

**Disclaimer:** This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

**Note:** This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter’s contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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#### 1. Am I registered to vote?

Voters can determine if they are registered to vote by checking the Michigan Secretary of State’s “Michigan Voter Information Center” website:

<https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/MVIC/votersearch.aspx>.

#### 2. Where do I vote?

Voters can determine their proper polling location by checking the Michigan Voter Center website: <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/MVIC/votersearch.aspx>.

### 3. When do the polls open and close?

The polls must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Election Day.<sup>1</sup> A voter waiting in line at the polling place by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.<sup>2</sup>

### 4. When is/was the voter registration deadline?

The voter registration deadline is 30 days prior to the election.<sup>3</sup> Voter registration applications submitted by mail will be processed if they are postmarked on or before 30 days prior to the election.<sup>4</sup> In order to vote in the 2018 November General Election, **voters must register by October 9, 2018.**<sup>5</sup>

### 5. Can I vote without providing identification?<sup>6</sup>

In order to vote in Michigan, every registered voter voting in person must show a valid form of photo ID or sign an affidavit attesting that they are not in possession of a photo ID. Voters who did not bring photo ID may also use this affidavit. The voter's address does not need to be included on the photo ID.

Valid forms of photo ID include:<sup>7</sup>

- Driver's license or personal ID card issued by Michigan or another state;
- Federal or state government-issued photo ID;
- U.S. passport;
- Military ID with photo;
- Student ID with photo from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education; and
- Tribal ID with photo.

With some exceptions, voters who did not provide the required identification when registering by mail must also bring that identification the first time they vote.<sup>8</sup> Voters who do not have a valid form of photo ID may still cast a regular ballot by signing an affidavit confirming their identity.<sup>9</sup>

### 6. I have moved and I didn't update my voter registration, can I vote?

The answer to this question depends on when you moved and where you moved.

<b>Moved within the same city, township or village</b>	<b>Moved to a different city, township or village</b>
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<p>Voters who have moved within a city, township or village without updating their address may vote at their old polling location. The election official will process their change of address there.<sup>10</sup></p>	<p>Voters who moved to a new city, township or village within 60 days of the election without updating their address may vote at their old precinct. Voters must complete an affidavit attesting that they have moved; also, they will be required to complete a cancellation authorization before they are issued a ballot.<sup>11</sup></p> <p>Voters who moved to a new city, township or village more than 60 days before election day without updating their address will not be able to vote.<sup>12</sup></p>
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**7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?**

Voters should immediately notify the election officials if the voting equipment is not operating correctly or breaks down.<sup>13</sup> If the equipment becomes disabled and cannot be repaired and no other voting equipment is available, the election official in charge of providing ballots will declare an emergency and will issue emergency paper ballots to each voter trying to vote after the emergency is declared.<sup>14</sup> If any emergency is declared, an election official should also alert the Michigan Bureau of Elections of the situation as soon as possible.<sup>15</sup>

**8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at the precinct where I currently am. Can I vote where I am?**

If a voter’s name is not on the list of registered voters but they have a voter registration card or receipt that verifies their registration, they shall be permitted to vote. Voters are otherwise entitled to cast a provisional ballot.<sup>16</sup>

**9. My name isn’t popping up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?**

A voter’s name can only be removed from the list of registered voters within 90 days of an election by their written request, death, or after notice that a voter has moved from the city or township and has completed an application at the new address.<sup>17</sup> Any voter whose name was removed in one of the above ways and who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must re-register in order to have their name restored to the statewide voter registration system.

If the voter cannot be found on the list of registered voters, they will be issued a provisional ballot (to be secured for verification after the election) if they can provide one of the following containing the voter’s name and current address:<sup>18</sup>

- A current utility bill;
- A current bank statement; or
- A current paycheck, government check, or other government document.

In this case, the voter must be provided with a notice that the jurisdiction will verify the voter's information within 6 days after the election to determine whether to count the voter's provisional ballot, and, if necessary, to determine the reason why the provisional ballot was not counted. Each jurisdiction must provide a free system for a voter to determine whether their ballot was counted, which may include a toll-free telephone number, website, or mailed notice.<sup>19</sup>

Note that you can take steps to help to determine why a voter's name is not popping up on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter's registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure they are registered to vote and at the right place. (See [Question #1.](#))
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question #1](#) and [Question #6.](#))
- Has the voter changed their name recently, or could they be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations of the voter's name, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question #1.](#))
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

#### **10. I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?**

Yes. Any person convicted of a crime in a court of Michigan, another state or in a federal court who has been lawfully released from prison has the right to vote. A person who was a qualified and registered voter prior to conviction should not have to re-register upon release from prison (but should make sure their voter address is updated).<sup>20</sup>

#### **11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?**<sup>21</sup>

A voter should be offered a provisional ballot only when they were not listed on the voter registration list and:

- They did not present a voter registration receipt showing that they registered to vote before the registration deadline; or
- They are registered to vote in a different precinct, and the voter is unwilling to travel to their appropriate polling place.

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. **A provisional ballot should be a last resort.**

If a voter is in the right precinct, an inspector at the polling place must distribute a "Notice to Voter" indicating that:

- The ballot has been counted on the election day; or
- Within 6 days after the election, the jurisdiction will verify the voter's information to determine whether to count their provisional ballot, and, if necessary, to determine the reason why the provisional ballot was not counted. The inspector must also give the voter notice of the jurisdiction's free system to determine whether their ballot was counted, and

indicate that the system includes, as applicable, a toll-free telephone number, website, or mailed notice.

If the voter is in the wrong polling place, their provisional ballot will not count if it is confirmed after the election that the voter has voted in the wrong precinct.

**12. I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school?**

Yes. College students may register and vote where they go to school, as long as they consider that location their “residence”—i.e., where they normally sleep, keep their belongings and have a regular place of lodging. Students must also be a resident of Michigan for at least 30 days and a resident of the township, city, or village at least 30 days before the next election and must meet the other general requirements (such as being a U.S. citizen and at least 18 years old).<sup>22</sup>

**13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?**

Yes. All polling places in Michigan are required to be accessible to people with disabilities. Additionally, all policies, procedures, and physical barriers of each polling place must be removed or modified in order to allow people with disabilities to vote and otherwise participate in the election.<sup>23</sup> If a voter cannot operate the voting equipment because of a physical disability, two poll workers of different will set and operate the voting equipment for the voter and in the manner that the voter wishes to vote.<sup>24</sup> Also, if a voter is blind, they may be assisted by a member of their immediate family or by a person over 18 years old selected by the voter.<sup>25</sup>

**14. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?**

An elector who is blind, disabled or unable to read or write may be assisted with their ballot by any person of the voter’s choice, provided that the person is not your employer or labor union representative. The designated person must either be a member of your immediate family or over 18 years of age.

Two poll workers will assist any voters who need help in marking their ballot. No ballot can be marked by the inspector from any written or printed list or slip furnished by the voter or any other person. The inspector must not suggest to the voter how they should vote, or in any manner attempt to influence them as to the marking of their ballot, nor allow any other person to do so.<sup>26</sup>

**15. I don’t know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?**

Yes. The voter may ask poll workers for instructions on how to use the equipment. However, poll workers are not allowed to influence a voter’s vote or request that a voter vote for any particular issue or candidate. Two poll workers will provide the voter with information on how to use the voting equipment. They will leave the voting machine booth after providing the instructions so the voter can cast their vote in privacy.<sup>27</sup>

Additionally, signs containing voting instructions printed in large type will be visible at each polling place.<sup>28</sup>

## **16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before Election Day?**

Yes. As a registered voter, you may obtain an absent voter ballot if you are:<sup>29</sup>

- Age 60 years old or older;
- Unable to vote without assistance at the polls;
- Expecting to be out of town on election day;
- In jail awaiting arraignment or trial;
- Unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons; or
- Appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.

*A person who registers to vote by mail must vote in person in the first election in which they participate.* The restriction does not apply to overseas voters, voters who are disabled or voters who are 60 years of age or older.

Requests for absentee ballots must be received by 2:00pm on November 3, 2018. **Ballots returns must be received by 8:00pm on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 (close of polls).**<sup>30</sup>

### **Military**

Special services are provided to assist military and overseas civilian voters participate in elections. If the voter is a military or overseas civilian voter who is eligible to vote in Michigan, please visit the Michigan Secretary of State's website (<http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633-238835--,00.html>) and follow the instructions for the appropriate scenario.

## **17. What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?**

A voter may vote in person even if they have applied and received the absent voter ballot, as long as they have not already mailed or delivered a voted ballot back to the clerk.

- If the voter has already received an absent voter ballot, they must return it to the board of election inspectors in their precinct for the inspectors to mark as "canceled."
- If the voter has not received the absent voter ballot, or lost or destroyed it, they must sign an affidavit to that effect. However, these ballots may be challenged.<sup>31</sup>

## **18. Does my state have same-day registration? If so, what is the process?**

Michigan does not have same day voter registration. If a voter has not registered by the deadline for that election, they will be ineligible to vote in that election (please refer to [Questions #4](#) and [6](#) above).

## **19. What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? Can people approach me?**

Individuals are prohibited from soliciting votes in a polling place or within 100 feet from an entrance to the building in which a polling place is located on Election Day.<sup>32</sup>

## 20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?

Michigan law provides for organizations such as political parties to appoint challengers to cover precincts on Election Day.<sup>33</sup> Also, a registered elector of the precinct present in the polling place may challenge the right of anyone attempting to vote if the elector knows or has good reason to suspect that individual is not a registered elector in that precinct. Challengers are not allowed to challenge voters indiscriminately.<sup>34</sup>

A challenged voter is asked a series of questions concerning their qualifications to vote. They must answer these questions under oath. If the answers show that the voter is entitled to vote, they will be issued a ballot and allowed to vote.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.720.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.497.

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration\\_97046\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> See [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/2018\\_Dates\\_600221\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/2018_Dates_600221_7.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> See [https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_8716-178123--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716-178123--,00.html).

<sup>7</sup> See [https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_8716-178123--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716-178123--,00.html).

<sup>8</sup> See [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration\\_97046\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.523.

<sup>10</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.507.

<sup>11</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.507a.

<sup>12</sup> See, e.g., [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/ED-125\\_Instrc\\_for\\_Voting\\_444406\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/ED-125_Instrc_for_Voting_444406_7.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.772.

<sup>14</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.782b.

<sup>15</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.523a; Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections, “Election Officials’ Manual,” Ch. 11 at 4 (Nov. 2015), available at

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/XI\\_Election\\_Day\\_Issues\\_266009\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/XI_Election_Day_Issues_266009_7.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.523a.

<sup>17</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.509dd(2).

<sup>18</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.523a(4), (7).

<sup>19</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.523a(5), (7).

<sup>20</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.758b. See also <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-29836-202492--,00.html>.

<sup>21</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.523a; Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections, “Election Officials’ Manual,” Ch. 11 at 5-13 (Nov. 2015), available at

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/XI\\_Election\\_Day\\_Issues\\_266009\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/XI_Election_Day_Issues_266009_7.pdf).

<sup>22</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.11.

<sup>23</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.662(5), (6).

<sup>24</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.789.

<sup>25</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.751.

<sup>26</sup> Section 208 of Voting Rights Act; Mich. Comp. Laws §§ 168.751, 168.754, 168.755a.

<sup>27</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.789.

<sup>28</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.668a.

<sup>29</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 168.758.

<sup>30</sup> See [https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_8716\\_8728-21037--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716_8728-21037--,00.html).

<sup>31</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.769.

<sup>32</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.931

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- 33 Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 168.730.  
34 Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 168.727.  
35 Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 168.729.