

February 2023

FACT SHEET

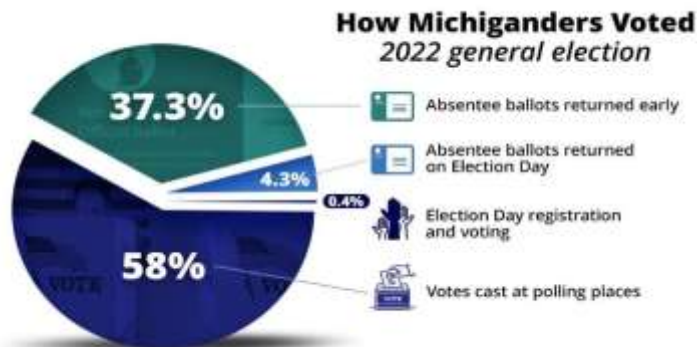
ELECTION NOVEMBER 2022 IN MICHIGAN

On Tuesday, November 8, 2022, 4,500,400 citizens voted in Michigan’s election out of 7,202,947 active voters (voted in recent elections) or 8,119,848 registered voters. Approximately 55% of Michigan residents aged 18 and older voted in the election, 38% in Detroit.

The League of Women Voters of Michigan provided educational, non-partisan voter information through VOTE411, an on-line voter information and guide, and the printed voter guide in the 2022 election year. Approximately 252,320 used VOTE 411 and 119,145 voter guides were printed and distributed. In addition, LWVMI registered new voters, conducted candidate forums, wrote postcards and text banking, worked the polls as an election inspector, AVB counting board, challenger or observer, and also traveled to precincts on Election Day to assist with last minute registrations. Following the election, members also monitored county and state board of canvassers meetings and recounts in certain precincts.

How People Voted

In 2022, about 1.8 million, or about 40%, voted by absentee ballots. 37.3% turned in their absentee ballot early, 4.3% turned in their absentee ballot that day. 58% of voters voted in person. 0.4% registered and voted on election day. According to Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, this was the highest turnout in a midterm election in Michigan’s history.



In 2020, over 5.5 million voted in Michigan. About 3.3 million, or 57% of total ballots cast were absentee. 3,480,651 mail-in ballots were requested and 3,263,852 mail-in and early in-person ballots were returned, over 90%.

In 2018, 4,341,340 voted. 1,055,822 or 24.3% of total ballots cast were absentee.

In 2016, 4,874,618 voted. 1.3 million, or 26% of total ballots cast were absentee.

On October 27, 2022, a lawsuit, *Karamo v. Winfrey* (Docket No. 22-012759-AW), was filed to prohibit the counting of absentee ballots in Detroit if obtained without identification and stop the counting of ballots cast through drop boxes. On November 7, Third Judicial Circuit Court of MI, Judge Timothy Kenny, dismissed the case.

Same Day Registration

On November 8, 2022, more than 15,000 voters same day registrations were reported across the state. On election day In November 2020, more than 28,000 same day registrations were reported across the state out of over 8.1 million registered voters.

At the University of Michigan, we know that 4000 students registered to vote on campus prior to election day and 1500 registered and voted on the same day. At Michigan State University we know 2690 students registered to vote and some of those registered and voted on election day.

Provisional Ballots and Affidavits

There are no numbers for November 2022 yet on the use of provisional ballots or affidavits. We have information from previous elections.

Election	Number of Provisional Ballots Issued	Number of Provisional Ballots Rejected	Number of Provisional Ballots Counted	Number of Voters Using Affidavit
2016	3937	1542	2395	18,580
2018	3330	546	2784	11,950
2020	716	482	234	11,417

Board of Canvassers

Section 168.822 of the Michigan Election Law requires the Board of County Canvassers to review the results and to certify the election by the 14th day after the election. The State Board of Canvassers must meet within 10 days after it receives the results from the county to certify the election results. 82 of the 83 counties certified the results unanimously by November 22, 2022, and the State Board of Canvassers certified the election unanimously on November 28, 2022.

Election Recount

On December 1, 2022, the Election Integrity Fund and Force (EIF) requested a partial recount of Proposals 2 and 3. EIF paid \$125 per precinct for 47 precincts in four counties for Proposal 2. EIF also paid for recounts in 560 precincts in 43 counties for Proposal 3. The America Project funded the money for EIF. The cost was much higher than the amount paid. The State Board of Canvassers approved the procedures on December 5. The recounts took place between December 7 and December 16.

For Proposal 2, the precincts conducting the recount had a total of 37,527 yes votes and 22,234 no votes. The recount total resulted in a gain of 14 yes votes and 20 no votes, changing it by a net of six no votes for a proposal that passed by more than 861,000 votes in its favor.

For Proposal 3, there were 418,657 yes votes and 207,539 no votes in the selected precincts prior to the recount. After the recount, there were 116 yes votes and 7 no votes gained, resulting in a net change of 111 yes votes for a proposal that passed by more than 583,400 votes in its favor.

On December 21, the State Board of Canvassers certified the results of the partial recount.

Audits

On January 11, 2023, the Secretary of State announced that the Michigan Bureau of Elections and bipartisan county and local election clerks will conduct more than 200 public audits of the November 8, 2022 election.

According to the press release “precinct-level audits will be conducted by Bureau of Elections staff and county clerks to review election administration procedures carried out in each audited precinct and identify best practices for future elections.

Additionally, the Bureau and dozens of clerks will participate in a statewide audit, in which randomly selected batches of ballots will be hand-counted to affirm the accuracy of the state’s vote tabulation machines.

Highlights of Statewide MI Election Highlights:

Governor Gretchen Whitmer/Lt Governor Garlin Gilchrist (D) won with 54.5% of vote.

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson (D) won with 55.9% of vote

Attorney General Dana Nessel (D) won with 53.2% of vote.

Other State Races:

On December 28, 2021, the 13-member Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) adopted new maps for Congress, MI Senate, and MI House of Representatives based on the 2020 census. This was the first election with the new maps.

The Michigan Congressional delegation will have 7 Democrats and 6 Republicans.

The Michigan Senate will have 20 Democrats and 18 Republicans. (First time since 1983 Democrats have had majority)

The Michigan House of Representatives will have 56 Democrats and 54 Republicans. (First time since 2010 Democrats have had majority)

In the 1982 general election. Democrats also won the Governor's race and the MI Senate and MI House of Representatives. However, in 1983 two MI Senators, Phil Mastin and David Serotkin, were called as part of a tax revolt. The MI Senate remained Republican for almost 40 years until the 2022 election.

According to *Michigan Advance*, half of the incoming Republicans elected are election deniers, 23 out of 54 members in the MI House and 13 out of 18 in the MI Senate.

In 2023, women hold 60, 40.5%, of the seats in the MI House and Senate. There are 45 women state representatives (41%) and 15 women senators (40%). This was an increase from 2022.

Minorities hold 17 of the seats in the MI House and Senate. There are 14 (13%) members identified as a minority in the MI House, and 3 (8%) members in the Senate. This was a decrease from 2022.

Ballot Proposals:

In 2022, the League of Women Voters of Michigan supported three ballot proposals:

Proposal 22-1 Transparency and Term Limits

Proposal 22-2 Promote the Vote 2022

Proposal 22-3 Reproductive Freedom for All

The three ballot proposals were passed by a majority of the voters on November 8, 2022 and took effect December 24, 2022.

Proposal 22-1 Transparency and Term Limits

Proposal 22-1 amends the state constitution to require annual public financial disclosure reports by legislators and other state officers and change state legislator term limits to 12 total years in the legislature. The proposal was placed on the ballot by the Michigan Legislature

with passage of HJR R. The proposal was supported by a broad coalition, Voters for Transparency and Term Limits, including many labor and business organizations and LWVMI.

This proposed constitutional amendment will:

- Require members of legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and attorney general file annual public financial disclosure reports starting April 15, 2024, including assets, liabilities, income sources, future employment agreements, gifts, travel reimbursements, and positions held in organizations except religious, social, and political organizations.
- Require legislature implement but not limit or restrict reporting requirements and be passed by December 31, 2023.
- Replace current term limits for state representatives and state senators with a 12-year total limit in any combination between house and senate, except a person elected to senate in 2022 may be elected the number of times allowed when that person became a candidate. Prior to adoption, Senators could serve two terms (8 years) and Representatives could serve three terms (6 years) for a total of 14 years.

On August 31, No Time for Career Politicians filed a lawsuit in the Michigan Supreme Court to remove this proposal from the ballot. On September 9th, the Michigan Supreme Court rejected the lawsuit.

The proposal passed with 66.45% of voters supporting and 33.55% opposing. 79 counties voted yes to adopt the Constitutional amendment and 4 counties voted no.

According to the Michigan campaign finance report filed on December 8, 2022, Voters of Transparency and Team Limits spent \$1,314,238.07 in expenditures. In 1992, an initiative petition to establish term limits with 6 two-year terms in the Michigan House and 2 four-year terms in the Michigan Senate. The proposal passed with 51% for and 49% against.

Proposal 22-2 Promote the Vote 2022

Proposal 22-2 was supported by a large coalition, Promote the Vote 2022, that included LWVMI, Voters Not Politicians, ACLU of Michigan, MI AFL-CIO, NAACP MI State Conference, the Michigan League for Public Policy and others. The proposal was placed on the ballot by initiative petition. The coalition spearheaded a ballot initiative to add new voting policies to the Michigan Constitution.

The major changes implemented with passage of Promote the Vote 2022 amending the Michigan Constitution include:

- Recognize fundamental right to vote without harassing conduct;
- Require military or overseas ballots be counted if postmarked by election day;
- Provide voter right to verify identity with photo ID or signed statement;
- Provide voter right to single application to vote absentee in all elections;
- Require state-funded absentee-ballot drop boxes, and postage for absentee applications and ballots;
- Provide that only election officials may conduct post-election audits;

- Require nine days of early in-person voting for statewide and federal elections;
- Allow donations to fund elections, which must be disclosed;
- Require canvass boards certify election results based only on the official records of votes cast.

On July 11, the campaign turned in 669,972 signatures to the Secretary of State. On August 25, the Bureau of Elections said that according to its review there were 507,780 valid signatures well above the 425,059 threshold. On August 31, the State Board of Canvassers deadlocked 2-2 on placing the proposal on the ballot. The MI Supreme Court ruled on September 8 to place it on the ballot.

The voters passed the Promote the Vote 2022 ballot proposal with 59.99% of voters supporting and 40.01% opposing. 45 out of 83 counties supported the proposal and 38 opposed.

According to the Michigan campaign finance report filed on December 8, 2022, Promote the Vote 2022 spent \$20,471,314.07 in expenditures. In 2018, a similar report showed that Promote the Vote spent \$4,584,964.87 in expenditures.

Proposal 22-3 Reproductive Freedom for All

Proposal 22-3 was supported by a large coalition, Reproductive Freedom for All, that included ACLU of Michigan, Planned Parenthood Advocates of MI, Michigan Voices, LWVMI and many others. The proposal was put on the ballot by initiative petition.

A proposal to amend the state constitution to establish new individual right to reproductive freedom, including:

- Establish new individual right to reproductive freedom, including right to make and carry out all decisions about pregnancy, such as prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, abortion, miscarriage management, and infertility;
- Allow state to regulate abortion after fetal viability, but not prohibit if medically needed to protect a patient's life or physical or mental health;
- Forbid state discrimination in enforcement of this right; prohibit prosecution of an individual, or a person helping a pregnant individual, for exercising rights established by this amendment;
- Invalidate state laws conflicting with this amendment

On July 11, the campaign turned in 753,759 signatures to the Secretary of State. On August 25, the Bureau for Elections said that according to its review there were 596,379 valid signatures well above 425,059 threshold. On August 31, the State Board of Canvassers deadlocked 2-2 on placing the proposal on the ballot. The decision was taken to the MI Supreme Court and resulted in it being placed on the ballot on September 8.

The voters passed Reproductive Freedom for All with 56.66% of voters supporting and 43.34% opposing. 26 counties voted to support the proposal and 57 voted no.

According to the Michigan campaign finance report filed on December 8, 2022, Reproductive Freedom for All spent \$44,304,739.52 in expenditures. In 1972, Michigan voters rejected a proposal to legalize abortions up to 20 weeks, 61% opposed and 39% supported. After the 1972 election, abortion remained illegal in Michigan until the 1973 *Roe v Wade* decision in 1973.

Other Statewide Ballot Proposals

In addition, Secure MI Vote, Let MI Kids Learn and Raise the Wage turned in signatures on their petitions for initiatives. On December 28, Secure MI Vote and Let MI Kids Learn withdrew their petitions for consideration. The Michigan Bureau of Elections is currently reviewing the signatures gathered for the Raise the Wage initiative petition. The Raise the Wage initiative to amend Michigan's law would raise the state minimum wage to \$15/hour, and end subminimum wages for tipped workers, workers with disabilities, and youth. If approved by the Bureau of Elections and the State Board of Canvassers, it would go to the Legislature for adoption, if not adopted by the Legislature it goes on the 2024 ballot for the voters to decide.

Secretary of State Benson's and State Lawmakers' Agenda for 2023

On January 17, 2023, the Secretary of State and chairs of the Senate and House elections committees announced their legislative plans to protect democracy.

The group said they would work to protect people who protect our democracy, they plan to:

- Reintroduce and pass legislation to ban and increase the penalty for threatening, harassing or doxing election workers and for pressuring election officials to act illegally.
- Introduce legislation to ban deceptive practices in elections such as lying to voters when seeking their signatures on petitions and knowingly sharing false information about elections and citizens' ability to vote.
- Provide sufficient funding to township, city and county clerks to ensure their security and the security of their elections and voter.

Secretary of State Benson announced that she is launching an elections policy working group to suggest, review, and provide feedback on election policies on a rolling basis. The group will be comprised of nonpartisan pro-democracy organizations, Republican and Democrat and nonpartisan clerks, the chairs of both legislative elections committees and representatives from the Executive Office of the Governor.

During the week of January 30, 2023, the Secretary of State presented her agenda to the House Elections Committee and the Senate Elections and Ethics Committee. She noted these issues needed to be addressed:

- Implement Proposal 2
- Align current laws with Constitutional amendments
- Put clerks in position to succeed
- Fully fund elections.

2/6/2023 JAK