .....	1111	-	420	1531
Pct. 6 .....	1162	-	368	1530
Pct. 7 .....	1330	-	354	1684
Pct. 8 .....	1194	-	394	1588
Pct. 9 .....	1416	-	418	1834
Pct. 10 .....	1137	-	353	1490
Pct. 11 .....	1350	-	401	1751
Pct. 12 .....	1245	-	417	1662
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>14360</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4386</b>	<b>18746</b>

Sixteenth Essex District	Democratic Primary				Republican Primary			
	Kevin P. Blanchette of Lawrence	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	No Nomination	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
LAWRENCE .....	1395	-	357	1752	-	-	205	205
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>1395</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>1752</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>205</b>

### State Election

Sixteenth Essex District	Kevin P. Blanchette of Lawrence Democrat	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
LAWRENCE				
Wd. 1, Pet. 1 .....	557	-	170	727
Wd. 1, Pet. 2 .....	559	-	162	721
Wd. 1, Pet. 3 .....	249	-	73	322
Wd. 1, Pet. 4 .....	588	-	145	733
Wd. 1, Pet. 5 .....	674	-	179	853
Wd. 2, Pet. 1 .....	227	-	84	311
Wd. 2, Pet. 2 .....	650	-	144	794
Wd. 2, Pet. 3 .....	427	-	112	539
Wd. 2, Pet. 4 .....	428	-	134	562
Wd. 2, Pet. 5 .....	349	-	149	498
Wd. 3, Pet. 1 .....	166	-	65	231
Wd. 3, Pet. 2 .....	245	-	47	292
Wd. 3, Pet. 3 .....	233	-	95	328
Wd. 3, Pet. 4 .....	195	-	49	244
Wd. 3, Pet. 5 .....	301	-	92	393
Wd. 4, Pet. 2 .....	653	-	183	836
Wd. 4, Pet. 3 .....	358	-	91	449
Wd. 4, Pet. 4 .....	293	-	101	394
Wd. 4, Pet. 5 .....	396	-	98	494
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>7548</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2173</b>	<b>9721</b>

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT**

Seventeenth Essex District	Democratic Primary				Republican Primary			
	Susan C. Tucker of Andover	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	No Nomination	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
Andover .....	532	-	118	650	-	-	358	358
LAWRENCE .....	444	-	202	646	-	-	57	57
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>1296</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>415</b>

**State Election**

Seventeenth Essex District	Susan C. Tucker of Andover Democrat	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
Andover				
Pct. 1 .....	1251	-	422	1673
Pct. 2 .....	1358	-	608	1966
Pct. 3 .....	1438	-	597	2035
Pct. 4 .....	1443	-	483	1926
Pct. 5 .....	1413	-	589	2002
Pct. 6 .....	1432	-	507	1939
Pct. 7 .....	1369	-	655	2024
Pct. 8 .....	1352	1	639	1992
LAWRENCE				
Wd. 4, Pct. 1 .....	678	-	183	861
Wd. 5, Pct. 1 .....	647	-	213	860
Wd. 5, Pct. 2 .....	700	-	212	912
Wd. 5, Pct. 3 .....	689	-	193	882
Wd. 6, Pct. 5 .....	465	-	137	602
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>14235</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5438</b>	<b>19674</b>

First Franklin District	Democratic Primary				Republican Primary			
	No Nomination	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	Jonathan F. Healy of Charlemont	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
Ashfield	-	-	31	31	22	-	1	23
Buckland	-	-	45	45	25	-	1	26
Charlemont	-	1	22	23	24	-	2	26
Chesterfield	-	1	33	34	20	-	1	21
Colrain	-	-	31	31	21	-	-	21
Conway	-	-	49	49	19	-	1	20
Cummington	-	-	19	19	12	-	7	19
Deerfield	-	1	131	132	22	-	3	25
Goshen	-	1	28	29	18	-	-	18
Heath	-	-	84	84	37	-	6	43
Huntington	-	2	22	24	5	-	-	5
Middlefield	-	-	22	22	9	-	-	9
Montague	-	5	243	248	77	-	9	86
Plainfield	-	-	28	28	11	-	1	12
Shelburne	-	4	43	47	22	-	1	23
Sunderland	-	1	41	42	17	-	2	19
Whately	-	1	30	31	21	-	2	23
Williamsburg	-	-	84	84	28	-	3	31
Worthington	-	-	31	31	10	-	1	11
<b>TOTALS</b>	-	<b>17</b>	<b>1017</b>	<b>1034</b>	<b>420</b>	-	<b>41</b>	<b>461</b>

**State Election**

First Franklin District	Jonathan F. Healy of Charlemont Republican			Total Votes Cast
	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	
Ashfield	-	162	924	
Buckland	2	138	1020	
Charlemont	-	87	594	
Chesterfield	-	68	479	
Colrain	-	121	815	
Conway	1	185	872	
Cummington	-	76	414	
Deerfield	-	-	-	
Pct. A	1623	375	1998	
Pct. B	525	131	656	
Goshen	1	102	413	
Heath	-	47	346	
Huntington	-	167	775	

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

First Franklin District (Continued)	State Election			Total Votes Cast
	Jonathan L. Healy of Charlestown Republican	All Others	Blanks	
Middlefield .....	167	-	38	205
Montague				
Pct. 1 .....	590	-	236	826
Pct. 2 .....	518	-	137	655
Pct. 3 .....	611	-	150	761
Pct. 4 .....	555	-	127	682
Pct. 5 .....	314	-	105	419
Pct. 6 .....	487	-	128	615
Plainfield .....	225	-	49	274
Shelburne .....	895	2	157	1054
Sunderland .....	1043	-	490	1533
Whately .....	644	1	187	832
Williamsburg				
Pct. A .....	549	1	184	734
Pct. B .....	370	2	156	528
Worthington .....	449	1	131	581
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>15060</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3934</b>	<b>19005</b>

Second Franklin District	Democratic Primary				Republican Primary			
	Carmen D. Buell of Greenfield	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast	No Nomination	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
Bernardston	25	-	-	25	-	-	23	23
Erving	26	-	8	34	-	-	12	12
Gill	46	-	9	55	-	-	18	18
Greenfield	631	-	171	802	-	-	155	155
Leverett	36	-	1	37	-	-	7	7
Leyden	15	-	-	15	-	-	16	16
New Salem	28	-	-	28	-	1	20	21
Northfield	39	-	4	43	-	-	29	29
Orange	60	-	8	68	-	4	44	48
Shutesbury	24	-	3	27	-	-	13	13
Warwick	26	-	8	34	-	-	13	13
Wendell	28	-	7	35	-	-	4	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>1203</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>359</b>

State Election

Second Franklin District	Carmen D. Buell of Greenfield Democrat	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
Bernardston	811	-	199	1010
Erving				
Pct. 1	255	5	56	316
Pct. 2	357	2	50	409
Gill				
Pct. 1	326	1	75	402
Pct. 2	279	-	59	338
Greenfield				
Pct. 1	779	-	225	1004
Pct. 2	971	-	265	1236
Pct. 3	641	-	171	812
Pct. 4	833	-	238	1071
Pct. 5	762	-	211	973
Pct. 6	674	-	174	848
Pct. 7	586	-	154	740
Pct. 8	568	-	141	709
Pct. 9	706	-	204	910
Leverett	812	1	196	1009
Leyden	285	-	58	343
New Salem	377	2	73	452
Northfield	1164	2	270	1436



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT****State Election**

<b>Second Franklin District (Continued)</b>	Carmen D. Buell of Greenfield Democrat	All Others	Blanks	Total Votes Cast
Orange				
Pct. 1 .....	1157	2	252	1411
Pct. 2 .....	1214	-	267	1481
Shutesbury .....	639	-	174	813
Warwick .....	280	-	72	352
Wendell .....	341	-	97	438
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>14817</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3681</b>	<b>18513</b>