

Frequently Asked Questions

Michigan – General Election 2024

Last Updated: 8/9/2024

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.

REGISTERING TO VOTE

ELECTION DAY

EARLY VOTE

VOTE BY MAIL

ABSENTEE

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

ACCESSIBILITY /ASSISTANCE

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

Table of Contents

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?
2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Can I vote in the primary election? Do I need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party’s primary election? When I voted, the election inspector asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?
3. **STATUS:** Am I registered to vote?
4. **HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?
5. **IDENTIFICATION:** What ID is required to register to vote?
6. **DEADLINES:** When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, or online?
7. **SAME DAY:** Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?
8. **PERMANENT MOVE:** I have moved permanently and didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?
9. **TEMPORARY MOVE:** I have moved temporarily. How can I vote?
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?

11. **LIVING ABROAD:** I am living abroad and/or serving in the military. How can I register and/or vote?
12. **CRIMINAL CONVICTION:** I have a felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?
13. **INCARCERATED:** I am currently incarcerated. Can I register to vote? Can I vote from jail?
14. **REGISTRATION CHALLENGED:** My registration has been challenged, what should I do?

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

15. **HOURS:** When do the polls open/close on Election Day?
16. **POLLING LOCATION:** Where do I vote on Election Day?
17. **TIME OFF WORK:** Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?
18. **CLOSING:** What if the polls close when I am already in line?
19. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required to vote?
20. **NO IDENTIFICATION:** Can I vote without providing identification?
21. **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?
22. **GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?
23. **REQUESTING PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I am being told I can't vote, can I vote provisionally?
24. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS:** I voted a provisional ballot, what now?

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING (In this state, defined as: In-Person Early Voting and In-Person Absentee Ballot)

25. **AVAILABILITY:** Is there early voting in my state (whether called early voting or something else)?
26. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I need to have a reason to vote early?
27. **WHEN:** When does early voting begin/end?
28. **WHERE:** Where do I vote during early voting?
29. **IDENTIFICATION:** What identification is required for early voting? What if I don't have an ID?
30. **ASSISTANCE:** What if I need assistance voting early in person?

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL (In this state, defined as: Absentee Voting)

31. **AUTOMATIC MAIL BALLOT:** Will I automatically be sent a ballot in the mail?
32. **ELIGIBILITY:** Do I need a specific reason to vote by mail?
33. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot?
34. **APPLICATION ASSISTANCE:** Can someone assist me with filling out the application?
35. **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?
36. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there identification requirements when I return my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot?
37. **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?
38. **MISSED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What if I have not requested a mail-in ballot by the deadline?
39. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my application and/or ballot?
40. **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?

- 41. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the mail-in ballot?
- 42. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me in filling out my ballot?
- 43. **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?
- 44. **BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS:** What are the locations for dropping off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?
- 45. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF BALLOT:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?
- 46. **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?
- 47. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested a mail-in ballot but have not received it? What are my options for voting?
- 48. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE (In this state, defined as: Absentee)

- 49. **ELIGIBILITY:** Am I eligible to request an absentee ballot?
- 50. **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** What is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot?
- 51. **IDENTIFICATION:** Are there any identification requirements?
- 52. **EMERGENCY:** Is there an emergency absentee ballot? If so, am I eligible?
- 53. **APPLICATION RETURN:** Where and how can I return my absentee ballot application? Can someone return it for me?
- 54. **STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT:** How can I check the status of my absentee ballot application and/or absentee ballot return?
- 55. **APPLICATION OR BALLOT REJECTED:** I learned my absentee ballot application or ballot was rejected. How can I confirm this and what can I do to fix any errors or get another one?
- 56. **COMPLETING BALLOT:** How do I complete the absentee ballot?
- 57. **ASSISTANCE COMPLETING BALLOT:** Can someone assist me filling out the ballot?
- 58. **BALLOT DEADLINES:** What is the deadline for the ballot to be postmarked and/or received by, including dropping it off in person?
- 59. **BALLOT DROP OFF LOCATIONS:** Where can I drop off a ballot (instead of mailing it)?
- 60. **ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF:** Can someone else drop off my completed ballot for me?
- 61. **LOST OR SPOILED:** What if I lost my absentee ballot or it is spoiled, or I received an incorrect one?
- 62. **NON-RECEIPT OF BALLOT:** What if I requested an absentee ballot but have not received it?
- 63. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested an absentee ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?
- 64. **IN PERSON ABSENTEE:** Where do I vote in-person absentee? When can I do this?

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

- 65. **POLLING PLACE NOT OPEN:** The polling place is not open. What should I do?
- 66. **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?
- 67. **EQUIPMENT FAILURE:** What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?
- 68. **CAMPAIGNING:** What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place? What counts as campaigning or electioneering? Can people approach me?
- 69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?

- 70. **election inspector CONDUCT:** What is a election inspector prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?
- 71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?
- 72. **CHALLENGE:** Someone is formally challenging my vote. What should I do?
- 73. **POLICE/MILITARY PRESENCE:** There are police/military at the polling place. Is this okay? What should I do?
- 74. **THOUGHT WAS REGISTERED:** My name isn't on the voter registration roll but I thought I was registered. What should I do?
- 75. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do? (Also see info in the [Election Day Voting section above](#)).

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

- 76. **EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE:** I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?
- 77. **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?
- 78. **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?
- 79. **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?
- 80. **CURBSIDE VOTING:** Is curbside voting available? How do I request it?
- 81. **VOTER GUIDE:** Can I bring a voting guide or reference notes with me into the voting booth?

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT (Anything that is particular/unique about voting in this state that is not captured elsewhere in the document.)

- 82. **GUNS AT THE POLLING PLACE:** Are firearms permitted in my polling place?
- 83. **VOTING WHILE UNHOUSED:** What if I am unhoused? Can I still vote?
- 84. **QUESTIONS:** Who should I contact if I have questions about any of the above?

REGISTERING TO VOTE

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?

An individual may register to vote if they are:

- A U.S. citizen,
- A resident of Michigan for at least 30 days by Election Day,*
- 17 ½ years old on or before Election Day (16-17 year olds may *pre-register to vote* and will be *automatically* registered when they turn 17 1/2), and
- Not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison.

*If attempting to register within 14 days of Election Day, they must show proof of where they live¹. Documents/digital copy of the documents must have name and current address. Acceptable documents include:

- Michigan driver's license or state ID
- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Paycheck or government check
- Other government document

2. **PRIMARY ELECTION:** [Can I vote in the primary election? Do I need to be registered with a political party? Can I change my party registration to vote in another party's primary election? When I voted, the election inspector asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?](#)

Any person eligible to register and vote in Michigan can vote in the primary election. The voter does not need to be registered with a political party or declare a party affiliation. However, the voter can only vote for one party's candidates in the entire partisan section of the ballot. In Michigan this is also described as "not crossing party lines."

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

A voter can check their registration status by:

- Online, at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>. Enter the required information to see if they are registered to vote where they currently live.²
- Calling their city or township clerk's office (preferred) or their county clerk's office. Contact information at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>. The voter should click on "Your Voter Information," scroll down to "Search for your city/township clerk," and enter their residential address

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

Prior to October 22, 2024 for the 2024 General Election, Michiganders can register to vote:

- Online: [Michigan Online Voter Registration](#)³. Voter must have a valid MI driver's license or state ID to use this option.
- Mail, Email, or Dropbox: Download (need printer) and complete voter registration application [ED-121: Michigan Voter Registration Application and Change of Address Form](#). FIRST TIME VOTERS: Pay attention to ID requirement instructions. Return directly to the voter's city or township clerk's office, by mail, by email, or by using a secure dropbox in their city or township.
- Phone: Voter can call their city or township clerk and have them mail them the form (if they do not have printer access). Phone numbers can be found at [Your voter information](#).
- Through a voters' registration drive

¹ <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/RegisterToVote/#process>

² [MI.gov/VOTE](#)

³ [MI.gov/VOTE](#)

- In Person at any of the following locations:
 - Any SOS branch office (Until end of day, October 21, 2024)
 - Any state agency that provides public assistance or services to people with disabilities (Until end of day October 21, 2024)
 - The voter’s city, township, or county clerk’s office (Anytime, and the only option after October 21st, 2024). Addresses: [Your voter information](#).
- Military and Overseas MI residents have additional registration options; see [FAQ#11](#) below.

For the General Election 2024: starting October 22 through 8 p.m. on Election Day, November 5, Michiganders must register to vote in person at their city or township clerk’s office with proof of residency. Proof of residency is a paper or electronic document with the voter’s name and current address, including a Michigan driver’s license, utility bill, or bank statement.

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

In-Person Registration

A person will be asked to present a photo ID when they go to register in person. They do not need a photo ID or proof of citizenship to *register* to vote. Valid forms of photo ID include:

- MI Driver’s license or state ID or
- A *nonexpired* driver’s or state ID from another state, or
- Federal, state, or local government-issued photo ID;
- U.S. Passport;
- Military ID with Photo;
- Student ID with photo from an educational institution; and
- Tribal ID with photo.

If they do not have photo ID, the person may sign an affidavit to that effect and be allowed to register to vote⁴.

If the voter registers between October 22, 2024 and 8 p.m. on Election Day, November 5 they must register at their city or township clerk’s office **and** 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/digital/electronic copies of any of the following documents will work:

- A Michigan driver’s license or state ID;
- A current utility bill;
- A bank statement;
- A paycheck stub;
- A government check; or
- Any other government document.⁵

Online Registration

To register to vote online, the voter must provide a valid Michigan driver’s license or state ID number.

Mail Registration

⁴ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.497c(2)

⁵ *Id.* at (2)-(3).

If a voter registers to vote through the mail, and they have a Michigan driver's license or state ID card or a Social Security Number, it is recommended that they enter those numbers on the registration application where indicated.

If the voter has never registered to vote in Michigan and chooses to mail in the registration application, federal law requires verification of the voter's identity by including the following:

- A Michigan driver's license or state ID number where requested on the form; OR
- The last 4 digits of the voter's Social Security number where requested on the form; OR
- Sending a copy (not an original document) of ONE of the following forms of identification with the application:
 - A Michigan driver's license or state ID, or
 - A paycheck stub, utility bill, bank document or government document that lists both name and address.

The federal identification requirement for first-time Michigan voters who register to vote by mail **does not** apply if the voter (1) hand-delivers the application to their county, city, or township clerk's office, (2) is disabled, or (3) is eligible to vote under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (see [Question 11](#)).

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?](#)

- Online: must be received by end of day October 21, 2024
- Mail, Email, or Dropbox: must be received or postmarked by October 21, 2024
- In Person:
 - October 21, 2024 at: Secretary of State branch office, voter registration drive, any designated state agency that provides public assistance or services to people with disabilities, or the voter's city or township or county clerk's office (without proof of residency).
 - October 22-Election Day 8 PM local time **only at** the voter's city or township clerk's office with proof of residency. [See FAQ #5 above](#).

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

Yes, Michigan has same day registration. The voter can register to vote until 8 PM local time (close of polls) Election Day, at their city or township clerk's office with proof of residency. ([See FAQ #5 above](#).)

Election Day Voting Options for Same Day Registration:

- the voter can vote using an *absentee ballot* at the clerk's office after registering; or
- the voter can vote at their polling location, *ONLY IF* realistically feasible with time constraints, *AND SHOULD BRING THEIR VOTER REGISTRATION RECEIPT WITH THEM*; or
- The voter can register and vote at an Election Day Vote Center with a *regular ballot*, if a Vote Center is available to them.⁶ The voter will need to contact their local city/township clerk to determine if one is available. Phone numbers at [Your voter information](#).

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

⁶ M.C.L.A. 168.523b

- Move **within** the same city or township: If the voter has moved within the same city or township where they are registered, they may vote at their old polling place one last time, or they may choose to register and vote at their new address.
- Move **to a different** city or township:
 - More than 60 days before Election Day (September 6, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election) – the voter must register to vote at their new address. See [FAQ # 4](#).
 - Between 60 and 30 days of Election Day (September 6, 2024 through October 6, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election) – the voter may vote *either* in person or by absentee ballot in their old city or township one last time *OR* at their new polling place after updating their registration address and signing an affidavit⁷.
 - Less than 30 days before Election Day (October 6, 2024 for the November 5, 2024 general election) – the voter must vote in their old city or township since they will not meet the 30-day residency requirement to register to vote in their new city or township.⁸

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

The voter can:

- Request an Absent Voter ballot (“AV ballot”) be sent to their temporary address;
- Re-register to vote at their current address (if they will have resided in that city or township for 30 days by Election Day). See [FAQ # 4](#);
- If the voter’s temporary address is in the same city/township as (or close to) their permanent address, they can:
 - Go to their city or township clerk’s office where the voter is registered and vote in-person before Election Day using an absentee ballot;
 - Go to an early voting site that serves the community where the voter is registered, and vote using a regular ballot before Election Day; or
 - Go to their assigned 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 from Michigan and attending a school in Michigan can register to vote at their school address or at their home address.
- Students from Michigan but attending 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 if they have lived in Michigan for at least 30 days.
- Remote learners must register where they are domiciled.

If a student (or any voter) has a Michigan driver’s license or state ID card, and they are registered to vote in Michigan, the voter registration address and the address on their ID must be the same. This means if a student (or any voter) changes the address on one, it will automatically change the address on the other. The Secretary of State will mail a sticker with the new address to place on their license or ID card.

⁷ M.C.L.A. 168.507a

⁸ M.C.L.A. 168.506

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

REGISTRATION:

If the military/overseas voter has a MI drivers license/state ID, the easiest way to register is online, at [Michigan Online Voter Registration](#) . If not, the following options are available to register:

1. **Mail, Email, or Dropbox:** Download and complete voter registration application [FD-121: Michigan Voter Registration Application and Change of Address Form](#). FIRST TIME VOTERS: Pay attention to ID requirements instructions. Return to the voter's city or township clerk's office by mail, fax, or email. See [Michigan](#) FPCA page for contact information. **NOTE: ASK THE CALLER HOW THEY WANT TO RECEIVE THEIR BALLOT. The voter will NOT HAVE an option for receiving their ballot via email/fax if they use this form.**
2. Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)*: Can be completed online or by downloading the application at ([Standard Form 76, "Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)"](#)) and returning via email or fax. Emailed or faxed applications must include this transmission cover sheet [Transmission Cover Sheet To: From:](#). See [Michigan](#) FPCA page for contact information. **The FPCA must be received by the voter's city or township clerk's office by November 2, 2024, even if it is received by the county before this.** For more information on the FPCA, go to <https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/States/michigan.pdf>
3. Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)*: Must be received by November 2, 2024 if also used for registration purposes. Can be completed online at <https://www.fvap.gov/fwab-privacy-notice> or by downloading ([Standard Form 186, Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot \(FWAB\)](#)) and returning via email/fax with the required transmission cover sheet([Transmission Cover Sheet To: From:](#)) to their local elections officials (see [Michigan](#) FPCA page for contact information). If the FWAB is being used for registration (in addition to voting), **it must be received by the voter's city or township clerk's office by November 2, 2024, even if it is received by the county before this.**

***Only voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) are eligible to use the FPCA and FWAB and receive an absentee ballot by email or fax⁹.** Covered voters include:

- A member of a uniformed service on active duty who is absent from their 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 their 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.

VOTING:

⁹ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.759a.

Absentee ballots may be requested online if the military overseas voter has a MI driver's license or state ID at [Michigan Online Absent Voter Ballot Application](#). Absentee ballots can be requested at any time and must be mailed to UOCAVA voters starting 45 days before Election Day (September 21, 2024). There are 3 ways to request and vote an absentee ballot:

1. Registered military/overseas voters can receive voting materials by fax, email, or postal service. See [FAQ # 32](#). Additionally, they have the option to join the *permanent* absentee ballot list, through which they would automatically be mailed a ballot to their registration or alternative mailing address before each election in their community.
2. If the military/overseas voter registered using the FPCA, their ballots are sent by the delivery method chosen in the application, either by mail, fax, or email. If voters do not select a delivery method, their ballot will be mailed. MUST BE RETURNED VIA POSTAL MAIL.¹⁰ **NOTE:** The voter will need computer/printer access to download their ballot.¹¹
3. The military/overseas voter should use the FWAB if there isn't enough time to receive their ballot before the election. FWABs are available at consulates, embassies, from Military Voting Assistance Officers, and [online](#). MUST BE RETURNED VIA POSTAL MAIL.¹² **NOTE:** The voter will need computer/printer access to download their ballot.

DEADLINES:

- Ballots may be requested at any time. See [FAQ # 32](#). Ballots must be mailed to military/overseas registered voters 45 days before Election Day.
- All absentee ballots must be POSTMARKED BY 8 PM MI local time, and received within 6 days of Election Day (November 11, 2024)¹³ to count.

NOTE: A military/overseas voter can always contact (phone/email/fax) their local city or township office should they need further assistance. See [Michigan](#) FPCA page for contact information.

12. CRIMINAL CONVICTION: I have a felony criminal conviction. Can I register to vote? Does the type of conviction matter? Are there any restrictions after any misdemeanor convictions?

Yes, those with felony or misdemeanor convictions can register and vote if the voter is not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison in Michigan or another state.¹⁴

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

The voter can register and vote if the voter is in jail but has not been sentenced.¹⁵ For registration purposes, residency is where the voter resided prior to incarceration. The voter can also register and vote if the voter:

- Is serving a sentence but is not in jail or prison;

¹⁰ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.759a

¹¹ Effective September, 2025, Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.759a will allow for electronic delivery of ballots

¹² Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.759a

¹³ MI Const. art. II § 4

¹⁴ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.758b.

¹⁵ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.492a

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

A person who is convicted of *EITHER* a misdemeanor or felony and *IS* currently incarcerated, may not vote.¹⁶

For incarcerated individuals who were registered to vote prior to incarceration, their right to vote is automatically restored upon release.

Please check [Restore Your Vote: I have a felony conviction. Can I vote? | Campaign Legal Center](#) for further information.

14. **REGISTRATION CHALLENGED:** My registration has been challenged, what should I do?

****IMPORTANT: First question to ask a voter is *WHO* is challenging them!****

- A credentialed election challenger **must be wearing a badge that identifies them as an election challenger**, (the badge cannot identify their political party or organization). They can challenge a person's eligibility to vote or the actions of an election inspector, but **cannot speak to the voter directly**.
- Precinct chairperson/election inspector are the **ONLY** individuals who can approach and speak to a voter directly.
- A poll watcher **cannot challenge** a person's eligibility to vote or the actions of an election inspector.

Only an election worker, a credentialed challenger, or a registered voter residing in the same precinct as the voter can question the voter's eligibility to vote at a voting location¹⁷. There are only four permissible reasons to challenge a voter's eligibility:

- The person is not registered to vote;
- The person is less than 18 years of age *and* will not be 18 years of age by Election Day;
- The person is not a United States citizen; and
- The person has not lived (or will not live) in the city or township in which they are attempting to vote for 30 or more days prior to Election Day.

If the voter is challenged and the voter believes they are in the correct precinct, they should ask to be sworn in by the election inspector; answer only questions necessary to establish the voter's eligibility to vote (the election inspector or qualified elector may only ask the questions necessary to confirm that the voter meets the criteria disputed by the challenger¹⁸); and vote.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.727(1); 733(1)(c).

¹⁸ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.729.

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

15. 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.¹⁹ **URGE VOTERS TO REMAIN IN LINE!!!!** If they leave the line for any reason after 8PM, they will lose their right to vote.

*Most of Michigan is in the Eastern Time Zone. Note that the four counties of Dickinson, Gogebic, Iron, and Menominee in the western Upper Peninsula, are in the Central Time Zone.

16. 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 on Election Day.

They can find their polling place*:

- Online at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>.
- On their Voter Identification Card or Registration Receipt; or
- By calling their city or township clerk. For office location and phone number, [Your voter information](#) (scroll down)

*Recommend that the voter confirm their polling location online or by calling their city or township clerk as their polling place may have changed since they last voted due to redistricting or polling place consolidations.

If the voter is not registered to vote where they live, they must either (1) visit their city or township clerk's office or satellite office with proof of residency by 8 PM on Election Day (November 5, 2024) to register to vote. Once they are registered, they can:

- Vote by an absentee ballot immediately at the clerk's office or
- Travel to their new polling location if in line by 8 PM.²⁰ NOT PREFERRED, because there is no guarantee the voter will be able to get to their polling location in time. If they wish to go to their polling location, it is recommended that they bring their new voter registration receipt with them.

Or, (2) they can go to an Election Day Vote Center, if one is available in their community, to register and vote with a regular ballot to be tabulated in the same location. The voter should check with their local city or township to determine availability; for contact info: <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>

If the voter has moved recently within the state or within the same city or township and has not updated their registration, please see [FAQ #8](#).

¹⁹ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.720.

²⁰ Mich. Comp. Laws Secs. 168.499e, 168.523a, 168.759(1)(d).

17. **TIME OFF WORK:** Is my employer required to give me time off to vote? Is it paid or unpaid?

No, employers are not mandated by law to give voters time off to vote.

18. **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 local time when polls close.²¹ **They must stay in line to be eligible to vote.**

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

The voter will be asked for a photo ID when they go to vote. If they have a photo ID, they must show it.²² If they do not have a photo ID, or do not have it with them, they must be offered to sign an affidavit verifying their identity *AND* must be allowed to vote a *REGULAR (NOT PROVISIONAL)* ballot.²³ **HOWEVER**, a voter who signs the affidavit in lieu of presenting ID will be susceptible to a challenge should a qualified challenger choose to challenge their qualifications to vote²⁴.

CAVEAT FOR FIRST-TIME VOTERS WHO REGISTERED THROUGH THE MAIL OR VOTER REGISTRATION

DRIVE: If the voter is a first time registrant in Michigan and registered through the mail or a voter registration drive without providing any method to verify their identification (MI driver's license or state ID number or last four digits of their SSN), the voter will need to provide some documentation to vote²⁵. 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), such as:
 - Driver's license or personal ID card from any state (if not from MI, must be current)²⁶;
 - High school or college photo 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, such as:
 - Current utility bill;
 - Bank statement;
 - Paycheck stub;
 - Government check; or
 - Any other government document.²⁷

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

²¹ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.720.

²² Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.523(1)

²³ MI Const. art. II § 4 (g)(2)

²⁴ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.523(2); 168.727

²⁵ 42 U.S.C. 15483

²⁶ <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/faqs/elections-and-campaign-finance/elections-and-voting>

²⁷ Mich. Comp. Laws Secs. 168.523a(1)(b), 168.523a(5).

Yes. Most voters are not required to provide identification, including photo ID, to vote. However, a first-time registrant who registered through the mail or a voter registration drive may need to provide some documentation to vote. See [Question 19](#) for more information.

21. 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?

Yes, but first:

- Confirm with the voter if they are at the correct location ([see FAQ #16](#)), and if they are not, help them find the correct location. The election inspector MUST assist the voter in finding their correct polling location if duly registered.²⁸
-
- If the voter is at the correct location for their address:
 - Ask the voter if they still have their voter registration receipt that they can show the elections officials, and ask them to have the official contact the clerk's office **while they remain at the polling location** to confirm registration status.
 - Confirm with the voter **when** they registered to vote. Even if they are at the correct polling location based on their address, if they registered **online or by mail within 15 days of Election Day** (October 21st, 2024), they **must** go to their clerk's office, clerk's satellite office, or Election Day Vote Center (if available in their community) to show proof of residency. Information on clerk's office locations at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index> (scroll down to "City Clerk Search"). If there isn't time before poll closure to go to the city or township clerk's office, they should vote a provisional ballot. See [FAQ #22](#).

If those don't solve the issue, you can also try asking the voter the following:

- If they have had a recent name change. They should ask the election inspector to check the registration roll under their previous name to see if they can locate them.
- The last time they voted. If it has been more than six years, they may have been removed from the voter files.

If none of these solve the issue, then the voter will be asked to execute a sworn statement affirming that they submitted a voter registration application on or before election day and are eligible to vote in the election.²⁹ The elections official will take the statement and verify the information provided with the city or township clerk. Once verified, the voter must be permitted to vote a provisional ballot. See [FAQ #22](#)

22. GIVEN PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I have to vote provisionally, what does that mean?

A voter receives a provisional ballot if they are not on the list of registered voters at their present polling location (see [FAQ #21](#)). At this point, the voter will be offered one of the following types of provisional ballots:

- **Affidavit provisional ballot (run through the tabulator and counted on Election Day).**³⁰

²⁸ Mich. Comp. Laws Secs. 168.523a(1)(b)

²⁹ Mich. Comp. Laws Secs. 168.523a

³⁰ Mich. Comp. Laws Secs. 168.523a(4)

- Provided if the voter is at the correct precinct for their address and they claim to have registered to vote 15 or more days before Election Day (October 21, 2024 or earlier).
- Must present a photo ID with their current address that shows they are in the correct location along with their sworn affidavit.
- **Envelope provisional ballot (set aside and reviewed after Election Day).**³¹
 - Provided if the voter cannot present photo ID with current address, is in the wrong precinct location, or the election inspector cannot reach the city or township clerk to verify the voter's information.
 - The voter must provide the clerk's office with any documentation to verify their voter registration within six days after Election Day (November 11, 2024)

Please Note: If the voter is in the *wrong* polling place and votes a provisional ballot, their ballot *will not be counted!* In this situation, please encourage the voter to go to the correct polling place!

23. REQUESTING PROVISIONAL BALLOT: I am being told I can't vote, can I vote provisionally?

Yes, See [Question 22](#) above. The voter must be offered a provisional ballot if they claim to have registered to vote, are not listed on the registered voter list for that precinct, 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.

Please Note: If the voter is in the *wrong* polling place and votes a provisional ballot, their ballot *will not be counted!* In this situation, please encourage the voter to go to the correct polling place!

24. PROVISIONAL BALLOT NEXT STEPS: I voted a provisional ballot, what now?

If the voter voted an **envelope** provisional ballot, the voter has until *6 days* after Election Day (November 11, 2024 for the general election) to go to the clerk's office in person to provide appropriate identification documents or to provide the clerk in person, by fax, or by mail the residency documents to show that the voter is registered to vote in that precinct.³² The clerk must provide a free access system for the voter to determine whether the ballot was tabulated (toll free number, internet website, or mail). If the provisional ballot is rejected, the clerk must provide a reason to the voter.³³

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY **VOTING**

(in this state defined as: absentee voting in person)

³¹ Mich. Comp. Laws Secs. 168.523a(5)

³² Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.523a(5)-(7); [Provisional Ballot - Notices to Voter](#).

³³ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.523a(7); [Provisional Ballot - Notices to Voter](#)

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

Yes.

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

No.

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

Early voting must begin on the second Saturday before the election (October 26, 2024) through the Sunday before the election (November 3, 2024). EV sites must be open for a minimum of eight hours each day of this mandatory period. Some jurisdictions may offer additional days (up to 29 days)³⁴ and hours.³⁵ See [FAQ #28](#) for link.

Voters standing in line when an early voting site closes have the right to stay in line and cast a ballot.

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

Early voting site locations can be found at [Your voter information](#). **Note that a voter's EV location may be *different from* their polling location on Election Day.**³⁶

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

Identification requirements are the same as in-person Election Day voting. The voter can vote without ID. See [FAQ #19](#); [FAQ #20](#).

30. **ASSISTANCE:** What if I need assistance voting early in person?

Any voter with a disability, or unable to read may designate a person of their choice or two election inspectors to enter the voting booth and record the votes as they direct.³⁷ The person providing assistance cannot be the voter's employer, agent of their employer, or an officer or agent of their labor union³⁸

HOW TO VOTE: VOTE BY MAIL **(in this state defined as: Absentee Voting)**

³⁴<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/early-in-person-voting#WhoCanVoteEarly>

³⁵ Mich. Const. art. II(1)(m)

³⁶ Mich. Const. art. II(1)(m)

³⁷ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec.168.754; <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting/#machine>

³⁸ <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting#language>.

OVERSEAS/MILITARY VOTERS: REFER TO [FAQ #11](#)

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

If the voter signed up for the “Permanent Mail Ballot List” after May 2023, the voter will automatically receive a ballot in the mail. If not, the voter will need to request an absentee ballot.

32. ELIGIBILITY: Do I have to have a reason to vote absentee?

No. The voter does not need an excuse or a reason to vote absentee. In every election, all registered voters in Michigan can vote absentee beginning 40 days before Election Day.³⁹

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

1. **Online:** The voter must have the last four digits of their SSN; can request here: [Michigan Online Absent Voter Ballot Application](#). Voters with print disabilities may apply for an accessible electronic absentee ballot online that can be completed electronically, printed, and returned to their local clerk by mail, dropbox, or in person. To apply online for an accessible electronic absent voter ballot, click [here](#). Clerk’s contact information at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>.
2. **Mail, Email, or Dropbox:** Voters can fill out a print application (available to download and print online at mi.gov/vote under “Voter forms and publications” or call their clerk and ask that one be mailed to them) and return the application via mail, email, or using a secure dropbox provided by the voter’s city or township clerk’s. (Voter needs to make sure their signature can be clearly seen if emailed). Clerk’s contact information at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>.
3. **In Person:**
 - **Voters with current registration** may request an absentee ballot in person at their city or township clerk’s office beginning 40 days before Election Day **until 4 PM on the Monday before Election Day (November 4, 2024)**. The voter can take the ballot home with them, or vote their ballot at their clerk’s office after dropping off their absentee ballot application.
 - **Unregistered voters or voters who need to update their** registration may request an absentee ballot in person at their city or township clerk’s office beginning 40 days before Election Day **up to 8 PM on Election Day after registering to vote or updating their registration**. Note: will also have to bring proof of residency if registering to vote within 14 days of ED through ED. [See FAQ #5](#)

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

³⁹ Mich. Const. art. II Sec. 4(1)(h)

Requests for an absent voter ballot online or by mail must be **received** by the voter's township or city clerk no later than 5 PM on Friday, November 1, 2024. **However, best practice is to request an absentee ballot no later than October 21, 2024.** There is no guarantee that a voter who submits their application close to the deadline (November 1 at 5 PM) will actually receive a ballot by mail before Election Day.

If it is after October 21, 2024, and the voter wishes to vote before Election Day, there are two recommended options for those voters who have *not yet requested* an absentee ballot:

1. Vote in person at an early voting site. [See FAQ# 28.](#)
2. Vote in person at their city or township clerk's office by absentee ballot
 - Registered voters can request an absentee ballot up to 4 PM Monday, November 1, 2024.
 - Unregistered voters or voters who need to update their registration can request an absentee ballot after registering or updating their registration until 8 PM Election Day (November 5, 2024). Will also have to bring proof of residency if registering to vote within 14 days of ED through ED per [FAQ #5.](#)

34. **APPLICATION ASSISTANCE:** [Can someone assist me with filling out the application?](#)

Yes. A voter may be assisted in filling out the **absentee ballot application**, but the voter must sign their own application. If the voter has a disability and is unable to sign their own name, they can use their mark or signature stamp.⁴⁰ If the registered voter's signature has changed due to illness/disability, the voter should contact their city or township clerk to make sure their signature is updated.

If the voter is disabled or unable to mark the ballot by themselves, they can receive assistance **completing their ballot** from anyone they choose, except for their employer, an agent of their employer, or an officer or agent of their labor union.⁴¹

35. **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?](#)

Online and mailed absentee ballot applications **must be received** by 5 PM Friday, November 1, 2024. Applications can be returned by: mail, fax, or email to the voter's city or township clerk, or placed in a secure drop box located in the city or township where the voter is registered. Dropbox locations found on the clerks link at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk> .

In-Person absentee ballot applications must be delivered to their city or township clerk's office by 4 PM Monday, November 4, 2024 for *registered* voters; 8 PM Election Day November 5, 2024 for *unregistered or voters who need to update their registration*.⁴²

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

⁴⁰ Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. Sec. 168.500.

⁴¹ <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting#language>.

⁴² <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/absentee-voting#Return>

grandchild, or a person residing in their household may mail or deliver the application to the clerk for the applicant.⁴³

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 except for the voter's employer, agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a union to which the voter belongs.⁴⁴ The person helping the voter *must* sign the "Certificate of Authorized Registered Elector Assisting in Returning Application" on the voter's absentee ballot application.

36. IDENTIFICATION: Are there identification requirements when I return my mail-in ballot application and/or ballot?

If the voter has voted in Michigan before or provided ID at the time of registration, they don't need to provide ID to vote by mail.⁴⁵

If the voter is a first time registrant in Michigan who registered by mail or through a voter registration drive **and** didn't provide ID when they registered (such as a driver's license number, state ID number, or last four digits of your social security number), they'll need to provide any the following to vote by mail the first time they vote after registering:

- A Michigan driver's license or state ID, or
- A paycheck stub, utility bill, bank document or government document that lists both name and address.

37. 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 ballot does not need to be sent to the voter's registration address⁴⁶. The voter can receive an absent voter ballot:

- At any temporary residential address other than their registration address; or
- A post office box or mailing address, if the voter receives mail at that post office box rather than at their registration address.⁴⁷

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

The voter will not be able to vote by mail, but can request an absentee ballot in person at their city or township clerk's office by 4 PM Monday, November 4th (if the voter is already registered to vote where they currently live). Alternatively, the voter may also go to their assigned early voting site and cast a ballot in person.

⁴³ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.764a(1)(c)

⁴⁴ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.759(8)(d); <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/absentee-voting#Return>

⁴⁵ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.759(3)

⁴⁶ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec.168.759(10)

⁴⁷ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.761(3).

Depending on the voter’s specific circumstances, they may be eligible to receive an emergency absentee ballot if they missed the application deadline. See [Question 52](#).

39. 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 ballot at [Your voter information](#).

Application status: If there is no date listed under the “received” field, and it is before 4 PM Monday, November 1, 2024, the voter can go in person to their city or township clerk’s office and request a new application (they will also be able to get their absentee ballot).

Ballot status: If there is no date listed under the “received” field, and it is Election Day, the voter can go to their polling location, and vote a new ballot, following the procedure in [FAQ #47](#). At the polling location, the voter can fill out a form and vote a new ballot if their city or township clerk has not yet received the absentee ballot.

If the voter cannot track their ballot through the mi.gov/vote “Your Voter Information” system, the voter can call their city or township clerk’s office. Clerk’s contact information can be found at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>.

40. 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?

Application: May be rejected for failure to sign the application, or for a mismatch between the signature on the application and the voter’s digitized signature on file. The clerk must notify the elector via telephone, email, or text message, if available, and if not, by first class mail⁴⁸ by the end of the next business day following the receipt of the absent voter ballot application of the signature problem; if the application is received within 5 days of Election Day, the clerk must inform the voter by the end of the calendar day the application is received.⁴⁹ The voter may submit a new request online or by mail if it can be received by 5 PM Friday, November 1, 2024 or may apply for an absentee ballot in person at their local clerk’s office and vote absentee up to 4 PM the Monday before Election Day (November 4, 2024).

Ballot: If the voter’s absentee ballot is rejected because of a problem with the voter’s signature, the city or township clerk must notify the voter immediately and provide them with instructions on how to correct the deficiency.⁵⁰ All notice requirements above apply to ballot rejection. To ensure that the ballot is counted, the voter must correct any issue with the signature by 5 PM on the Friday after Election Day (November 8, 2024).⁵¹

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

⁴⁸ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.766a(4)

⁴⁹ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.766b(1-2)

⁵⁰ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.765a.

⁵¹ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.766(3).

1. Complete ballot: Voters should complete their absentee ballot by ***carefully following the written instructions included with the ballot***. Instructions may differ based on the type of election. Voters may contact their local clerk with questions about how to complete an absentee ballot.
2. Insert ballot into the secrecy sleeve as directed.
3. **Sign and date** the absentee ballot envelope in the identical manner as the voter signed their MI driver's license, state ID, or voter registration application. Seal the envelope.
4. Return the ballot.

Regardless of the manner of delivery, the ballot ***must be received by their city or township clerk by 8 PM Election Day (November 5, 2024)***. This deadline ***does not apply to overseas/military voters***. Absentee ballots from military and overseas voters must be postmarked by 8 PM local MI time Election Day and received by the city or township clerk within 6 days of the election (November 11, 2024).

Track ballot at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/>.

If the voter is going to mail the ballot, the State of Michigan recommends that they do so by **October 21, 2024**. Voters may also return their completed absentee ballots to a drop box provided by their city or township clerk or directly to their city or township clerk's office (or satellite office) by 8 PM on Election Day.

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

Yes. If the voter is disabled or unable to mark the ballot by themselves, they can receive assistance completing their ballot from anyone they choose, except for their employer, an agent of their employer, or an officer or agent of their labor union..⁵²

If the voter received assistance filling out the ballot, then the signature of the person who helped the voter must also be on the return envelope.

43. **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?](#)

Absentee ballots (including accessible absentee ballots) must be **RECEIVED** by the voter's **CITY OR TOWNSHIP CLERK** no later than 8 PM Election Day (November 5, 2024).

Military/Overseas Voters: Absentee ballots must be **POSTMARKED** by 8 PM local MI time and received by the voter's city or township clerk within six days of the election (November 11, 2024).

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

- Using the voter's city or township dropbox. Locations can be found at the clerk's tab at [Your voter information](#). Ballots must be returned to a dropbox by 8 PM local time.
- At the voter's city or township clerk's office (or satellite office) by 8 PM local time. Locations can be found at [Your voter information](#).
- At their early voting site (***except voters in Detroit***). Voters living anywhere except the City of Detroit can take their completed ballot to their early voting site, check in with the poll workers,

⁵² <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting#language>.

and insert their ballot directly into a tabulator. Locations and hours can be found at [Your voter information](#).

- At their assigned polling place. Voters anywhere in the state can take their completed ballot to their assigned polling place, check in with the poll workers, and insert their ballot directly into a tabulator. Voters can find their assigned polling place at [Your voter information](#).

45. 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 a person residing in their household.⁵³ If that option is not possible, the voter can ask their city or township clerk to pick up their completed ballot. To do so, the voter's completed ballot must be within the city or township where they vote, and the voter must call their city or township clerk by 5 PM on the Friday before Election Day (November 1, 2024) to ask the clerk to pick up their ballot.⁵⁴

46. 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 a voter requested an absentee ballot but never received it, lost it, destroyed it, or made a mistake **and never returned it to their clerk**, they have options:

- Submit a written request for a new absentee ballot **by mail** by 5pm on the Friday before Election Day (November 1).⁵⁵ A new ballot will be mailed to the voter; *but there is no guarantee the voter will receive the ballot in the mail in time to vote it.*
- Submit a written request for a new absentee ballot **in person** at their city or township clerk's office or satellite office by 4pm the Monday before Election Day (November 4). The voter can take the ballot home with them to fill out or fill it out in the clerk's office.⁵⁶
- Go in person to their early voting site during the early voting period or to their polling place on Election Day, tell the worker they requested but never returned their absentee ballot, sign an affidavit, and vote a regular ballot. See [FAQ #48](#) regarding spoilage/in person voting.

If the voter requested an absentee ballot, **returned it to their clerk, and wishes to change their vote** they must submit a written request to their city or township clerk by mail or in person by 5pm the second Friday before Election Day (October 25).

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

1. The voter may go to their city or township clerk's office by 4 PM, November 4th, 2024, to spoil the ballot and request a new absentee ballot or
2. Vote in person at their assigned early voting site or polling place on Election Day:

⁵³Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.764a(1)(c)

⁵⁴ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.168.764a(1)(d)

⁵⁵Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.765b(1),(3).

⁵⁶ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.765b(3)(b)

- The election inspectors must first call the local clerk to verify that the voter’s absent voter ballot has not been returned to the clerk.
- Once the clerk verifies to the election inspector that the absent voter ballot was not returned to the clerk, the voter *must* sign an affidavit of lost or destroyed absent voter ballot.
- The voter will then be allowed to vote a *regular* ballot, **unless** the voter is challenged. If the voter is challenged, they will be given a *challenged* ballot that will get fed into the tabulator.⁵⁷

48. **IN PERSON OPTION:** What if I requested or received a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person at an early voting site or at my polling place on Election Day?

If the voter has not yet returned their absentee ballot, the voter can complete their absentee ballot, go to their early voting site (except voters living in Detroit) or polling place on Election Day, check in with the election inspectors, and insert their ballot into a tabulator. Alternatively, they may also surrender the ballot at their early voting site or assigned polling place on Election Day and then be permitted to vote. *NOTE:* If the voter surrenders their absentee ballot, they must be allowed to vote a *REGULAR* ballot.

HOW TO VOTE: ABSENTEE **(in this state defined as: Absentee)**

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

Yes, all registered voters can request an absentee ballot. If the voter signed up for the “Permanent Mail Ballot List” after May 2023, the voter will automatically receive a ballot in the mail. If not, the voter will need to request an absentee ballot.

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

4. **Online:** The voter must have the last four digits of their SSN; can request here: [Michigan Online Absent Voter Ballot Application](#). Voters with print disabilities may apply for an accessible electronic absentee ballot online that can be completed electronically, printed, and returned to their local clerk in person, by mail, or using a dropbox provided by their clerk. To apply online for an accessible electronic absent voter ballot, click [here](#). Clerk’s contact information at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>.
5. **Mail, Email, or Dropbox:** Voters can fill out a print application (available to download and print online at mi.gov/vote under “Voter forms and publications” or call their clerk and ask that one be mailed to them) and return the application via mail, email, or using a secure dropbox provided by the voter’s city or township clerk. (Voter needs to make sure their signature can be clearly seen if emailed). Clerk’s contact information at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>.

⁵⁷ [Election Officials’ Manual, Chapter 11: Election Day](#), p.30

6. **In Person:**

- Voters with *current* registration may request an absentee ballot in person at their city or township clerk's office beginning 40 days before Election Day until 4 PM on the Monday before Election Day (November 4, 2024). The voter can take their ballot home with them or complete it at their clerk's office after dropping off their absentee ballot application.
- *Unregistered* voters or voters who need to *update* their registration may request an absentee ballot in person at their city or township clerk's office beginning 40 days before Election Day up to 8 PM on Election Day after registering to vote or updating their registration. Note: will also have to bring proof of residency if registering to vote within 14 days of ED through ED. [See FAQ #5](#)

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

Requests for an absent voter ballot online or by mail must be **received** by the voter's township or city clerk no later than 5 PM on Friday, November 1, 2024. **However, best practice is to request an absentee ballot no later than October 21, 2024.** There is no guarantee that a voter who submits their application close to the deadline (November 1 at 5 PM) will actually receive a ballot by mail before Election Day.

If it is after October 21, 2024, and the voter wishes to vote before Election Day, there are two recommended options for those voters who have *not yet requested* an absentee ballot:

3. Vote in person at an early voting site. [See FAQ# 28.](#)
4. Vote in person at their city or township clerk's office by absentee ballot.
 - Registered voters can request an absentee ballot up to 4 PM Monday, November 1, 2024.
 - Unregistered voters or voters who need to update their registration can request an absentee ballot after registering or updating their registration until 8 PM Election Day (November 5, 2024). Will need to bring residency verification if registering to vote within 14 days of ED through ED per [FAQ #5.](#)

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

If you've voted in Michigan before or provided ID at the time of registration, you don't need to provide ID to vote by mail.⁵⁸

If you're a first time Michigan registrant who registered by mail or through a voter registration drive and you didn't provide ID when you registered (such as a driver's license number, state ID number, or last four digits of your social security number), you'll need to provide any the following to vote by mail the first time after registering to vote:

- A Michigan driver's license or state ID, or
- A paycheck stub, utility bill, bank document or government document that lists both name and address.

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

⁵⁸ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.759(3)

Yes, emergency absentee ballots are available to qualifying voters who missed the 5 PM November 1, 2024 deadline to request an absentee ballot. To qualify, the voter must have:

- become physically disabled, or
- needed to leave their city or township due to a sickness or death in the family, AND
- either circumstance made it impossible to meet the statutory deadline.⁵⁹

The voter, or their representative, must contact their city or township clerk's office to get the application form (clerk's contact information at [Your voter information](#)), and must be submitted by 4 PM Election Day (November 5, 2024.) The clerk may deliver the ballot to the applicant in person, through a deputy or an election assistant, or give the ballot to a person named by the applicant in the application at their office.⁶⁰

DEADLINE: Ballot must be returned to the clerk's office or a drop box provided by the voter's city or township clerk by close of polls 8 PM Election Day (November 5, 2024).

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

Absentee ballot applications submitted online, by mail, by fax, by email, or by dropbox **must be received** by the clerk's office by 5 PM Friday, November 1, 2024.

Applications returned by dropbox must be placed in a secure drop box located **in the city or township where the voter is registered**. Dropbox locations found on the clerks link at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>. **Note: There is no guarantee that a voter who submits an application by the November 1 deadline will receive their ballot through the mail in time to complete it and return it by the deadline. Within two weeks of the election, voters should be encouraged to vote in person, if possible.**

In-Person absentee ballot applications **must be delivered** to the voter's city or township clerk's office by 4 PM Monday, November 4, 2024 for voters *registered to vote where they currently lived* and by 8 PM Election Day November 5, 2024 for *unregistered voters or voters who need to update their registration*.⁶¹

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.⁶²

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 except for the voter's employer, agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a union to which the voter belongs.⁶³ Any person helping the voter return their application **must** sign the "Certificate of Authorized Registered Elector Assisting in Returning Application" on the voter's absentee ballot application.

⁵⁹ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.759b; <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Home/VoteAtHome/#emergency>.

⁶⁰ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.759b

⁶¹ <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/absentee-voting#Return>

⁶² Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.764a(1)(c)

⁶³ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.759(8)(d); <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/absentee-voting#Return>

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

The voter can track their absentee ballot application and ballot at [Your voter information](#).

Application status: If there is no date listed under the “received” field, and it is before 4 PM Monday, November 1, 2024, the voter can go in person to their city or township clerk’s office, and request a new application (they will also be able to get their absentee ballot).

Ballot status: If there is no date listed under the “received” field, and it is Election Day, the voter can go to their polling location, and vote a new ballot, following the procedure in [FAQ #47](#). At the polling location, the voter can fill out a form and vote a new ballot if their city or township clerk has not yet received the absentee ballot.

If the voter cannot track their ballot through the [mi.gov/vote](#) “Your Voter Information” system, the voter can call their city or township clerk’s office. Clerk’s contact information can be found at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>.

55. 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?

Application: May be rejected for failure to sign the application, or for a mismatch between the signature on the application and the voter’s digitized signature on file. The clerk must notify the elector of the signature problem via telephone, email, or text message, if available, and if not, by first class mail⁶⁴ by the end of the next business day following the receipt of the absent voter ballot application; if the application is received within 5 days of Election Day, the clerk must inform the voter by the end of the calendar day the application is received.⁶⁵ The voter may submit a new request online or by mail if it can be received by 5 PM Friday, November 1, 2024, or may apply for an absentee ballot in person at their local clerk’s office and vote absentee up to 4 PM the Monday before Election Day (November 4, 2024).

Ballot: If the voter’s absentee ballot is rejected because of a problem with the voter’s signature, the city or township clerk must notify the voter immediately and provide them with instructions on how to correct the deficiency.⁶⁶ All notice requirements above apply to ballot rejection. To ensure that the ballot is counted, the voter must correct any issue with the signature by 5 PM on the Friday after Election Day (November 8, 2024).⁶⁷

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

⁶⁴ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.766a(4)

⁶⁵ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.766b(1-2)

⁶⁶ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.765a.

⁶⁷ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.766(3).

Complete ballot: Voters should complete their absentee ballot by *carefully following the written instructions included with the ballot*. Instructions may differ based on the type of election. Voters may contact their local clerk with questions about how to complete an absentee ballot.

Insert ballot into the secrecy sleeve as directed.

Sign and date the absentee ballot envelope in the identical manner as the voter signed their MI driver's license, state ID, or voter registration application. Seal the envelope.

Return the ballot. Regardless of the manner of delivery, the ballot **must be received by their city or township clerk by 8 PM Election Day (November 5, 2024)**. This deadline **does not apply to overseas/military voters**.

Absentee ballots from military and overseas voters must be postmarked by 8 PM local MI time Election Day and received by the city or township clerk within 6 days of the election (November 11, 2024).

Track ballot at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/>.

If the voter is going to mail the ballot, the State of Michigan recommends that they do so by **October 21, 2024**. Voters may also return their completed absentee ballots to a drop box provided by their city or township clerk or directly to their city or township clerk's office by 8 PM on Election Day.

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

Yes. If the voter is disabled or unable to mark the ballot by themselves, they can receive assistance completing their ballot from anyone they choose, except for their employer, an agent of their employer, or an officer or agent of their labor union.⁶⁸

If the voter received assistance filling out the ballot, then the signature of the person who helped the voter must also be on the return envelope.

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

Absentee ballots (including accessible absentee ballots) must be *RECEIVED* by the voter's *CITY OR TOWNSHIP CLERK* no later than 8 PM Election Day (November 5, 2024).

Military/Overseas Voters: Absentee ballots must be *POSTMARKED* by 8 PM local MI time, and received by the voter's city or township clerk within six days of the election (November 11, 2024)

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

- Using the voter's city or township dropbox. Locations can be found at the clerk's tab at [Your voter information](#). Ballots must be returned to a dropbox by 8 PM local time.
- At the voter's city or township clerk's office (or satellite office) by 8 PM local time. Locations can be found at the clerk's tab at [Your voter information](#).
- At their early voting site. (**except voters in Detroit**). Voters living anywhere except the City of Detroit can take their completed ballot to their early voting site, check in with the poll workers, and insert their ballot directly into a tabulator. Locations and hours can be found at [Your voter information](#).

⁶⁸ <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting#language>.

- At their assigned polling place. Voters anywhere in the state can take their completed ballot to their assigned polling place, check in with the poll workers, and insert their ballot directly into a tabulator. Voters can find their assigned polling place at [Your voter information](#).

60. ASSISTANCE DROPPING OFF: *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 a person residing in their household.⁶⁹ If that option is not possible, the voter can ask their city or township clerk to pick up their completed ballot. To do so, the voter's completed ballot must be within the city or township where they vote, and the voter must call their city or township clerk by 5 PM on the Friday before Election Day (November 1, 2024) to ask the clerk to pick up their ballot.⁷⁰

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

If a voter requested an absentee ballot but never received it, lost it, destroyed it, or made a mistake **and never returned it to their clerk**, they have options:

- Submit a written request for a new absentee ballot **by mail** by 5pm on the Friday before Election Day (November 1).⁷¹ A new ballot will be mailed to the voter; *but there is no guarantee the voter will receive the ballot in the mail in time to vote it.*
- Submit a written request for a new absentee ballot **in person** at their city or township clerk's office or satellite office by 4pm the Monday before Election Day (November 4). The voter can take the ballot home with them to fill out or fill it out in the clerk's office.⁷²
- Go in person to their early voting site during the early voting period or to their polling place on Election Day, tell the worker they requested but never returned their absentee ballot, sign an affidavit, and vote a regular ballot. See [FAQ #48](#) regarding spoilage/in person voting.

If the voter requested an absentee ballot, **returned it to their clerk, and wishes to change their vote** they must submit a written request to their city or township clerk by mail or in person by 5pm the second Friday before Election Day (October 25).

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

1. The voter may go to their city or township clerk's office by 4 PM, November 4th, 2024, to spoil the ballot and request a new absentee ballot or
2. Vote in person at their assigned early voting site or polling place on Election Day:
 - The election inspectors must first call the local clerk to verify that the voter's absent voter ballot has not been returned to the clerk.
 - Once the clerk verifies to the election inspector that the absent voter ballot was not returned to the clerk, the voter *must* sign an affidavit of lost or destroyed absent voter ballot.

⁶⁹Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.764a(1)(c)

⁷⁰ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.168.764a(1)(d)

⁷¹Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.765b(1),(3).

⁷² Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.765b(3)(b)

- The voter will then be allowed to vote a *regular* ballot, **unless** the voter is challenged. If the voter is challenged, they will be given a *challenged* ballot that will get fed into the tabulator.⁷³

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

If the voter has not yet returned their absentee ballot, the voter can complete their absentee ballot, go to their early voting site (except voters living in Detroit) or polling place on Election Day, check in with the election inspectors, and insert their ballot into a tabulator. Alternatively, they may also surrender the ballot at their early voting site or assigned polling place on Election Day and then be permitted to vote. **NOTE:** If the voter surrenders their absentee ballot, they must be allowed to vote a *REGULAR* ballot.

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

See [FAQ #63](#).

A voter may also apply for, complete, and return an absentee ballot all at their city or township clerk's office beginning 40 days before Election Day (September 26, 2024) until:

- 4 PM the Monday before the election (November 4, 2024), if the voter is registered to vote where they live, or
- 8 PM on Election Day (November 5, 2024), if the voter is not registered to vote where they live, after registering or updating their registration.

POLLING PLACE ISSUES

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

First, determine whether the voter is at the correct location at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>. A voter's polling place may have changed since the last time they voted. If the voter IS at the correct location and it is closed, contact their city or township clerk's office immediately. Contact information at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>.

66. 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?

REMAIN IN LINE. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE LEAVE THE LINE!!! The voter must be allowed to vote if they are in line by 8 PM.⁷⁴ The voter forfeits their right to vote if they leave the line (even if it is to go to the restroom).

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

The voter should notify the election inspector at their polling place immediately. If the election inspector cannot remedy the situation, they must contact their city or township clerk's office

⁷³ [Election Officials' Manual, Chapter 11: Election Day](#), p.30

⁷⁴ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.720

immediately for assistance.

IMPORTANT: The voter SHOULD NOT LEAVE THE POLLING PLACE until they have cast a ballot. Under no circumstances should a voter be told to wait until the equipment is working again to cast their ballot. If the electronic pollbook is down, the poll workers should immediately switch to using the backup paper pollbook. If the tabulator is down, the poll workers should instruct the voters to place their ballots into the auxiliary bin and the workers will insert the ballots into the tabulator later when it is working again.

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

Campaigning within 100 feet of any entrance to a building in which a polling place or early voting site is located is prohibited.⁷⁵

NOTE: Exit polling is permitted, under the following conditions:

- pollsters must remain at least 20 feet from the entrance voters use to access the building containing the polling place, and
- they cannot enter the building of the polling location, and
- they can only approach and speak to voters AFTER they have cast their ballot.⁷⁶

No one may solicit voters, post, display, or distribute materials that reference (either directly or indirectly) an election, candidate, or ballot question *within 100 feet* of an entrance to a building in which a polling place or early voting site is located (including in the polling place or the hallway used to access the polling place).⁷⁷ Examples include, but are not limited to:

- 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.

A voter may park a car or other vehicle bearing campaign signs or bumper stickers within 100 feet of the polling place or early voting site 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 or early voting site is located.⁷⁸

69. **VOTER CONDUCT:** What am I prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place? Can I take photos inside?

Michigan election law prohibits campaigning within 100 feet of an entrance to a building in which a polling place or early voting site is located. The prohibition on campaigning includes any solicitation of

⁷⁵ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.744.

⁷⁶ Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections, election inspector’ Manual, Ch. 11 (Updated February 2024) at 23.

⁷⁷ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.744(3).

⁷⁸ Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections, election inspector’ Manual, Ch. 11 (Updated February 2024) at 22-23.

voters at the polling place or early voting site 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 ballot for that specific election. In addition, voters must be told to conceal campaign literature or other campaign materials brought into the polls.⁷⁹

Photos: The use of video cameras, still cameras and recording devices by voters, challengers and poll watchers is prohibited in the polls during the hours the polls are open for voting. (This includes video cameras, still cameras and recording features built into many cell phones and other electronic devices.)

The use of cameras is permitted **only within** the privacy of the individual voter’s voting booth. Voters can take a picture of their own ballot in the voting booth. For the privacy and security of neighboring voters, voters are prohibited from holding their ballot up for a selfie and/or photo.

Dissemination of the voter’s ballot photo **is prohibited** within the 100 ft electioneering zone⁸⁰.

Electronic devices are permitted in the location as long as they are not being used to make prohibited recordings or photos. Voters may be permitted to use cell phones while waiting in line at the processing table if not disruptive to the voting process.⁸¹

70. **ELECTION INSPECTOR CONDUCT:** What is an election inspector prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?

Election inspectors are subject to the same campaigning prohibition against campaigning at the polls, see [FAQ #69](#). In addition, election inspectors may not intimidate or harass voters, disrupt elections through disinformation, improperly challenge a voter’s eligibility, or tamper with/improperly remove election equipment.⁸²

⁷⁹ Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections, election inspector’ Manual, Ch. 11 (Updated February 2024) at 22-23.

⁸⁰ <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/faqs/elections-and-campaign-finance/elections-and-voting>

⁸¹ Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections, election inspector’ Manual, Ch. 11 (Updated February 2024) at 37.

⁸² Mich. Comp. Laws Secs. 168.932

71. **INTIMIDATION:** Are there any other specific restrictions on conduct outside of a polling place? What should I do if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable outside the polling place?

Any behavior that could be a threat to public safety or the voter’s personal safety should be reported **immediately** to the election inspectors. Election inspectors have the duty to maintain the peace and order at the polling location.⁸³ If the behavior is an imminent threat to public/personal safety, the voter should call 911 immediately.

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

****IMPORTANT: First step is to ask the voter the reason for the challenge**:** A challenge CANNOT BE MADE without good cause. **ONLY AN ELECTION INSPECTOR may speak to the challenged voter.**

Challenges can only be made for reasons of:

1. Voter eligibility (then see [FAQ # 14](#)) or
2. The voter has previously applied for an absent voter ballot and now wants to vote in person without having surrendered their absentee ballot.⁸⁴

The Challenge Process based on Absent Voter: See procedure outlined in [FAQ #62](#).

The Challenge Process based on Eligibility:

- Step 1: The voter asks to be sworn in by the precinct chairperson/election inspector.
- Step 2: The voter answers whatever questions are necessary to establish their eligibility to vote (the election inspector **may only ask** the questions necessary to confirm that the voter meets the criteria disputed by the challenger).⁸⁵
- Step 3: If the voter establishes their eligibility, they must be allowed to vote.⁸⁶

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

Police/Members of the military are allowed to be inside the polling location if they are voting or on official business only.⁸⁷

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

A voter can check their registration status by:

- Online, at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>. Enter the required information to see if they are registered to vote where they currently live.⁸⁸
- Calling their city or township clerk’s office (preferred) or their county clerk’s office. Contact information at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk> .The voter should click on

⁸³ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.678.

⁸⁴ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.727.

⁸⁵ *Id.*

⁸⁶ *Id.*

⁸⁷ 18 U.S. Code § 592; §593

⁸⁸ MI.gov/VOTE

“Your Voter Information,” scroll down to “Search for your city/township clerk,” and enter their residential address.

If the voter’s registration is able to be confirmed, then work with the voter through the information in [FAQ # 75](#).

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 (November 5, 2024) to register to vote. Once they are registered, they can:

- Vote by an absentee ballot immediately at the clerk’s office or
- Travel to their new polling location if in line by 8 PM.⁸⁹ NOT PREFERRED if there is no guarantee the voter will be able to get to their polling location in time. If they wish to go to their polling location, it is recommended that they bring their new voter registration receipt with them.

Or a voter may go to an Election Day Vote Center, if one is available in their jurisdiction, to register and vote with a regular ballot to be tabulated in the same location. The voter should check with their local city or township to determine availability; for contact info:

<https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>

75. **PROVISIONAL BALLOT:** I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do? (Also see info in the Election Day Voting section above).

First, get the following information from the voter:

- Confirm with the voter if they are at the correct location ([see FAQ #16](#)) . Information on locations at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index> (scroll down to “City Clerk Search”).
- If the voter is **not** at the correct location, help them find the correct location. The election inspector **MUST** assist the voter in finding their correct polling location if the voter is duly registered.⁹⁰
- If the voter is at the correct polling place, do the following:
 - Confirm with the voter **when** they registered to vote. Even if they are at the correct polling location based on their address, if they registered **online or by mail within 15 days of Election Day** (October 21st, 2024), they **must** go to their clerk’s office, clerk’s satellite office, or Election Day Vote Center (if available in their community) to show proof of residency.
 - Ask the voter if they still have their voter registration receipt that they can show the election inspectors, and ask them to contact the clerk’s office **while they remain at the polling location** to confirm registration status.
 - Ask the voter if they have had a recent name change. They should ask the election inspector to check the registration roll under their previous name to see if they can locate them.
 - Ask the voter the last time they voted. If it has been more than six years ago, they may have been removed from the voter files.

⁸⁹ Mich. Comp. Laws Secs. 168.499e, 168.523a, 168.759(1)(d).

⁹⁰ Mich. Comp. Laws Secs. 168.523a(1)(b)

If none of these solve the issue, then the voter will be asked to execute a sworn statement affirming that they submitted a voter registration application on or before election day and are eligible to vote in the election.⁹¹ The elections official will take the statement and verify the information provided with the city or township clerk. Once verified, the voter must be permitted to vote a provisional ballot. The voter will be offered one of the following types of provisional ballots:

- **Affidavit provisional ballot (run through the tabulator and counted on Election Day).**⁹²
 - Provided if the voter is at the correct precinct for their address and they claim to have registered to vote 15 or more days before Election Day (October 21, 2024 or earlier).
 - The voter must present a photo ID with their current address that shows they are in the correct location along with their sworn affidavit.
- **Envelope provisional ballot (set aside and reviewed after Election Day).**⁹³
 - Provided if the voter cannot present photo ID with current address, is in the wrong precinct location, or the election inspector cannot reach the city or township clerk to verify the voter's information.
 - The voter must provide the clerk's office with any documentation to verify their voter registration within six days after Election Day (November 11, 2024)

ACCESSIBILITY/ASSISTANCE

*****IMPORTANT: The Bureau of Elections has an Ombudsperson to respond to and assist individuals with disabilities attempting to vote. To speak with the Ombudsperson for Accessible Elections, call 517-335-2730 or email MDOS-ADAVoting@michigan.gov.*****

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

Yes. Election inspectors must assist any voter who requests assistance.⁹⁴ The voter can ask the election inspector for instructions on how to use the voting equipment or assistance at any time, even after they've entered the voting booth.⁹⁵

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.⁹⁶

77. 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?

⁹¹ Mich. Comp. Laws Secs. 168.523a

⁹² Mich. Comp. Laws Secs. 168.523a(4)

⁹³ Mich. Comp. Laws Secs. 168.523a(5)

⁹⁴ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.797a(1)

⁹⁵ Mich. Comp. Laws Secs. 168.751, 168.754.

⁹⁶ <https://mvc.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting>.

All polling places **must** be accessible, including offering curbside voting. If the voter is concerned, suggest the voter contact their clerk's office to confirm their voting site is free of obstructions voting. If their site isn't accessible, they can be directed to an alternative site.⁹⁷ Contact information at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>

Each polling place must have at least one accessible voting machine, or "Voter Assist Terminal," for voters with a disability.⁹⁸ **Election inspectors cannot ask a voter why they are using the VAT.**

Additionally, the voter has the right to assistance from anyone they choose. However, the person cannot be their employer, an agent of their employer or an officer or agent of their labor union.⁹⁹

78. 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?

Yes. 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.¹⁰⁰

79. 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?

- Voters in Clyde Township (Allegan County), Covert Township, and 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.
- Voters in the City of Dearborn have the right to a ballot and election materials in Arabic.¹⁰¹

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.¹⁰²

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

Yes. The voter, or any person on behalf of the voter, may make the request, so long as the voter is present outside of the polling place and verifies that they made the request. **Election inspectors cannot ask the reason the voter needs curbside assistance.**¹⁰³

Call the voter's city or township clerk if the voter does not have someone with them and there is no sign outside of the precinct instructing the voter on how to request curbside voting. Contact information: <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>

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

⁹⁷ <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting>

⁹⁸ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.795(3).

⁹⁹ <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting>.

¹⁰⁰ <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting>.

¹⁰¹ <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/language-services>.

¹⁰² <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting>.

¹⁰³ [election inspector' Manual, Chapter 11: Election Day, p.19](#)

Yes, voters can bring voting guides and notes into the voting booth *for their personal use only*, and must remove them from the voting booth when they are finished voting. Any partisan titles/identifiers on the voting guides should be blacked out so as to be not visible when standing in line, waiting to vote.

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

82. **GUNS AT THE POLLING PLACE:** Are firearms permitted in my polling place?

The open carry of firearms is not prohibited in polling places or early voting sites at this current time (legislation pending); **however** the open carry of firearms is not permitted if the open carry firearm is being used for the purpose of voter intimidation or disrupting the peace, regularity and order at the polling place.¹⁰⁴

The open carry of firearms is **prohibited in school buildings and places of worship, which are often used for election purposes**, *unless* the person has express permission from school officials or the owner of the place of worship to possess a firearm on the premises, or the person possesses a valid concealed pistol license, and no other building policy prohibits firearms possession by a concealed pistol license holder.¹⁰⁵

83. **VOTING WHILE UNHOUSED:** What if I am unhoused? Can I still vote?

Yes. If the voter does not have a home, they can register to vote using a street corner, park, shelter, or any other place they consider their regular domicile.¹⁰⁶ Their mailing address can be a local shelter, advocacy organization, outreach center, or the home of someone who will accept mail for them.¹⁰⁷

84. **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. Contact information at: <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>

¹⁰⁴ [Election Officials' Manual, Chapter 11: Election Day](#), p,1

¹⁰⁵ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 750.237a, 750.234d.

¹⁰⁶ Mich. Comp. Laws Sec. 168.11

¹⁰⁷ [Homeless Voter Script](#), Michigan Secretary of State (last visited June 26, 2024).