



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Michigan – General Election 2022

*Last Updated: September 30, 2022*

**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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# REGISTERING TO VOTE

### 1. **ELIGIBILITY:** [Can I register to vote?](#)

An individual is eligible to register to vote if they are a United States citizen, a resident of the state of Michigan, a resident of the city or township in which they are attempting to register, and not less than 17 ½ years of age.<sup>1</sup>

Eligible voters can register to vote up until 8 PM on November 8, 2022 (**Election Day**).

The process for registering will depend on whether the voter is registering before, on, or after October 25, 2022. See Question [4](#) below for further information.

### 2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** [Can I vote in the primary election? Do I have to be a member of a party to vote in its primary?](#)

Any person eligible to vote in the general election can vote in the primary election. You do not have to be a member of a party to vote in the primary.

### 3. **STATUS:** [Am I registered to vote?](#)

Instruct the voter that they can visit the Michigan Voter Information Center ([MI.gov/vote](http://MI.gov/vote)) to see if they are registered to vote where they currently live. They should click on “your voter information” and enter the required information.

The voter can also call their city or township clerk’s office. The details of the voter’s city or township’s clerk’s office can also be found on the Michigan Voter Information Center website ([MI.gov/vote](http://MI.gov/vote)) under “where are my clerk’s offices.”

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<sup>1</sup> Mich. Comp. Law Sec. 168.492

4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?

There are many ways the voter can register to vote, and the voter does not need access to a computer and/or printer. Note, however, that how the voter can register depends on when the voter registers. AT NO TIME IS COMPUTER ACCESS THE ONLY WAY THE VOTER CAN REGISTER.

**Prior to October 25, 2022**, the voter has many ways to register to vote:

- Online at [MI.gov/vote](http://MI.gov/vote) (click on “register to vote online”) if the voter has a Michigan driver’s license or ID card;
- At a Secretary of State Branch Office;
- At the voter’s city or township clerk’s office or the voter’s 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 no later than October 24 ;or
- Through a voter registration drive.

**Starting on October 25, 2022 and through 8 PM on November 8, 2022 the voter has one way to register to vote:**

- Visit the city or township clerk’s office where the voter lives and provide “proof of residency.”<sup>2</sup>

5. **IDENTIFICATION:** What ID is required to register to vote?

The voter does not need a photo ID or proof of citizenship to register to vote.

The voter will be asked for a photo ID if the voter registers to vote in person. If the voter doesn’t have a photo ID, or doesn’t have it with them, the voter can sign a simple form and then register to vote. The voter’s photo ID need not include an address. If it does include an address, the address need not match the voter’s current address.<sup>3</sup>

Valid forms of photo ID include:

- Michigan Driver’s License or personal ID card (may be current or expired)
- Driver’s License or personal ID card issued by another state;
- Federal or state government-issued photo ID;
- U.S. Passport;
- Military ID with Photo;
- Student ID with photo from a Michigan high school or an accredited institution of higher education; and
- Tribal ID with photo.<sup>4</sup>

If the voter registers to vote through the mail and the voter has a Michigan driver’s license or state ID card, or a social security number, the voter should enter the numbers on their voter registration application where indicated. Some of this information will also be requested if the voter registers online.

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<sup>2</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.497(2)

<sup>3</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.523; <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections>.

<sup>4</sup> See id.

If the voter registers on or after October 25, 2022, the voter will need to provide proof of residency. “Proof of Residency” is a document with the voter’s name and current address in the city or township where the voter lives. 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.<sup>5</sup>

**6. DEADLINES:** [When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, online or on Election Day?](#)

The voter can register at any time up to 8 PM on Election Day.

Before October 25, 2022, the voter has many ways to register to vote. Starting on October 25, 2022, the voter has only one way to register to vote. See Question [4](#) for further information.

The voter can register to vote, AND VOTE, on the same day, including on Election Day. See Question [7](#) below.

**7. SAME DAY:** [Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?](#)

Michigan has same day registration. The voter can register on Election Day, with proof of residency, at their city or township clerk’s office. After the voter registers, the voter can vote absentee at the clerk’s office, or they may go to their polling place, if there’s time to do so.

**8. PERMANENT MOVE:** [I have moved permanently and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?](#)

Yes. If the voter has not updated their registration by Election Day, the voter can update their registration at their city or township clerk’s office with proof of residency (see Question [5](#) above) until 8 PM on Election Day.<sup>6</sup>

Alternatively, the voter can vote at their old polling place one last time if:

- The voter moved within the same city or township where they are registered; or
- The voter moved to a different city or township within 60 days of the election (September 9, 2022).<sup>7</sup>

**9. TEMPORARY MOVE:** [I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?](#)

The voter can:

- Request that an Absent Voter ballot (“AV ballot”) be sent to their temporary address;
- Register at their current address;
- Go to the city or township clerk where they are registered and vote an absentee ballot; or

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<sup>5</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.497

<sup>6</sup> See Elections Tab on Secretary of State website, <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/Upcoming-election-information/voters>

<sup>7</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.507a

- Go to their registered polling location on Election Day.

**10. STUDENT:** I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school? What if I am taking classes remotely? Where can I vote?

- Students who come from Michigan and attend a school in Michigan can register to vote at their school address or at their home address.
- Students who come from Michigan but 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.
- A student who lived at a school in Michigan and plans to return (e.g., currently attending remotely from home) can maintain their registration at school and vote by absentee ballot there.
- If the student is a freshman and has never lived at school, they should register and vote using their home address.<sup>8</sup>

**11. LIVING ABROAD:** I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?

Registered voters living abroad and/or serving in the military are able to vote. Special services are provided to help military and overseas civilian voters participate in elections.

- Register to vote: Go to the Federal Voting Assistance Program ([www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)) to download and complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). The FPCA can also be used to obtain an absent voter ballot by email, fax, or regular mail.
- Obtain an absent voter ballot by email, fax, or regular mail: **Each year**, go to the Federal Voting Assistance Program; download an FPCA; complete and submit by postal mail, fax, or scan and email to the voter's city or township clerk based on their Michigan home residence.

Only those voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) are eligible to use the FPCA and receive an absentee ballot by email or fax. Covered voters include:

- A member of a uniformed service on active duty who is absent from his or her city or township of residence. (Voters can be inside or outside the United States.)
- A member of the Merchant Marine who, by reason of service in the Merchant Marine, is absent from their city or township of residence. (The voter can be inside or outside the United States.)
- A spouse or dependent of a member of a uniformed service or a member of the Merchant Marine who, by reason of the active duty or service of the member, is absent from his or her city or township of residence. (The voter can be inside or outside the United States.)
- A civilian voter who is outside the United States and is eligible to vote in Michigan.
- A member of the National Guard activated on state orders.

**12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** I have a criminal conviction. Can I register to vote?

Yes, a voter with a criminal conviction may vote as long as they are not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.11

<sup>9</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.758b

**13. INCARCERATED:** I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote?

The voter can register and vote if the voter is in jail but has not been sentenced. The voter can also register and vote if the voter:

- Is serving a sentence but is not in jail or prison;
- Is on probation or parole but is not in jail or prison; or
- Served their sentence and is no longer in jail or prison.

## HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

**14. HOURS:** When do the polls open/close on Election Day?

Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM local time. The voter has the right to vote if they are in line by 8 PM.<sup>10</sup>

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If the voter learns that a polling place prohibits those who were in line at 8PM from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain immediately.

**15. POLLING LOCATION:** Where do I vote on Election Day?

If the voter is already registered to vote where they live, they must vote at their assigned polling place, and they can find their polling place:

- Online at the Michigan Voter Information Center ([www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote)) under “where are my clerk’s offices”;
- On their Voter Identification Card; or
- By calling their city or township clerk.

If the voter is not registered to vote where they live, they must visit their city or township clerk’s office with proof of residency by 8 PM on Election Day to register to vote. Once they are registered, they can vote by an absentee ballot in the clerk’s office, or they may go to their polling location, if there is time to do so.

If they have moved recently and have not updated their registration, please see Questions [8](#) and [9](#).

**16. CLOSING:** What if the polls close when I am already in line?

Voters have the right to vote if they are in line by 8 PM, when polls close.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws. Sec. 168.720

<sup>11</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws. Sec. 168.720

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If the voter learns that a polling place prohibits those who were in line at 8 PM from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain immediately.

**17. IDENTIFICATION: What identification is required to vote?**

No identification is required. Voters will be asked for photo ID when they go to vote. If they do not have a photo ID, or do not have it with them, they can sign a simple form explaining that they do not have a photo ID. The voter will then be permitted to vote a regular ballot, and the vote will be counted on Election Day.<sup>12</sup>

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:

- Photo ID with the voter's 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; or
  - Tribal ID card with photo.
  
- A non-photo ID with the voter's name and address on it:
  - Current utility bill;
  - Bank statement;
  - Paycheck stub;
  - Government check; or
  - Any other government document.

If a voter asked to provide this documentation on Election Day does not have it with them, they can still vote on Election Day through a Provisional Ballot. See Question 19.

**18. NO IDENTIFICATION: Can I vote without providing identification?**

Yes. The voter is not required to provide identification, including photo ID, to vote. A first-time voter who registered through the mail or a voter registration drive may need to provide some documentation to vote. See Question [17](#) for more information.

**19. NOT ON ROLLS AT MY POLLING PLACE: I am at my polling place but am not showing up on the voter registration roll. Can I vote where I am?**

The voter should check whether they are registered to vote (see Question [3](#) above for further details).

If the records indicate that the voter is not registered to vote, they can still register to vote and vote on Election Day at their city or township clerk's office. See Question [15](#) above for further details.

Alternatively, the voter must be offered a provisional ballot at their polling place if they are not listed on the voter registration list and:

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<sup>12</sup> <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/VoteInPerson/#id-required>

- The voter cannot present a voter registration receipt; and
- The voter refuses or cannot go to their city or township clerk’s office to register to vote.

**20. PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** *If I don’t have an ID, can I request a provisional ballot? My name is not on the rolls at my polling place, can I request a provisional ballot?*

If a first-time voter who registered through the mail or a voter registration drive is unable to provide the required documentation on Election Day, they can still vote using a provisional ballot. The voter has six days after the election to go to their city or township clerk’s office and present the proper documentation in order for their ballot to be counted. See Question [17](#).

A voter must also be offered a provisional ballot if they are not listed on the voter registration list and:

- The voter cannot present a voter registration receipt; and
- The voter refuses or cannot go to their city or township clerk’s office to register to vote.

If the unregistered voter can provide a photo ID that shows their address as one which would entitle the voter to vote in that polling place, their 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. The voter has six days after Election Day to go to the clerk’s office to satisfy the residency requirement.

## **HOW TO VOTE: EARLY VOTING** **(in some states called “in-person absentee”)**

**21. AVAILABILITY:** *Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or in person absentee voting)?*

All registered voters in Michigan can now vote before Election Day using what is called an absentee ballot.

**22. ELIGIBILITY:** *Do I have to have a reason to vote early?*

No. The voter does not need an excuse or a reason to vote early.

**23. WHEN:** *When does early voting begin/end?*

Applications for an absentee ballot open 75 days before an election. The final date for applying for an absentee ballot will depend on whether the voter wishes to vote in person or from home..

There are three ways to apply for an absentee ballot in Michigan: online, in person, and by mail.

Online: Voters may request an absentee ballot online at the Michigan Voter Information Center ([michigan.gov/vote](http://michigan.gov/vote)) by clicking on “apply for an absentee ballot online.”. Online requests for an absentee ballot must be submitted no later than 5 PM on Friday, November 4, 2022, although it is advised that if the voter is applying after October 24, they should vote in person in order to ensure that the vote is

properly counted. If the voter would like to have an absentee ballot mailed to them, the state of Michigan recommends the voter submit their request no later than October 24, 2022. The completed absentee ballot must be **received** by the voter’s city or township clerk by 8 PM on Election Day.

In Person: Registered voters may request an absentee ballot in person at their city or township clerk’s office until 4 PM on Monday, November 7, 2022. A voter who visits their clerk’s office on Monday, November 7 to obtain an absentee ballot must vote the ballot in the office; the voter is not permitted to leave the office with the ballot. The completed absentee ballot must be **received** by the voter’s city or township clerk by 8 PM on Election Day.

Mail: See “How to Vote: Vote By Mail”

If the voter is not registered to vote where the voter lives, the deadline to register and vote at the voter’s city or township clerk’s office is 8 PM on November 8, 2022.

**24. WHERE:** *Where do I vote during early voting?*

If the voter would like to vote before Election Day in person, the voter can go to the voter’s city or township clerk’s office.

If the voter would like to vote before Election Day by mail, see “How to Vote: Vote By Mail” below.

**25. IDENTIFICATION:** *What identification is required for early voting? What if I don’t have an ID?*

Since early voting is done by completing an absentee ballot, the rules for obtaining an absentee ballot apply. See the Section “How to Vote: Absentee” below.

## HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL

**26. AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT:** *Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?*

No, the voter will need to request an absentee ballot.

**27. ELIGIBILITY:** *Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?*

No, the voter does not need a specific reason to request an absentee ballot and vote by mail.

**28. APPLICATION DEADLINE:** *What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?*

Requests for an absentee voter ballot by mail must be **received** by the voter’s township or city clerk by no later than 5 PM on Friday November 4, 2022, although it is advised that if the voter is applying after October 24, they should vote in person in order to ensure that the vote is properly counted.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If the voter would like to have an absentee ballot mailed to them, suggest that they submit their request no later than October 24, 2022.

**29. APPLICATION RETURN:** How do I submit my mail-in ballot application? Can someone return it for me? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date?

The voter can complete an absentee ballot application online if the voter has a valid Michigan driver's license or state ID card. Otherwise the voter can complete a paper application and mail, fax, email, or hand deliver it to the voter's city or township clerk. The state of Michigan recommends submitting the application for an absentee ballot no later than 14 days before Election Day. The application must be **received** by the voter's local clerk no later than 5 PM on Friday November 4, 2022, although it is advised that if the voter is applying after October 24, they should vote in person in order to ensure that the vote is properly counted

If the voter is unable to return their own application, a member of their immediate family, including a father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, or grandchild, or a person residing in their household may mail or deliver the application to the clerk for the applicant. If there is no one in their immediate family or household who can help, the voter can ask any other registered voter to submit their application. The person helping the voter must sign the "Certificate of Authorized Registered Elector Assisting in Returning Application" on the absentee ballot application.

**30. IDENTIFICATION:** Are there identification requirements when I return my absentee ballot application and/or ballot?

No, unless the voter is requesting their absentee ballot online. See Question [43](#) below for further details.

**31. RECEIVING MAIL BALLOT:** Does the ballot have to be sent to my home, or can I have it sent somewhere else? What if I don't have a home address or my address is a PO Box?

A voter can receive an absent voter ballot at his or her registration address; at any address outside of his or her jurisdiction of residence; or at a hospital, nursing home or similar institution. Also, a clerk may mail an absentee ballot to a post office box or mailing address, if the voter receives mail at that post office box rather than his or her registration address. A voter cannot receive an absentee ballot at any residential address within his or her city or township of registration other than his or her registration address.

**32. MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?

The voter will not be able to receive an absentee ballot by mail.

However, the voter may go to their local clerk's office to request an absentee ballot in person or may be eligible for an emergency ballot. See Question [46](#).

**33. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?

The voter can track their absentee ballot application and absentee ballot at the Michigan Voter Information Center ([michigan.gov/vote](http://michigan.gov/vote)) by clicking on “your voter information” or by calling their city or township clerk’s office.

**34. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED: I learned my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. What can I do to fix any errors or get another one?**

If the voter’s application for an absentee ballot is rejected, the voter may submit a new request online or by mail, provided the deadlines have not passed, or may pick up an absentee ballot at their local clerk’s office and vote up to 8 PM on Election Day.

If the voter’s absentee ballot is rejected due to an issue with the voter’s signature, the city or township clerk must notify the voter within 48 hours of their decision to reject the ballot. Note that the clerk must notify the voter **before** 8 PM on the day before Election Day of the decision, even if 48 hours has not elapsed.<sup>13</sup> The voter will be able to correct any issue with the signature.

No notice must be given if the ballot is rejected for other reasons or because the ballot is rejected for an issue with the signature **after** 8 PM on the day before Election Day.

**35. COMPLETING BALLOT: How do I complete the mail-in ballot?**

Fill out the ballot. Place the ballot in the envelope provided and sign the outside of the envelope with the voter’s official signature. Turn the ballot in as soon as possible. The voter’s completed absentee ballot must be received by their city or township clerk by 8 PM on Election Day. Since the mail can take some time, the voter should drop it in the mail as soon as possible. If the voter is going to mail the ballot, the state of Michigan recommends that the voter does so by October 24, 2022. Voters may also return their completed absentee ballots to their city or township clerk’s office or to a secure drop box provided by their city or township clerk by 8 PM on Election Day.

If this is the voter’s first time voting in Michigan and the voter registered to vote through the mail or a voter registration drive, the voter may need to provide some documentation to vote. Electronic or paper copies of any of the following will work:

- Photo ID with the voter’s 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; or
  - Tribal ID card with photo.
  
- A non-photo ID with the voter’s name and address on it:
  - Current utility bill;
  - Bank statement;
  - Paycheck stub;
  - Government check; or

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<sup>13</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws. Sec. 168.765.

- Any other government document.

The voter should provide this documentation to the voter's clerk BEFORE voting absentee.

**36. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** [Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?](#)

Yes. Voters who are unable to mark their ballot for any reason including an inability to read or write English, blindness, or other disability may receive assistance filling out their ballot. A voter has the right to assistance from anyone the voter chooses except:

- Their employer;
- An agent of their employer; or
- An officer or agent of their labor union.<sup>14</sup>

If the voter received assistance filling out their ballot and is returning their ballot by mail, then the signature of the person who helped the voter must also be on the return envelope.

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**37. DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT:** [What is the deadline for the ballot to be received? Does it have to be postmarked by a specific date? Can I drop it off in person?](#)

The voter's completed absentee ballot must be **received** by their city or township clerk by 8 PM on Election Day. Since the mail can take some time, the voter should drop it in the mail as soon as possible. If the voter is going to mail their ballot, the state of Michigan recommends that the voter does it before **October 24, 2022.**

If the voter is submitting their ballot after October 24, the voter can hand-deliver the ballot to the voter's city or township clerk's office or to a secure drop box provided by their clerk.

**38. BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS:** [What are the locations for dropping off a ballot \(instead of mailing it\)?](#)

The voter can hand-deliver the ballot to their city or township clerk's office or a secure drop box provided by their clerk.. Information on clerks' offices locations and hours, and on drop box locations and hours can be found at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote) by clicking the "Your Clerk" tab.

**39. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT:** [Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?](#)

A voter's completed ballot may be mailed or delivered to their city or township clerk by a member of the voter's immediate family, including a father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, or grandchild, or by a person residing in their household.

If the voter cannot return their ballot, and no one in their immediate family or their household can return their ballot, the voter can call their city or township clerk and ask the clerk to pick up their completed ballot. To use this option, the voter's completed ballot must be within the city or township where they vote, and they must call their city or township clerk by 5 p.m. on the Friday before Election

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<sup>14</sup> <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting#language>

Day (November 4) to request that the ballot be picked up. The voter's absent voter ballot will then be picked up by the clerk or an election assistant sent by the clerk. All persons authorized to pick up absent voter ballots are required to carry credentials issued by the clerk. If using this absent voter ballot return method, the voter should not give their ballot to anyone until they have checked the election assistant's credentials.<sup>15</sup>

**40. LOST OR SPOILED BALLOT:** What if I lost my mail-in ballot, made a mistake on it (spoiled it), or I received an incorrect ballot?

If the voter has not yet returned their ballot, and it is before Election Day, the voter should call or visit their city or township clerk's office as soon as possible to cancel their first ballot and request a new one. If it is Election Day, the voter should go to their polling place, fill out a form, and vote. If they still have their ballot, they should bring it with them and surrender it at their polling location.

If the voter has already returned their completed absentee ballot to their city or township clerk but wants to make a change to the ballot (referred to as spoliation), they should go to their city or township clerk's office, request to spoil their ballot, and receive a new one. The deadline to do this is the Monday before the Election (Nov. 7) at 10 a.m.

There is no option on Election Day to spoil an absentee ballot that has been received by the clerk.<sup>16</sup>

**41. NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?

Visit your city or township clerk's office as soon as possible to cancel your first absentee ballot and request a new one. The deadline to do this is the Monday before Election Day (November 7 for the general election) at 4 p.m. Or you can go to your polling place on Election Day (November 8 for the general election), complete a simple form and vote.

**42. IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

The voter can surrender the ballot or sign a statement stating that the ballot was lost or destroyed and vote by regular ballot at the polling location at which they are registered on Election Day.

## HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE

**43. ELIGIBILITY:** Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?

All registered Michigan voters are eligible to vote by absentee ballot. You don't need an excuse or a reason.

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<sup>15</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws. Sec. 168.764a

<sup>16</sup> <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/VoteAtHome>

**44. APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?

We recommend that all voters who wish to vote from home, submit an absentee ballot application no later than October 25. After October 25, we recommend that voters who wish to vote before Election Day vote in-person by absentee ballot in their clerk's office. The deadline to do so is the Monday before Election Day (Nov. 7) at 4 p.m.

**45. IDENTIFICATION:** Are there any identification requirements?

No, unless requesting an absentee ballot online.

See Question [43](#).

**46. EMERGENCY:** Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?

Yes. A request for an emergency ballot must be submitted to the local clerk by 4 PM on Election Day. To be eligible, the emergency must have occurred at a time which made it impossible to apply for a regular absentee ballot.<sup>17</sup>

An emergency could include a sudden illness or family death.

**47. APPLICATION RETURN:** Where and how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?

See Question [29](#).

**48. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot return?

See Question [33](#).

**49. APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my absentee ballot application and/or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?

See Question [34](#).

**50. COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the absentee ballot?

See Question [35](#).

**51. ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?

See Question [36](#).

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<sup>17</sup> <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/VoteAtHome/#emergency>

52. **BALLOT DEADLINES:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?

*AV ballots must be received by the voter's city or township clerk by 8 PM on Election Day* in order to be counted. Information on clerk locations and hours, and on drop box locations and hours can be found at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote) under the "Your Clerk" tab.

53. **BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS:** Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?

Information on clerks' offices locations and hours, and on drop box locations and hours can be found at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote) under the "Your Clerk" tab.

54. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?

See Question [39](#).

55. **LOST OR SPOILED:** What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled or I received an incorrect one?

See Question [40](#).

56. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it? Can I do anything?

See Question [41](#).

57. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

See Question [42](#).

58. **IN PERSON ABSENTEE:** Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

A voter may request, complete, and submit their absentee ballot at their city or township clerk's office. The voter can find their city or township clerk's office at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote) by clicking on "[where are my clerk's offices](#)" or "[your clerk](#)".

## POLLING PLACE ISSUES

59. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** The polling place is not open. What should I do?

Polls must be open from 7 AM to 8 PM local time.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If the voter learns of a polling place not opening on time or is closed, notify your hotline captain immediately.

60. **LONG LINES:** There are long lines at the polling place. What should I do? What if the polls are closing while I'm in line?

The voter has the right to vote if the voter is in line by 8 PM. If the voter has difficulty waiting in long lines, the voter can request curbside or some other form of voting accommodation.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If the voter learns of long lines, notify your hotline captain immediately.

61. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

**Notify the election officials at the voter's polling place immediately.**

If the scanner rejects the voter's ballot, ask for a new one. The voter has the right to start over.

If the tabulator machine isn't working, the voter can place their completed ballot into a bin in the tabulator machine (this is called an "auxiliary bin."). The poll workers will insert their ballot into the tabulator once the machine is working again.<sup>18</sup>

If an accessible voting machine (Voter Assist Terminal) isn't working, the voter can obtain assistance with voting from anyone the voter chooses. However, the assisting person cannot be the voter's employer, an agent of their employer, or an officer or agent of their labor union.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If the voter learns of equipment not working properly at a polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

62. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

The voter has the right to assistance from the election officials. The voter can ask the election officials for instructions on how to use the voting equipment or assistance at any time, even after they've entered the voting booth.<sup>19</sup>

If the voter is blind, disabled, or unable to read or write, the voter has the right to assistance from anyone the voter chooses. However, the person cannot be their employer, an agent of their employer, or an officer or agent of their labor union.<sup>20</sup>

63. **PHYSICAL DISABILITY:** I have a physical disability and need assistance. Is my polling place ADA compliant? Does my voting location have an accessible voting system?

The voter has the right to an accessible polling place and an accessible voting machine. If it is before Election Day, the voter should call their city or township clerk right away, to determine if their assigned polling place is accessible, and if it is not, ask for an assignment to an alternate site that is accessible.

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

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<sup>18</sup> Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections, Election Officials Manual, Ch. 11 (Updated July 2019) at 41-43.

<sup>19</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws Secs. 168.751, 168.754, 168.755a

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/Upcoming-election-information/voters>

Each polling place should have at least one accessible voting machine or “VAT” for voters with a disability.<sup>21</sup> If a voter cannot operate the voting equipment for any reason, two poll workers from different political parties may provide further instructions to the voter.<sup>22</sup> A voter may also seek the assistance of two poll workers to mark the ballot in the manner the voter wishes.<sup>23</sup>

64. **READING/LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE:** I am blind, have a physical disability, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

If the voter does not read or write English, and a ballot is not available in their language, or the voter is blind or disabled, the voter has the right to assistance from anyone the voter chooses. However, the person cannot be their employer, an agent of their employer or an officer or agent of their labor union.<sup>24</sup>

Voters in Clyde Township, Covert Township, or the City of Fennville have the right to a ballot and election materials in Spanish.

Voters in the City of Hamtramck have the right to a ballot and election materials in Bengali.

Arabic ballots are now available in Dearborn and Hamtramck. Voters in the cities of Dearborn and Hamtramck may request a ballot in Arabic.

65. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

Michigan election law stipulates that “a person shall not post, display, or distribute in a polling place, in any hallway used by voters to enter or exit a polling place, or within 100 feet of an entrance to a building in which a polling place is located any material that directly or indirectly makes reference to an election, a candidate, or a ballot question.”<sup>25</sup>

This prohibition includes any solicitation of voters at the polling place including, but not limited to petition signature gathering or sales of any kind. The prohibition does not apply to official material that is required by law to be posted, displayed, or distributed in a polling place on Election Day.

The following activities are included under this restriction:

- Displaying “pro and con” information on the proposals appearing on the ballot;
- Approaching voters to encourage them to vote for or against a candidate or ballot question;
- Distributing any type of campaign literature or write-in stickers;
- Displaying signs, posters, or bumper stickers;
- Attempting to collect petition signatures; and
- Requesting donations, selling tickets, or engaging in similar activities.

Election inspectors must request that voters entering the polls remove campaign buttons or cover up clothing which bears any reference to a political party or interest group, campaign slogan or a candidate(s)’ name if associated with a ballot question or candidate whose name is appearing on the

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<sup>21</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.795(3)

<sup>22</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.797a(1)

<sup>23</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.751

<sup>24</sup> <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting>

<sup>25</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.744(3).

ballot for that specific election. In addition, voters must be told to conceal campaign literature or other campaign materials brought into the polls.

A voter may park a car or other vehicle bearing campaign signs or bumper stickers within 100 feet of the polling place during the time they are voting. Under any other circumstances, vehicles bearing campaign signs or bumper stickers must be parked at least 100 feet from any entrance to the building in which the polling place is located.

66. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?

- Step 1: The voter asks to be sworn in by the poll worker.
- Step 2: The voter answers whatever questions are necessary to establish their eligibility to vote.
- Step 3: The voter votes.<sup>26</sup>

67. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** There are police/members of the military at the polling place. Is this okay? What should I do?

There are some polls that are located at police stations, but police officers should not be in the polling locations or standing around the entrance to the polling locations. If the voter is uncomfortable due to the presence of police, please contact the election supervisor or clerk.

**\*Note to hotline volunteer:** If you learn of police/members of the military at the polling place, notify your hotline captain immediately.

68. **I THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?

The voter should check to see whether they are registered to vote (see Question [3](#)).

If the records do not show that the voter is registered to vote, the voter can still register to vote and vote on Election Day at their city or township clerk's office. See Question [15](#).

If the voter does not register to vote/continues to believe they are currently registered, they must be offered a provisional ballot if:

- They are not listed on the voter registration list;
- They cannot present a voter registration receipt; and
- They refuse or cannot go to their city or township clerk's office to register and vote.

69. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

The voter must be offered a provisional ballot if the voter is not listed on the voter registration list and:

- The voter cannot present a voter registration receipt; and
- The voter refuses or cannot go to their city or township clerk's office to register and vote.

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot.

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<sup>26</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.729

If the voter IS provided with a provisional ballot, and the voter can provide a photo ID that shows their address as one which would entitle the voter to vote in that polling place, their 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. The voter has six days after Election Day to go to the clerk's office to satisfy the residency and/or identification requirements.<sup>27</sup>

## ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

70. **LANGUAGE ACCESS:** I am not an English speaker. What language resources are available? Can I bring someone in the booth to help me understand the ballot?

See Question [64](#).

71. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?

The voter can request curbside voting if the voter is physically disabled and their polling place is not accessible.<sup>28</sup>

72. **VOTER GUIDE:** Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

There are no explicit restrictions on materials that can be brought into a voting booth.

Please note that there has been a prohibition on displaying election-related materials at the polls for decades. This includes clothing and buttons as well as materials such as pamphlets, fliers, and stickers. The voter cannot display such items in the polling place or within 100 feet of an entrance to a polling place. If the voter goes to the polls with clothing, pamphlets or bearing election-related images or slogans, the voter will be asked to cover or remove it.

## QUESTIONS

73. **QUESTIONS:** Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

The voter's city or township clerk has primary responsibility for administering elections. If the voter needs to contact a clerk, it should be their city or township clerk, **not the county clerk.**

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

<sup>27</sup> Mich. Comp. Laws Sec 168.523a; Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections, "Election Officials Manual," Ch. 11, pp .5-13.

<sup>28</sup> <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting>

**Call the non-partisan Election Protection hotlines for assistance at any time if the voter encounters problems while voting or have additional questions.**

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);

For assistance in Bengali, Cantonese, English, Hindi,  
Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, Urdu or Vietnamese,  
Call 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683);

For assistance in Arabic or English,  
Call 844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287).