



# KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS

*Your vote is your voice and your voice matters.  
It's now easier than ever to register and vote in Michigan!*

## WHO CAN REGISTER AND VOTE

### Can I register to vote?

You can register and vote in Michigan if:

- You are a U.S. citizen;
- You are a resident of a city or township in Michigan for at least 30 days (or will be by Election Day);
- You are at least 17.5 years old and will be 18 years old by Election Day; and,
- You are not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison

### What address do I use to register to vote?

You use the address you consider to be your primary residence. Your primary residence is the place where you sleep most regularly and keep your belongings.

### What if I'm a student?

Students who come from Michigan and attend a school in Michigan can register to vote at their school address or their home address. Students coming from Michigan who attend a school outside of Michigan can still register to vote at their home address in Michigan. Students who are not from Michigan but are attending school in Michigan can register to vote at their school address in Michigan. For questions about registering to vote in other states, check out the resources on voting in that state.

If you have a Michigan driver's license or state ID card and you are registered to vote in Michigan, your voter registration address and the address on your ID will be the same. If you change the address on one, it will automatically change the other. The Secretary of State will mail you a sticker with your new address to place on your license or ID card. Once registered, you can change your address through Michigan's online voter registration system at [www.mi.gov/VoterRegistration](http://www.mi.gov/VoterRegistration).

### What if I'm in jail or was convicted of a crime?

The only time you cannot register and vote is when you are serving a sentence in jail or prison.

You can register and vote:

- If you are in jail but have not been sentenced;
- If you are serving a sentence but are not in jail or prison;
- If you are on probation or parole but are not in jail or prison; or,
- If you served your sentence and are no longer in jail or prison.

### What if I am homeless?

If you don't have a home, you can register to vote using a street corner, park, shelter or any other place where you usually stay as your address. You can describe the location using two cross-streets.

It is helpful, but not required, to have a mailing address. This can be a local shelter, advocacy organization, outreach center, or someone who will accept mail for you.

## VOTER REGISTRATION

You can register to vote at any time!

You must be registered to vote in order to vote in Michigan. You can register at any time up to 8 p.m. on Election Day, but it is better to register as soon as possible. The earlier you register, the more choices you will have for how to register.

### Am I registered to vote?

Visit the **Michigan Voter Information Center** at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote) to see if you are registered to vote. Check to see that you are registered to vote where you currently live.

Or call your city, township or county clerk's office, or one of the Election Protection hotlines on the back of this guide.

### How do I register to vote?

You have many ways to register to vote:

- Online at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/register/voter>
- At a Secretary of State branch office;
- At your city or township clerk's office or your county clerk's office;
- At any state agency that provides public assistance or services to people with disabilities;
- By mailing in a completed voter registration application postmarked by July 20, 2020; or,
- Through a voter registration drive.

**Starting 14 days before an election day**, you have one way to register to vote:

- Visit the city or township clerk's office where you live and provide "proof of residency."

### What is "proof of residency"?

"Proof of residency" is a document with your name and current address in the city or township where you live. Paper or electronic copies of any of the following documents will work:

- A Michigan driver's license or state ID card;
- A utility bill;
- A bank statement;
- A paycheck;
- A government check; or,
- Any other government document.

### Where is my city or township clerk's office, and when is it open?

Visit the **Michigan Voter Information Center** [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote), click on the "My Clerk" tab, and enter your address to find information for your city or township clerk. Or call your city or township clerk's office. City and township clerks' offices are open during their normal hours and for at least 8 hours the weekend before each election.

### Do I need a photo ID or proof of citizenship to register to vote?

No. You will be asked for a photo ID if you register to vote in person. If you don't have one or don't have one with you, you can sign a simple form and then register to vote. If you register to vote through the mail and you have a Michigan driver's license or state ID card, or a social security number, enter the numbers on your voter registration application where indicated.

## VOTING BEFORE ELECTION DAY BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

### You can vote before Election Day!

All registered voters in Michigan can now vote before Election Day using what's called an absentee ballot. You don't need an excuse or a reason. You can vote before Election Day from home, or by going to your city or township clerk's office.

### How do I vote FROM HOME before Election Day?

**Step 1:** Request your ballot. Fill out an application for an absentee ballot, sign it using your official signature and submit it to your city or township clerk. You can submit your completed application by email, mail, fax, or in person.

**Step 2:** Fill out your ballot. Look for your absentee ballot to arrive in the mail. Once it arrives, fill it out, place it in the envelope provided, and sign the outside of the envelope with your official signature.

**Step 3:** Turn in your ballot as soon as possible. Your completed absentee ballot must be **received** by your city or township clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Since the mail can take some time, you should drop it in the mail as soon as possible. Starting 10 days before Election Day it is better to drop it off at your city or township clerk's office.

### Where can I get an application for an absentee ballot?

You can download an application from the **Michigan Voter Information Center** [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote) or call your city or township clerk and ask that an application be mailed to you. Most city and township clerks have the application on their websites.

### What is the deadline to vote FROM HOME before Election Day?

**Your completed absentee ballot must be received by your city or township clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day.**

Begin the process early by mailing in your application for an absentee ballot as soon as possible. Your application for the August Primary and November General Election can be submitted now.

### How do I vote IN PERSON before Election Day?

**Step 1:** Go to your city or township clerk's office.

**Step 2:** Fill out an application for an absentee ballot and submit it to the staff.

**Step 3:** Fill out your ballot, place it in the envelope provided, sign the outside of the envelope with your official signature, and leave it with the staff.

### When can I vote IN PERSON before Election Day?

You can go to your city or township clerk's office to vote 40 days before an Election. If you are already registered to vote where you live, the deadline to vote an absentee ballot in your city or township clerk's office is 4:00 pm on Election Day. If you are not registered to vote where you live, the deadline to register and vote at your city or township clerk's office is 8 p.m. on Election Day.

### Where is my city or township clerk's office and when is it open?

Visit the **Michigan Voter Information Center** [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote), click on the "My Clerk" tab, and enter your address to find information for your city or township clerk. Or call your city or township clerk's office. City and township clerk's offices are open during their normal hours and for at least 8 hours the weekend before each election.

### Is my clerk's office accessible?

You have the right to an accessible voting location and an accessible voting machine. If your clerk's office is not accessible or there is no accessible voting machine, call your city or township clerk right away, report it, and ask for an alternate site. You can also report it to the Election Protection hotlines at the end of this guide.

## VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

### When are the polls open?

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time. You have the right to vote if you are in line by 8 p.m.

### What will be on the ballot?

View your sample ballot at the **Michigan Voter Information Center** [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote).

### Where do I vote on Election Day?

If you are already registered to vote where you live, you must vote at your assigned polling place.

If you are not registered to vote where you live, you must visit your city or township clerk's office with proof of residency by 8 p.m. on Election Day in order to register to vote. Once you are registered, you can vote by an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or go to your polling place, if there is time to do so.

### How do I find my polling place?

You can find your polling place:

- Online at the Michigan Voter Information Center [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote);
- On your Voter Identification Card;
- By calling your city or township clerk; or,
- By calling one of the Election Protection hotlines at the end of this guide.

### What if I've moved?

You should update your voter registration whenever you move. If you did not update your registration by Election Day, you can register to vote at your city or township clerk's office with proof of residency until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

You can vote at your old polling place one last time if:

- You moved within the same city or township; or,
- You moved to a different city or township within 60 days of the election.

### Can I get time off from work to vote?

Your employer isn't required to give you paid or unpaid time off to vote. Ask if they have a policy that allows you to take time off. If they don't, vote before Election Day.

# VOTING ACCESSIBILITY

## What if my polling place is not accessible?

You have the right to an accessible polling place and an accessible voting machine. If it is before Election Day, call your city or township clerk right away and ask for an assignment to an alternate site that is accessible. You can also report it to the Election Protection hotlines at the end of this guide.

If it is Election Day, send someone into the polling place to request curbside voting on your behalf. The poll workers at your polling place will bring a ballot outside so you can vote.

## Can I get a ballot in my language?

If you vote in Colfax Township or the City of Fennville, you have the right to a ballot and election materials in Spanish.

If you vote in the City of Hamtramck, you have the right to a ballot and election materials in Bengali.

If you do not read or write English, and a ballot is not available in your language, you have the right to assistance from anyone you choose. However, the person cannot be your employer, an agent of your employer or an officer or agent of your labor union.

## What if I need assistance voting?

You have the right to vote independently using an accessible voting machine. If you would like to use an accessible voting machine, tell an election official when you arrive to vote.

You have the right to assistance from the election officials. You can ask the election officials for instructions on how to use the voting equipment or assistance at any time, even after you've entered the voting booth.

If you are blind, disabled, or unable to read or write, you have the right to assistance from anyone you choose. However, the person cannot be your employer, an agent of your employer or an officer or agent of your labor union.

# IDENTIFICATION FOR VOTING

## Do I need a photo ID to vote?

**No.** But if you have it, bring it with you and provide it to the poll worker. You will be asked for photo ID when you go vote. If you do not have photo ID or do not have it with you, you can sign a simple form and vote.

## Do I need a photo ID to vote if this is my first time voting in Michigan?

**No.** A small number of first-time voters who registered through the mail or a voter registration drive may need to provide some documentation to vote. Electronic or paper copies of any of the following will work:

A **photo ID with your name and picture** (regardless of the address or if it has an address):

- Driver's license or personal ID card from any state
- High school or college ID
- Passport
- Military or government-issued photo ID
- Tribal ID card
- A non-photo ID with your name and address on it:
  - Current utility bill
  - Bank statement
  - Paycheck stub

- Government check
- Any other government document

### **Do I need the receipt I received when I registered to vote?**

No. But if you have it, bring it with you.

### **Do I need my Voter Identification Card to vote?**

No. But if you have it, bring it with you.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Where is my absentee ballot?**

You can track your absentee ballot and application at the **Michigan Voter Information Center** [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote). Visit the site to see if:

- Your application was processed by your city or township clerk;
- Your absentee ballot was mailed to you; and,
- Your absentee ballot was received by your city or township clerk.

### **What should I do if I requested an absentee ballot but never received it?**

Call or visit your city or township clerk's office as soon as possible to cancel your first absentee ballot and request a new one. Or go to your polling place on Election Day, complete a simple form and vote.

### **What if I received my absentee ballot but then made an error on it or it was lost or destroyed?**

Call or visit your city or township clerk's office as soon as possible to cancel your first absentee ballot and request a new one. If you have the absentee ballot, because you made an error or it was only partially destroyed, take it with you. Or go to your polling place on Election Day, fill out a form and vote. If you have the absentee ballot, because you made an error or it was only partially destroyed, take it with you.

### **What if I registered to vote but I'm not on the voter list at my polling place?**

If you have the receipt you received when you registered to vote, show that to the poll worker in order to vote. If you don't have your receipt, give the poll worker your address and ask if you're at the correct polling place. If you are not at the right polling place for your address, go to the correct polling place.

If you are not on the voter list, you can go to your city or township clerk's office with proof of residency and register to vote before 8 p.m. on Election Day. While there, you can vote by absentee ballot in the clerk's office.

If you cannot go to the clerk's office with proof of residency, you may be able to cast a "provisional ballot." To do this, you'll have to swear you believe you previously registered to vote.

If you can provide a photo ID that shows your address in that polling place, your provisional ballot will go into the machine and be counted on Election Day. If not, it will go into an envelope, and the clerk will review it after Election Day. You have six days after Election Day to go to the clerk's office with any documentation to show that you are registered to vote.

### **What if I go to the wrong polling place?**

Go to the correct polling place by looking it up online at the **Michigan Voter Information Center** [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote) or by calling your city or township clerk before you go vote. If you arrive at the wrong polling place, ask a poll worker to help you find your correct polling place. If you aren't registered to vote where you currently live, go to your city or township clerk's office with proof of residency before 8 p.m. on Election Day to register to vote.

### What if I have a problem voting, or someone is trying to intimidate or harass me?

Tell a poll worker immediately. If the poll worker is the problem, or they don't address the problem, call your local city or township clerk. If the city or township clerk doesn't address the problem, call one of the Election Protection hotlines at the end of this guide.

### What if someone challenges my right to vote?

**Step 1:** Ask to be sworn in by the poll worker,

**Step 2:** Answer whatever questions are necessary to establish your eligibility to vote, and,

**Step 3:** Vote.

### What if I make a mistake on my ballot or the voting machine malfunctions?

If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot right away. You have the right to a new ballot if you catch the mistake before your ballot is inserted into the tabulator machine and counted.

If the scanner rejects your ballot, ask for a new one. You have the right to start over.

If the tabulator machine isn't working, you can place your completed ballot into a bin in the tabulator machine. The poll workers will insert your ballot into the tabulator once the machine is working again.

### Call the Election Protection hotlines for assistance at any time.

- For assistance in English, call 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683);
- Para recibir ayuda en español, llama a 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682);
- ( ى لء ل ص ت ا ، ة ى ر ع ل ا ة غ ل ل ا ة د ع ا س م ل ل : 844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287) )
- For assistance in Bengali, Cantonese, English, Hindi, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, Urdu or Vietnamese, call 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683).

For additional resources visit [www.michiganvoting.org](http://www.michiganvoting.org).