

Your Voice, Your Voice Voting Rights Script

SLIDE	SCRIPT
1-Disclaimer Slide	No changes can be made to this presentation without consent from LWVMI. You do not need to show this slide at the beginning of the presentation.
2-Your Voice Your Vote	Today we're going to talk about voting, which includes how to register and also understand your voting rights. Because most of you are going to be the age to vote soon, it's important for you to understand why you should exercise your right to vote and how to do it.
3-Voter Eligibility and Registration in Michigan	<p>To register to vote, you must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A U.S. citizen ○ A resident of Michigan (you must be a resident of your city or township for at least 30 days by Election Day) ○ 17 ½ years old or older (or 16 to pre-register) (must be 18 by Election Day to cast a ballot) ○ Not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison <p>Review the age requirements by asking the students the following:</p> <p>Raise your hand if you are already 18 yrs. old. Raise your hand if you're going to be turning 18 by November 3 of this year. Raise your hand if you're 17 ½ right now. So, all of you who raised their hands are now of the legal age to vote, if 18 by November 3; or you are of the legal age to register, if 17 ½ right now.</p> <p>You may encounter students who are not US Citizens or will be unsure of their status. Or, they might just be reluctant or confused about filling out a registration form. Announce at this point, if any student does not think he/she is eligible, or doesn't want to fill out this form for any reason, they can return it blank or take it home with them. Be sensitive to some students who might not want their reason to be revealed in front of the other classmates.</p>
4-What is Pre-registration?	Those who are between 16 and 17 ½ years old and meet the other requirements previously presented will be able to "pre-register" to vote. Those who pre-register will automatically convert to active voter registrations when they reach the eligible registration age (17 ½).
5-Voter Registration Options	This slide is self-explanatory. Read through the list and answer any questions. You can also provide the students with a QR code option to access the Michigan.gov/vote website.

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<p>6-Voter Registration Status and College Students</p>	<p>Emphasize to students they should check their voter registration status at Michigan.gov/vote.</p> <p>For those students going on to college, review the information below.</p> <p>College students who meet the eligibility requirements can register and vote, even if they are not from Michigan. Here are some situations to help college students know where they can register to vote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If they are from Michigan, and go to school in Michigan, they can register to vote using their school address or home address. • If they're from Michigan, and go to school outside of Michigan, they can register to vote using their home address in Michigan. • If they are not from Michigan, but go to school in Michigan, they can register to vote using their school address in Michigan. <p>The same address needs to be used for Michigan voter registration and Michigan driver's license/state ID purposes. This means that if the student uses a different address on their voter registration application, the address on their Michigan driver's license or state ID (if they have one) will be automatically updated to match their voter registration address. The Secretary of State will mail them a sticker with their new address to place on their license or state ID card.</p>
<p>7-Required documents if registering within 2 weeks of election</p>	<p>Review Proof of Residency requirements (if registering within 2 weeks of election)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver's License, State ID or • Utility bill, bank statement, paycheck stub, government check or other government document.* <p><i>*This must be current with your name and address on it</i></p>
<p>8-Voting Rights You Need to Know</p>	<p>Early Voting, Absentee Voting, Voter Identification, Drop Boxes, Fundamental Right to Vote and Election Integrity are the voting rights we will discuss today.</p>

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9-Early Voting	<p>What is early voting? This means you can cast a ballot in person before Election Day. Similar to voting at a polling place on Election Day, it includes feeding your ballot into a tabulator.</p> <p>Early Voting starts on the 2nd Saturday before Election Day and runs for at least nine days, ending on the Sunday before Election Day. It lasts at least 8 hours per day. Early voting is for statewide and federal elections only. Some jurisdictions provide early voting for all elections. Check with your local clerk.</p> <p>Early voting sites are different, based on how the city/township wants to conduct them. You can get information on your early voting site at Michigan.gov/vote.</p>
10-Absentee Voting	<p>Absentee Voting is More Accessible for all Voters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides funding for prepaid postage on return envelopes for Absentee Ballot Applications and ballots. • Provides an enhanced system for Absentee Applications and Ballots so voters can track them, and receive texts or emails about their status. • Provides funding for at least one secure ballot drop box for every community and for every 15,000 registered voters in larger communities.
11-Absentee Voting	<p>The Clerk provides voters with notice if their absentee ballot or application has certain correctable issues, such as a missing or mismatched signature, and gives them an opportunity—within established deadlines—to verify their identity and resolve the problem so their ballot can be counted.</p> <p>For those who plan to serve in the military, absentee ballots from all military and overseas voters are considered on time if postmarked by Election Day and received by the city or township clerk within six days of the election.</p>
12-Early Voting vs. Absentee Voting	<p>The slide is self-explanatory. Review the difference between early voting and absentee voting.</p> <p>Voting Absentee is when you request a ballot from your clerk or online, receive and fill out the ballot and then, return the ballot to your clerk either in person, in a secure ballot drop box, by mailing it or casting it at an early voting site or bring to your precinct to insert directly into the tabulator. The exception is Detroit. Voters are unable to tabulate their absentee ballots at Detroit at early voting sites or polling locations.</p>

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13-Voter Identification	<p>Review the list of acceptable forms of photo ID.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MI Driver’s License or State ID (can be current or expired) • Driver’s License from any other State • US Passport or Federal Government ID • Local Government ID – City/Township • Military or Tribal Photo ID • Student Photo ID – School/University
14-Voter Identification	<p>Every voter appearing in person to cast a ballot is asked to present an approved photo ID. If the voter has a valid ID with them, they must show it.</p> <p>Registered voters who do not have a photo ID, or do not have a photo ID with them, can sign an Affidavit of Voter Not in Possession of Picture Identification and vote using a regular ballot.</p>
15-Types of Elections	<p>Michigan has two types of elections: Primary and General.</p> <p>Primary: Michigan state law provides for open primaries in which any voter may participate in a party's primary election, regardless of that voter's partisan affiliation.</p> <p>In August of every even year, a statewide Primary Election is conducted to nominate federal, state, county and local candidates for the General Election Ballot.</p> <p>In Michigan, the winner of a primary election is the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes cast for that office, even if they do not win an outright majority of all votes cast.</p> <p>General: In November of every even year, a statewide General Election is conducted to elect candidates for federal, state, county, and local offices.</p> <p>In odd numbered years, the elections are typically for local elections (city councils, school boards, local trustees, etc.).</p>

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16-Sample Primary Election Ballot	Review the ballot. In the Primary, voters choose and vote for candidates in only one political party. Both political parties are on the ballot and the voters select their party privately in the voting booth. Other non-partisan offices and proposals may be on the August Primary Election ballot. Voters cannot vote for more candidates than indicated in each race.
17-Sample General Election Ballot	Review the ballot. In the General Election, voters may choose any candidate of their choice in any office of their choice. Other non-partisan offices and proposals may be on the November General Election ballot. Voters can vote a “straight-party” by selecting one party’s complete slate of candidates and by making a single selection mark. Voters cannot vote for more candidates than indicated in each race.
18-Drop Boxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured, locked and bolted down structures that voters may use for the return of completed Absentee Ballot Applications and Voted Absentee Ballots. • Designed to prevent tampering. • Distributed equitably throughout the city or township. Voters may only use the drop boxes in the community where they vote. • Find your drop box at Michigan.gov/vote • Drop boxes must be accessible 24/7 during the 40 days prior to the election and up to 8 p.m. on Election Day. • Municipalities must use video monitoring of all drop boxes during the 75 days before each election. <p>Tell the students that they should do a little research if they plan to drop their ballot in an Official Drop Box. Their parents might already know how to steer them to the Official Drop Boxes or they can check at their local Clerk’s Office.</p>
19-Fundamental Right to Vote	<p>No person or legal entity can act to interfere with or unreasonably burden the fundamental right to vote, either by act of law or by harassment or intimidation. Any Michigan citizen can bring a law suit to enforce this right.</p> <p>The fundamental right to vote includes, but is not limited to, the right, once registered, to vote a secret ballot in all elections.</p>
20-Election Integrity	<p>Review two aspects of election integrity (audits and Board of Canvassers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election Audits must be securely conducted under the Secretary of State’s supervision by individuals not affiliated with a political party. Audits must be conducted publicly and funding must be disclosed. • The results of an election shall be determined solely by the ballots cast and certified by the Board of Canvassers. Neither the Board of Canvassers nor the Legislature can override the will of the voters.

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21-Michigan Voter Information Center	Review the websites and QR code for election information-available at the Michigan Voter Information Center: Michigan.gov/vote and Michiganvoting.org. Students can scan the QR code on their electronic device.
22-VOTE411	Ask students, “So now that you are registered, you might be asking, “Who and what am I voting for? What candidates and proposals are going to be on the ballot?” You will want to make yourself familiar with the candidates and proposals to make sure you will vote for the person or policy that most represents your views. The League of Women Voters provides VOTE411, a nonpartisan online voter guide. You can find information about your polling place, confirm your voter registration, the location of where to vote and information on the candidates and ballot proposals.
23-Your Voice, Your Vote	Be Prepared and Make a Plan to Vote Have a discussion with your students about how important it is to speak up, use your voice by voting. If you want solutions to the problem issues in your community, state or country, you need to put the people in power who will solve those problems. It is the one way you have as much say as anyone else in this country, no matter their age or status. It is a privilege!