



Proposal 2 of 2022

In 2022, Promote the Vote partnered with more than 30 organizations to propose and pass Proposal 2 of 2022. The proposal garnered 60% of the vote, with support from voters across the political spectrum and in a majority of Michigan counties. Proposal 2 amended the Michigan Constitution to do the following:

- **Added an express right to vote to the Michigan Constitution**, something that is lacking in the U.S. Constitution.
- **Provides voters with the right to at least nine days of early voting in all statewide and federal elections.** This differs from absentee voting in that during early voting, voters will feed their ballots into tabulators. Voters get to see that their ballot was accepted, and election officials do not need to process the ballot later. Municipalities can choose to provide early voting in additional elections and for more than nine days. The first election for which early voting is constitutionally required is the 2024 presidential primary. Municipalities can choose to administer early voting individually, enter into an agreement with one or more other municipalities to work together to administer early voting, or enter into an agreement with their county clerk for the purposes of conducting early voting. This flexibility is important because Michigan's 1,520 cities and townships vary greatly in population size, and in clerk staff size, office hours and office space. Municipalities will be able to choose the method of early voting administration that works best for them.
- **Enshrined Michigan's long-standing and effective voter identity verification system into the Michigan Constitution.** This system has worked for Michigan for decades, and now voters have a constitutional right to use it.
- **Provides more time for military and overseas voters to return their ballot.** Instead of having to be received by election day, ballots of military and overseas voters will now be deemed timely received if postmarked by election day and received within 6 days of the election.
- **Provides voters the right to request to join a permanent mail voter list**, so that with one application -- which will be verified by comparing the signature on the application with the signature on file for the voter -- a voter can opt to receive an absentee ballot for all future elections. This new permanent mail voter list does not change the security measures in place for verifying absentee ballots: the signature on every voted absentee ballot in the state will continue to be checked against the voter's signature on file before the ballot is counted. This new permanent mail voter list will reduce the burden on election officials, who will no longer have to process three applications for an absentee ballot in a single year for the same voter, and it will reduce the burden on voters of filling out multiple applications just a few months apart. Although this is a change for Michigan, this is not a new or novel policy. The State of Oregon has been mailing voters a ballot for each election for more than twenty years.

- **Ensures robust access to absentee voting by requiring one or more state-funded drop box for every municipality, pre-paid return postage on applications and absentee ballots, and a robust absentee ballot tracking system to increase voter access to information about the status of their absentee ballot.** If a ballot is rejected (for example because the signature was missing, or the signature did not match the signature on file), the ballot tracking system will notify a voter and, if it's a problem that can be fixed, advise the voter how to address the problem and the deadline for doing so.
- **Preserved the right of local communities to accept charitable and in-kind donations for election administration.** This ensures that local clerks can, for example, continue to accept donated space for polling locations. Proposal 2 requires that these donations be disclosed and prohibits foreign donations.
- **Enhanced the constitutional requirement for an audit of statewide election results that was added to the constitution in 2018.** Proposal 2 requires election audits be conducted in public, by state and county election officials, based on established guidelines to promote accuracy and transparency. These changes will ensure an election audit in Michigan can never be used as a tool to pursue personal or partisan goals.
- **Ensures that the outcome of elections in Michigan is determined solely by the voters casting ballots.** Canvassing boards have a clear and specific duty to certify election results based only on the official records of votes cast.



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