

Frequently Asked Questions

Michigan – General Election 2026

Last Updated: 10/6/2026

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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.

VOTER REGISTRATION	ELECTION DAY	EARLY VOTE	VOTE BY MAIL
ABSENTEE	POLLING PLACE ISSUES	ACCESSIBILITY /ASSISTANCE	STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

Table of Contents

VOTER REGISTRATION

- ELIGIBILITY:** Can I register to vote?
- 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 poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?
- STATUS:** Am I registered to vote? What do I need to do if my name has changed since I registered? I am listed as inactive, what does that mean and what do I need to do?
- HOW:** How do I register to vote? Can I register online? Do I need a printer? Can I register to vote in person?
- IDENTIFICATION:** What ID is required to register to vote?
- DEADLINES:** When is/was the voter registration deadline? Are there different deadlines whether I register by mail, in-person, or online?
- SAME DAY:** Does my state have Same Day Registration? If so, what is the process?
- PERMANENT MOVE:** I have moved permanently and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?
- 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? What process (if any) is needed to restore my right to vote if it was impacted?
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. **POLL WORKER CONDUCT:** What is a poll worker 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?

VOTER REGISTRATION

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

An individual may register to vote if they are:

- A U.S. citizen,
- A resident of Michigan and of the city or township where registering to vote for at least 30 days by Election Day,*

- 18 years old by Election Day (16-17 year olds may *pre-register to vote*. 16 to 17 ½ year olds are *automatically* pre-registered when they apply for a driver's license or state ID), and
- Not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison.

*If registering within 14 days of Election Day, an individual must show proof of where they live¹.

Documents (or digital copies of the documents) must have the individual's 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 poll worker asked my party affiliation. Are they allowed to do that?](#)

Any registered voter can vote in the primary election, regardless of their preferred party. (Michigan voters do not register by party affiliation.) The primary ballot is divided into columns, one for candidates of each party and a separate column for nonpartisan offices and ballot proposals. A voter may only vote for candidates of one party at any primary. They cannot "split" their ticket or "cross over" (i.e., vote in more than one party column). If they do, their votes for partisan offices will not be counted. A voter who does this should "spoil" their ballot and vote a new one without crossing party lines for their partisan selections to count.

3. **STATUS:** [Am I registered to vote? What do I need to do if my name has changed since I registered? I am listed as inactive, what does that mean and what do I need to do?](#)

A voter can check their registration status by:

- Going online [here](#). Enter the required information to see if they are registered to vote where they currently live.
- Calling their city or township clerk's office (not their county clerk). Contact information [here](#). Enter the voter's residential address to identify their clerk.

Name Change

If a voter's name has changed since they last registered to vote, they must:

- Register their name change with the federal Social Security Administration and obtain a new Social Security card at: [Social Security Administration](#). To process a name change with the Social Security Administration, the voter must provide proof of their identity, legal presence and name change. Additional proof may be requested.
- Obtain an updated driver's license or state ID from the Michigan SOS office at: [Michigan SOS](#). The voter must provide their current license or ID, proof that the name change has been registered with SSA, and proof of the voter's name change (e.g., court order, marriage certificate, U.S. divorce decree).

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

- Once the SOS has updated a voter's driver's license/state ID, it will **automatically** update the voter's registration. The voter should check their voter page on the Michigan SOS website to confirm that their name change has been updated. If the voter's name change has not been updated, they should then contact their clerk's office for further assistance.

Inactive

When election mail (e.g., a voter information card or absent voter ballot application) sent to a voter by a clerk is returned by the USPS as undeliverable, the clerk marks the voter "inactive" and sends them a "notice of cancellation." If the voter does not respond and has no voting activity by the second even-year federal election following the notice, the voter's registration is canceled. If the voter still lives at that residence and wishes to remain registered, they may so advise the clerk or engage in voting activity (e.g., request an absentee ballot/vote in person) before their registration is canceled. If the voter's registration is canceled, but they are still eligible and wish to vote, they must reregister per [FAQ #4](#).

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

Registration Options through October 19, 2026 (15 days before the 2026 General Election):²

- **Online:** [Michigan Online Voter Registration](#)³. Voter no longer need a valid MI driver's license or state ID to use this option, the last four digits of their social security number is sufficient.
- **Mail, Email, or Ballot Dropbox:** Download and print a paper application here: [ED-121: Michigan Voter Registration Application and Change of Address Form](#). (OR ask the city or township clerk to send an application by mail. Clerk phone numbers can be found at [Your voter information](#).)
Voters can return their application by mail, email, or using a secure dropbox in their city or township no later than October 19 (mail must be postmarked by October 19!)
 - FIRST TIME MICHIGAN VOTERS who submit a registration application by mail must provide some form of ID either by including their MI driver's license or state ID number or the last four digits of SSN on their registration application, or by including a copy of their current government ID or a current government document showing their name and current address with their application. However, this requirement does NOT apply to voters with a disability or registrations under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act.
- **Voter registration drive** (obtain/submit online or paper application as above).
- **In Person** at the following locations:
 - Any SOS branch office
 - Any state agency that provides public assistance or services to people with disabilities
 - The voter's city, township, or county clerk's office
 - Addresses can be found [here](#) ([mi.gov/vote](#) ☞ "Your voter information")

Starting 14 days before Election Day (October 20, 2026 through November 3, 2026 at 8 p.m.), applicants must register to vote in person at their city or township clerk's office with proof of residency (a paper or electronic document with the voter's name and current address, such as a Michigan driver's license, utility bill, or bank statement).

Note: Military and Overseas residents have additional registration options; see [FAQ#11](#) below.

² M.C.L. 168.497(1).

³ [MI.gov/VOTE](#)

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 register in person. Valid forms of photo ID include:

- MI driver's license or state ID (current or expired);
- A *nonexpired* driver's license or state ID from another state;
- Current federal, state, or local government-issued photo ID;
- Current U.S. Passport;
- Current Military ID with photo;
- Current Student ID with photo from an educational institution;
- Current Tribal ID with photo.⁴

If they do not have a photo ID, the person may sign an affidavit confirming their identity and be allowed to register to vote.⁵

If the voter registers within 14 days before Election Day (between October 20, 2026 and November 3, 2026 at 8:00 p.m.), 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 current bank statement;
- A current paycheck stub;
- A current government check; or
- Any other current government document.⁶

Online Registration

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

Mail/Email/Dropbox Registration

If a voter registers to vote through the mail, email or dropbox, and they have a Michigan driver's license, a 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 mails in the registration application, federal law requires verification of the voter's identity by including one of the following:

- A Michigan driver's license or state ID number written where requested on the form; OR
- The last 4 digits of the voter's Social Security number written where requested on the form; OR

⁴ [Election Officials' Manual, Chapter 2: Voter Registration](#), pp. 7-8.

⁵ M.C.L. 168.497(4).

⁶ M.C.L. 168.497(2)-(3).

- A copy of any current and valid government ID, paycheck, government check, 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](#)). A first-time applicant who fails to meet the federal identification requirement will still be registered, but must satisfy the requirement before receiving an absentee or regular ballot at the next election.⁷

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 submitted by end of day 15 days before the election.⁸
 - October 19, 2026 for the 2026 General Election
- **Mail, Email, or Ballot Dropbox:** must be received or (if mailed) postmarked by end of day 15 days before the election.⁹
 - October 19, 2026 for the 2026 General Election
- **In Person** at any 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 county clerk's office, or voter's city or township or clerk's office (**without** proof of residency): must register by the end of day 15 days before the election.
 - October 19, 2026 for the 2026 General Election
- **SAME DAY: In Person** at the voter's city or township clerk's office **with** proof of residency: must register by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day
 - November 3, 2026 for the 2026 General Election[See FAQ #5 above.](#)

NOTE: Michigan has same day registration. See [Question 7](#).

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

Yes, Michigan has same day registration. A person eligible to vote can register until 8:00 p.m. local time (close of polls) on Election Day (November 3, 2026) at their city or township clerk's office with proof of residency.¹⁰ ([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.¹¹ The voter should visit mi.gov/vote or contact their local

⁷ [Election Officials' Manual, Chapter 2: Voter Registration](#), pp. 20-22.

⁸ M.C.L. 168.497(1).

⁹ M.C.L. 168.497(1).

¹⁰ [Election Officials' Manual, Chapter 2: Voter Registration](#), pp. 6-7.

¹¹ M.C.L. 168.523b.

city/township clerk to determine if a Vote Center 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?](#)

- 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 (the election inspector will invite them to complete an Election Day Change of Address Notice). Alternatively, they may update their voter registration with their new address and then vote at the polling place for their new address. (Remember: if the voter is updating their registration within 14 days of Election Day, they must do so in person at their city or township clerk's office with proof of residency!)
 - Move **to a different** city or township:
 - More than 60 days before Election Day (September 3, 2026 or earlier for the November 3, 2026 General Election) – the voter must register to vote at their new address.¹² See [FAQ # 4](#).
 - Between 60 and 30 days before Election Day (September 4, 2026 through Sunday, October 4, 2026 for the November 3, 2026 General Election) – the voter may vote *either* in person or by absentee ballot in their old city or township one last time after signing an affidavit stating that the move has taken place *OR* at their new polling place after updating their registration address.¹³
 - Less than 30 days before Election Day (October 5, 2026 or later for the November 3, 2026 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.
- **If the 30th day falls on a weekend or legal holiday, registration transfers must be accepted on the following day.¹⁴**

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

The voter can:

- Request that an absentee 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?](#)

¹² [Election Officials' Manual, Chapter 2: Voter Registration](#), p. 4.

¹³ *Id.* pp. 3-4; M.C.L. 168.507a.

¹⁴ M.C.L. 168.506.

- 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.

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 driver's license/state ID, they can register online at [Michigan Online Voter Registration](#). The following options also are available:

1. Regular Form by Mail, Email, or Fax: Download, print and complete voter registration application [ED-121: Michigan Voter Registration Application and Change of Address Form](#). (FIRST TIME VOTERS: Pay attention to ID requirements. [See FAQ #5 above](#).) Return application to the voter's city or township clerk's office by mail, email, or fax. Clerk's contact information can be found [here](#). **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)*: Members of the military and their family and citizens living abroad can use this to register to vote, update their contact information, and/or request an absentee ballot. The application can be completed online or by downloading/printing it 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 2:00 p.m. on the Saturday before Election Day (October 31, 2026 for the 2026 General Election), even if it is received by the county before this.*** For more information on the FPCA, go [here](#).
3. Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)*: 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 2:00 p.m. on the Saturday before Election Day (October 31, 2026 for the 2026 General Election), 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.¹⁵** 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.)

¹⁵ M.C.L. 168.759a.

- 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:

Absentee ballots may be requested online if the military or 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 19, 2026 for the 2026 General Election). 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 will be sent by the delivery method chosen in the application, either by mail, fax, or email (if ballots are faxed or emailed, the voter must have computer access to download the ballot). If voters do not select a delivery method, their ballot will be mailed. Ballots must be returned via postal mail.¹⁶

ELECTRONIC VOTING OPTION FOR OVERSEAS UNIFORMED ACTIVE DUTY/MEMBERS OF THE MERCHANT MARINE: Only members of a uniformed service on active duty or members of the merchant marine who are absent from the United States and do not expect to return before an election can return their ballots electronically. Voters who are eligible to electronically return their absentee ballot must include their Department of Defense Common Access Card (CAC) signature on [their absentee ballot application](#) to participate in electronic return.

If using the FPCA, voters who qualify for electronic return should attach their CAC signature in section 7 on the FPCA. Voters must also include their handwritten signature and can sign in section 7 outside the box containing their CAC signature. They must also include:

- Full name.
 - Date of birth.
 - Jurisdiction (Michigan city or township and county).
 - Classification [reason for requesting a Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) ballot].
 - Registration address and current address.
 - Driver's license number or state ID number or the last 4 digits of Social Security number.
3. Military/overseas voters should use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) if there isn't enough time to receive and return their ballot before the election. FWABs are available at

¹⁶ M.C.L. 168.759a; <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/military-and-overseas-voters>

consulates, embassies, from Military Voting Assistance Officers, and [online](#), or by downloading and printing ([Standard Form 186, Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot \(FWAB\)](#)). THE FWAB MUST BE RETURNED to the voter's city or township clerk VIA POSTAL MAIL,¹⁷ unless the voter is a uniformed service member, in which case it can be returned electronically as discussed in section 2 immediately above. (See [Michigan](#) FPCA page for clerk contact information.)

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 (not using Electronic Return Portal) must be POSTMARKED on or before Election Day (November 3, 2026 for the 2026 General Election), and received within 6 days of Election Day (November 9, 2026 for the 2026 General Election)¹⁸ to count. **NOTE:** If the eligible voter is returning their ballot electronically, it must be received no later than 8:00 p.m. MI local time to the voter's local city or township clerk's office.¹⁹

NOTE: A military/overseas voter can always contact (phone/email/fax) their local city or township clerk's office should they need further assistance. Use the Michigan FVAP office search tool to find the voter's clerk contact information [here](#).

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? What process \(if any\) is needed to restore my right to vote if it was impacted?](#)

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.²⁰ If a formerly incarcerated individual was registered to vote prior to incarceration, their right to vote will automatically be restored upon release.

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

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.²¹ 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;
- 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 has been sentenced for *EITHER* a misdemeanor or felony and *IS* currently incarcerated, may not vote.²²

¹⁷ M.C.L. 168.759a.

¹⁸ M.C.L. 168.759a(18).

¹⁹ <https://www.fvap.gov/guide/chapter2/michigan>

²⁰ M.C.L. 168.758b.

²¹ M.C.L. 168.492a.

²² M.C.L. 168.758b.

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 **may be wearing a badge that identifies them as an election challenger**. 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/monitor/observer **cannot challenge** the actions of an election inspector and can only challenge a person's eligibility to vote if they are a registered voter residing in the same precinct as the challenged voter.

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 location.²³ 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 challenger²⁴), and vote.

HOW TO VOTE: ELECTION DAY

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

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time*. The voter has the right to vote if they are in line by 8:00 p.m.²⁵ **URGE VOTERS TO REMAIN IN LINE!!!!** If they leave the line for any reason after 8:00 p.m., 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?*

²³ M.C.L. 168.727(1); 733(1)(c).

²⁴ M.C.L. 168.729.

²⁵ M.C.L. 168.720.

If the voter is registered to vote where they live, they must vote on Election Day at their assigned polling place.

They can find their polling place*:

- Online [here](#);
- By calling their city or township clerk's office. For office location and phone number, go to [mi.gov/vote](#), click on "where are my clerk's offices?" and enter the required information; or
- On their Voter Identification Card or Registration Receipt.

*Recommend that the voter confirm their polling location online [here](#) 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 it is before Election Day and the voter has moved within the state or within the same city or township and has not updated their registration, see [FAQ #8](#).

If it is Election Day and the voter moved into their new city or township more than 60 days ago (September 3, 2026 or earlier for the November 3, 2026 General Election) but has not registered to vote where they live, they must either:

(1) Visit their new city or township clerk's office or satellite office with proof of residency by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day (November 3, 2026 for the 2026 General Election) to register to vote. Once they are registered, they can:

- Vote immediately by an absentee ballot at the clerk's office
- Travel to their new polling location if in line by 8:00 p.m.²⁶ NOT PREFERRED if later in the day, because there is no guarantee the voter will be able to get to their polling place in time. If they wish to go to their polling place, it is recommended that they bring their new voter registration receipt with them.

(2) They can go to an Election Day Vote Center, if one is available in their community, to register (bring proof of residency) and vote with a regular ballot to be tabulated in the same location.²⁷

If it is Election Day and the voter moved into their new city or township between 60 and 30 days ago (September 4, 2026 through Sunday, October 4, 2026 for the November 3, 2026 General Election) but has not registered to vote at their new address, they can either:

(1) Vote at their old polling place one last time. Or

(2) Visit their new city or township clerk's office or satellite office with proof of residency by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day (November 3, 2026 for the 2026 General Election) to register to vote. Once they are registered, they can:

- Vote immediately by an absentee ballot at the clerk's office or

²⁶ M.C.L. 168.523a.

²⁷ [Election Officials' Manual, Chapter 2: Voter Registration](#), p. 4.

- Travel to their new polling location if in line by 8:00 p.m.²⁸ NOT PREFERRED if later in the day, because there is no guarantee the voter will be able to get to their polling place in time. If they wish to go to their polling place, it is recommended that they bring their new voter registration receipt with them.

If it is Election Day and the voter moved into their new city or township less than 30 days ago (October 5, 2026 or later for the November 3, 2026 General Election), they must vote in their old city or township. See [FAQ #8](#).

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 8:00 p.m. local time when polls close.²⁹ ***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. If they do not have a photo ID, or do not have it with them, they must be allowed to sign an affidavit verifying their identity *AND* must be allowed to vote a *REGULAR (NOT PROVISIONAL)* ballot.³⁰ ***HOWEVER***, a voter who signs the affidavit in lieu of presenting ID will be susceptible to a challenge should a qualified challenger challenge their qualifications to vote.³¹

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, last four digits of their SSN, or a copy of their identification with their application), the voter will need to provide some documentation to vote.³² 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)³³;
 - 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;

²⁸ M.C.L. 168.523a.

²⁹ M.C.L. 168.720.

³⁰ MI Const. art. II § 4 (g)(2).

³¹ M.C.L. 168.523(2); 168.727.

³² 42 U.S.C. 21083(b).

³³ <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/faqs/elections-and-campaign-finance/elections-and-voting>

- Current bank statement;
- Current paycheck stub;
- Current government check; or
- Any other current government document.³⁴

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

Yes. 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](#).

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.³⁵
- If the voter is at the correct location for their address:
 - Confirm with the voter **when** they registered to vote. Even if they are at the correct polling place based on their address, if they registered **online or by mail within 14 days of Election Day** (October 20, 2026 for the 2026 General Election), 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 can be found at mi.gov/vote (click on "where are my clerk's offices?"). If there isn't time before poll closure to go to the city or township clerk's office, they should vote a provisional ballot at the polling place. See [FAQ #22](#).
 - If the voter registered in the correct manner, ask the voter if they still have their voter registration receipt that they can show the poll workers, and ask them to have the poll worker contact the clerk's office **while they remain at the polling place** to confirm registration status.

If those don't solve the issue, you can also ask the voter:

- If they have had a recent name change, **and have not yet notified BOTH SSA and the Michigan SOS to update the change**. If so, they should ask the election inspector to check the registration roll under their previous name to see if they can locate them. In this case, the voter should provide their previous name to the poll worker and vote a regular ballot, because their name on their ID will match the name on the voter rolls.
- The last time they voted. They may have been removed from the voter roll.

If none of these solve the issue, then the voter will be allowed 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.³⁶ The election 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](#)

³⁴ M.C.L. 168.523a(1)(b), 168.523a(5).

³⁵ M.C.L. 168.523a(1)(b)

³⁶ M.C.L. 168.523a.

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 place (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).**³⁷
 - 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 19, 2026 or earlier for the 2026 General Election).
 - 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).**³⁸
 - 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 required documentation to verify their voter registration within six days after Election Day (November 9, 2026 for the 2026 General Election)

Note: If the voter is in the *wrong* polling place and votes a provisional ballot, their ballot *will not be counted*! 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, 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.

See also [Question 22](#) above.

Note: If the voter is in the *wrong* polling place and votes a provisional ballot, their ballot *will not be counted*! 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 9, 2026 for the 2026 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.³⁹ 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.⁴⁰

³⁷ M.C.L. 168.523a(4).

³⁸ M.C.L. 168.523a(5).

³⁹ M.C.L. 168.523a(5)-(7); [Provisional Ballot - Notices to Voter](#).

⁴⁰ M.C.L. 168.523a(7); [Provisional Ballot - Notices to Voter](#)

HOW TO VOTE: IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

(in this state this includes absentee voting in person)

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

Yes. Voters can vote in person before Election Day either at an early voting site with a regular ballot (referred to as early voting), or at their clerk's office with an absentee ballot (referred to as in-person absentee voting).

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

No.

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

Early Voting

Early voting begins on the second Saturday before Election Day (October 24, 2026 for the 2026 General Election) and runs through the Sunday before Election Day (November 1, 2026 for the 2026 General Election). EV sites must be open at least eight hours each day during this period. Some jurisdictions may offer additional days (up to 29 days),⁴¹ including through 4:00 p.m. on the Monday before Election Day (November 2, 2026 for the 2026 General Election)⁴² and additional hours.⁴³ Hours can be found at [Your voter information](#).

In-Person Absentee Voting

Registered voters can also vote before Election Day at their city or township clerk's office with an absentee ballot beginning 40 days before Election Day (September 24, 2026 for the 2026 General Election). Voters who are already registered to vote where they live have until 4:00 p.m. the Monday before Election Day to vote by absentee ballot at their city or township clerk's office (November 2, 2026 for the 2026 General Election). Voters who still need to register to vote or update their registration address on Election Day can vote by absentee ballot at the clerk's office on Election Day immediately after registering.

Voters standing in line when an early voting site or their city or township clerk's office closes have the right to stay in line and cast a ballot.

⁴¹ <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/early-in-person-voting#WhoCanVoteEarly>

⁴² M.C.L. 168.720b(3).

⁴³ Mich. Const. art. II sec. 4(1)(m).

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 will likely be *different from* their polling place location on Election Day and *may be* outside of their city or township.**⁴⁴

City or township clerk's office locations can be found [here](#) by clicking on "Where are my clerk's offices?"

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

Identification requirements for voting in-person before Election Day either at an early voting site or at the city or township clerk's office are the same as in-person Election Day voting. The voter can vote without an 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 English may designate a person of their choice to assist them during the voting process.⁴⁵ The person providing assistance cannot be the voter's employer, agent of their employer, or an officer or agent of their labor union.⁴⁶ If the voter does not have someone to provide assistance, two poll workers—one from each major party—must assist the voter.

Voters have the right to an accessible voting machine called the Voter Assist Terminal (VAT). VAT is a user-friendly, ADA-compliant voting machine that all voters may use to mark their ballot, but particularly for voters with disabilities. A VAT must be available in every early voting site and polling place and must ensure privacy. The VAT will walk the voter through the ballot marking process, allow the voter to review and finalize their choices, and then print the ballot on a piece of paper. The voter will then take their completed ballot and insert it into the tabulator.

Accessible curbside voting is also available at early voting sites.

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?*

If the voter signed up for the "Permanent Mail Ballot List" (PMBL) after May 2023, the voter will automatically receive an absentee ballot in the mail. If not, the voter will need to request an absentee ballot. To check whether they are on the PMBL, voters can go [here](#) (mi.gov/vote), click on "Your voter information" and enter the required information, or contact their city or township clerk's office.

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

⁴⁴ Mich. Const. art. II sec. 4(1)(m).

⁴⁵ M.C.L. 168.754; <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting/#machine>

⁴⁶ <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting#language>.

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 (September 24, 2026 for the 2026 General Election).⁴⁷

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

See [Question 50](#).

34. **APPLICATION ASSISTANCE:** Can someone assist me with filling out the application?

The voter may receive assistance completing the absentee ballot application and returning it to the clerk (See [Question 53](#)), but **the voter must sign their own application with their official signature**. If the voter has a disability and is unable to sign their own name, they can use their mark or signature stamp⁴⁸ but they must make sure this signature is on file with their city or township clerk as their “official signature.” To update their official signature, whether due to age, illness, or disability, the voter should contact their city or township clerk. The process usually involves completing a new voter registration 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?

See [Question 53](#).

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

See [Question 51](#).

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 address.⁴⁹ The voter can receive an absentee 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.⁵⁰

If the voter wants their absentee ballot mailed to an address other than their registration address, they must include the address as the mailing address on their absentee ballot application. **If a voter is on the Permanent Mail Ballot List and needs a ballot sent to an address other than their registration address**

⁴⁷ Mich. Const. art. II Sec. 4(1)(h)

⁴⁸ M.C.L. 168.500.

⁴⁹ M.C.L.168.759(10)

⁵⁰ M.C.L. 168.761(3).

on file, they should contact their clerk before ballots become available for the election (September 24, 2026 for the 2026 general election).

Because election mail cannot be forwarded, it's important that a voter who needs a ballot mailed to an address other than their registration address provide that address to their local clerk.

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 4:00 p.m. Monday, November 2 for the 2026 General Election (if the voter is already registered to vote where they currently live). Alternatively, the voter may go to their assigned early voting site and cast a ballot in person. They may also vote in person on Election Day at their assigned polling location.

If the voter missed the deadline and is unable to vote in person on Election Day due to a sudden physical disability or family sickness/death, they may request an emergency absentee ballot. See [FAQ #52](#).

39. STATUS OF APPLICATION AND/OR BALLOT: [How can I check the status of my application and/or mail-in ballot?](#)

See [Question 54](#).

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?](#)

See [Question 55](#).

41. COMPLETING BALLOT: [How do I complete the mail-in ballot?](#)

See [Question 56](#).

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

See [Question 57](#).

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?](#)

See [Question 58](#).

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

See [Question 59](#).

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

See [Question 60](#).

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?

See [Question 61](#).

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

See [Question 62](#).

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?

See [Question 63](#).

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” (PMBL) after May 2023, the voter should automatically receive an absentee ballot in the mail. If not, the voter will need to request an absentee ballot. Voters can check whether they are on the PMBL [here](#) (click on “Your voter information” and enter the required information), or contact their city or township clerk’s office.

There are three ways to apply for an absentee ballot in Michigan: [online](#), [completing a paper application](#), or [in person](#) at their city or township clerk’s office. Voters can request an absentee ballot for the next election, or ask to join the PMBL to automatically receive absentee ballots for all future elections.

1. **Online:** The voter can request an absentee ballot here: [Michigan Online Absent Voter Ballot Application](#) (must supply last four digits of their SSN). 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, ballot dropbox, or in person. To apply online for an accessible electronic absent voter ballot, click [here](#). Clerk contact information can be found [here](#).
2. **Complete a Paper Application:** Voters can fill out a paper absentee ballot application (available to download and print online at [Michigan Absent Voter Ballot Application](#) or call their clerk and ask that one be mailed to them). Return the application via mail, email, or using a secure ballot dropbox provided by the voter’s city or township clerk’s office. (Voters should make sure their

signature can be clearly seen if emailed; **electronic signatures are not permitted.**) Clerk contact information can be found [here](#).

3. **In Person:**

- **Voters with *current* registration** may request and immediately receive an absentee ballot in person at their city or township clerk's office beginning 40 days before Election Day (September 24, 2026 for the 2026 General Election) **until 4:00 p.m. on the Monday before Election Day (November 2, 2026 for the 2026 General Election).** The voter can take the ballot home with them, or vote their ballot at the clerk's office.
- ***Unregistered voters or voters who need to update their* registration** may request and immediately receive an absentee ballot in person at their city or township clerk's office beginning 40 days before Election Day (September 24, 2026 for the 2026 General Election) **up to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day after registering to vote or updating their registration.** Such voters must bring proof of residency if registering to vote within 14 days before Election Day. [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 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before Election Day (October 30, 2026 for the 2026 General Election). ***However, best practice is to request an absentee ballot at least two weeks before Election Day: no later than October 20, 2026 for the 2026 General Election.*** There is no guarantee that a voter who submits their application close to the deadline will receive an absentee ballot by mail before Election Day.

If it is within two weeks before the General Election, 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. Request an absentee ballot at their city or township clerk's office, complete and sign the ballot, and return it to the clerk.
 - Registered voters can request an absentee ballot up to 4:00 p.m. Monday, November 2, 2026 for the 2026 General Election.
 - Unregistered voters or voters who need to update their registration can request an absentee ballot after registering or updating their registration until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day (November 3, 2026 for 2026 General Election). They must bring proof of residency if registering to vote from October 20, 2026 through Election Day per [FAQ #5](#).

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

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 absentee.⁵¹ Instead, their identity is verified through a signature matching process (comparing the signature on their application and ballot envelope to the signature in their voter registration file).

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, last

⁵¹ M.C.L. 168.759(3); [Election Officials Manual Chapter 6: Michigan's Absent Voter Process](#), p. 4.

four digits of their social security number, or a copy of their identification with their application), they'll need to provide any of the following to vote absentee 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 address⁵².

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

Yes, emergency absentee ballots are available to qualified voters who missed the deadline to request an absentee ballot. To qualify, the voter must be unable to vote in person on Election Day because:

- they have become physically disabled, or
- experienced a sickness or death in the family,
AND, in either circumstance,
- That circumstance made it impossible to meet the statutory deadline for applying for a regular absentee ballot.⁵³

The voter must request from their city or township clerk's office (clerk's contact information at [Your voter information](#)) an emergency absentee ballot after 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election (October 30, 2026 for the 2026 General Election) and before 4:00 p.m. on Election Day (November 3, 2026 for the 2026 General Election). The voter may either complete an Emergency Absent Voter Application (if available from their clerk) or submit to the clerk a written request containing:

- their name and address,
- a statement that the voter is qualified to vote in the election,
- a statement indicating whether the emergency is caused by a physical disability or by a family death or illness requiring the voter to be absent from the jurisdiction on Election Day, and
- a statement that the emergency occurred after the statutory deadline to request an absentee ballot (5 p.m. on Friday, October 30).

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.⁵⁴

DEADLINE: Ballot must be returned to the clerk's office or a ballot dropbox provided by the voter's city or township clerk by close of polls 8:00 p.m. Election Day (November 3, 2026 for the 2026 General Election).

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

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. Applications submitted in a way other than in person at the clerk's office, including online and mailed applications, **must be received** by the voter's local clerk by Friday, October 30, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. for the 2026 General Election. (This is **not a postmark deadline**). Ballot dropbox locations are on the clerks' link [here](#). **Note: There is no**

⁵² 42 U.S.C. 21083(b)

⁵³ M.C.L. 168.759b; [Election Officials Manual Chapter 6: Michigan's Absent Voter Process](#), pp 9-10.
<https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/Home/VoteAtHome/#emergency>.

⁵⁴ M.C.L. 168.759b; Election Officials Manual, Chapter 6, pp 9-10.

guarantee that a voter who submits an application by the October 30 deadline will receive their absentee 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 4:00 p.m. the Monday before Election Day (November 2, 2026 for the 2026 General Election) for voters *registered to vote where they currently live* and by 8:00 p.m. Election Day (November 3, 2026 for the 2026 General Election) for *unregistered voters or voters who need to update their registration*.⁵⁵

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.⁵⁶

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.⁵⁷

The person helping the voter *must* sign the "Certificate of Authorized Registered Elector Assisting in Returning Application" on the voter's absentee ballot application. **While one of these individuals can return an absentee ballot application at the voter's request, no one can pick up the ballot on behalf of the voter.**

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](#). They can also sign up to receive email tracking notifications about the status of their application and ballot by completing the information [here](#).

Application status: If there is no date listed under the "application received" field, and it is before 5:00 p.m. the Friday before Election Day (October 30, 2026 for the 2026 General Election), the voter can contact their city or township clerk's office and request a new ballot. **However** if the voter waits until the deadline, they should be informed that they will be unlikely to receive another absentee ballot through the mail and should instead vote in-person either absentee at their clerk's office or at their early voting site.

Ballot status: If there is no date listed under the "ballot received" field, and it is Election Day, the voter can go to their polling place and vote a new ballot following the procedure in [FAQ #47](#). At the polling place, 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 [Your voter information](#), the voter can call their city or township clerk's office. Clerk's contact information can be found [here](#).

⁵⁵ <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/absentee-voting#Return>

⁵⁶ M.C.L. 168.764a(1)(c).

⁵⁷ M.C.L. 168.759(8)(d); <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/absentee-voting#Return>

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: An application may be rejected for failure to sign, or for a mismatch between the signature on the application and the voter's digitized signature on file. The clerk must notify the voter via telephone, email, or text message, if available, and if not, by first class mail⁵⁸ 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.⁵⁹

If an application is rejected, the voter may either (1) submit a new request online or by mail if it can be received by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before Election Day (October 30, 2026 for the 2026 General Election); or (2) apply for an absentee ballot in person at their local clerk's office and vote absentee up to 4:00 p.m. the Monday before Election Day (November 2, 2026 for the 2026 General Election).

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 problem.⁶⁰ All notice requirements above apply to ballot rejection.

If an absentee ballot is rejected, to ensure that the ballot is counted, the voter **must correct any issue with the signature by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday after Election Day** (November 6, 2026 for the 2026 General Election).⁶¹

If a voter's absentee ballot application or ballot are rejected, the voter also has the option to vote in person, either at an early voting site, at their clerk's office, or at their polling place on Election Day rather than correct the issue.

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

1. Complete the 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. It is okay if a voter forgets to put their absentee ballot in a secrecy sleeve! That is not a reason to reject the ballot.
3. **Sign and date** the absentee ballot envelope. Use the same signature shown on the voter's 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 the city or township clerk no later than 8:00 p.m. local MI time Election Day (November 3, 2026 for the 2026 General Election)***.

This deadline ***does not apply to overseas/military voters***. Absentee ballots from military and overseas voters must be postmarked on or before Election Day (November 3, 2026 for the 2026 General Election)

⁵⁸ M.C.L. 168.766a(4).

⁵⁹ M.C.L. 168.766b(1)-(2).

⁶⁰ M.C.L. 168.765a.

⁶¹ M.C.L. 168.766(3).

and received by the city or township clerk within 6 days of the election (November 9, 2026 for the 2026 General Election), unless the voter is a uniformed service member eligible to use the electronic return portal. If the eligible voter is returning their ballot electronically, it must be received by their local city or township clerk's office by 8:00 p.m. local time on Election Day.⁶² Track ballot [here](#).

If the voter is going to mail the completed ballot, the State of Michigan recommends that they do so by **October 20, 2026 (for the 2026 General Election)**. Voters may also return their completed absentee ballots to a drop box provided by their city or township clerk, directly to their city or township clerk's office (or satellite office) by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, or by inserting their ballot into the tabulator at their early voting site or (available to voters living anywhere but Detroit) their polling place 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.⁶³

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 8:00 p.m. Election Day (November 3, 2026 for the 2026 General Election).

Military/Overseas Voters: Absentee ballots must be **POSTMARKED** on or before Election Day (November 3, 2026 for the 2026 General Election) and **RECEIVED** by the voter's city or township clerk within six days of the election (November 9, 2026 for the 2026 General Election). If the absentee ballot is being returned electronically from an eligible uniformed military voter (see [FAQ #11](#) above), it must be **RECEIVED** no later than 8:00 p.m. local time on Election Day.⁶⁴

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

- *A ballot dropbox in their city or township.* Locations can be found at the clerk's tab at [Your voter information](#). Ballots must be returned to a ballot dropbox by 8:00 p.m. local time in the voters' city or township on Election Day (November 3, 2026 for the 2026 General Election).
- *At the voter's city or township clerk's office (or satellite office) by 8:00 p.m. local time on Election Day.* Locations can be found at [Your voter information](#).
- *At their early voting site.* Voters 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](#).

⁶² <https://www.fvap.gov/guide/chapter2/michigan>

⁶³ <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting>.

⁶⁴ <https://www.fvap.gov/guide/chapter2/michigan>

- *At their assigned polling place (**except voters in Detroit**)*. Voters living anywhere except the city of Detroit 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, a mail carrier during the course of their official duty, or an authorized election official in the voter's jurisdiction.⁶⁵

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 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before Election Day (October 30, 2026 for the 2026 General Election) to ask the clerk to pick up their ballot.⁶⁶

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 returned it to their clerk**, either because they never received it, lost it, destroyed it, or made a mistake, they have options:

- Submit a written request for a new absentee ballot **by mail** by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before Election Day (October 30, 2026 for the 2026 General Election).⁶⁷ A new ballot will be mailed to the voter. ***We do not recommend this option this close to the deadline because 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 4:00 p.m. the Monday before Election Day (November 2, 2026 for the 2026 General Election). The voter can take the ballot home to fill out or complete it in the clerk's office.⁶⁸
- 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 and obtained an absentee ballot, **returned the completed ballot to the clerk, and wishes to change their vote**, they must submit a written request by mail or in person to their city or township clerk to spoil their initial ballot and issue them a new ballot **by 5:00 p.m. the second Friday before Election Day** (October 23, 2026 for the 2026 General Election).

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

A voter has three options to vote if they requested but did not receive an absentee ballot:

⁶⁵ M.C.L. 168.764a(1)(c).

⁶⁶ M.C.L. 168.764a(1)(d)

⁶⁷ M.C.L. 168.765b(1), (3).

⁶⁸ M.C.L. 168.765b(3)(b).

1. Submit a written request for a new absentee ballot **by mail** by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before Election Day (October 30, 2026 for the 2026 General Election).⁶⁹ A new ballot will be mailed to the voter. ***We do not recommend this option this close to the deadline because there is no guarantee the voter will receive the ballot in the mail in time to vote it.***
2. The voter may go to their city or township clerk's office in person by 4:00 p.m. the Monday before Election Day (November 2, 2026 for the 2026 General Election), to spoil the undelivered ballot and request a new absentee ballot.
3. The voter may also vote in person at their assigned early voting site during the early voting period or at their polling place on Election Day:
 - The poll worker must verify that the voter's absentee ballot has not been received by the clerk. During early voting, this is done by the poll worker using the electronic poll book, which is live connected to the state voter file. On Election Day, because the electronic poll book is not live connected to the state voter file, the poll worker must call the clerk's office to confirm.
 - Once the poll worker verifies that the absentee ballot was not received by 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.⁷⁰

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 during the early voting period or (except voters living in Detroit) their polling place on Election Day, check in with the poll workers, and insert their ballot into a tabulator. Alternatively, they may surrender the absentee ballot at their early voting site or assigned polling place and receive a new ballot 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](#).

Registered voters can also vote before Election Day at their city or township clerk's office with an absentee ballot beginning 40 days before Election Day (September 24, 2026 for the 2026 General Election). Voters who are already registered to vote where they live have until 4:00 p.m. the Monday before Election Day (November 2, 2026 for the 2026 General Election) to vote by absentee ballot at their city or township clerk's office. Voters who still need to register to vote or update their registration address on Election Day can vote by absentee ballot at the clerk's office on Election Day immediately after registering.

⁶⁹ M.C.L. 168.765b(1).

⁷⁰ [Election Officials' Manual, Chapter 12: Election Day](#), p.30

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 [here](#). A voter's early voting site or polling place may have changed since the last time they voted. (For early voting sites, also confirm the hours of operations. Early voting sites must be open for at least 8 hours for nine days beginning the second Saturday before Election Day (October 24, 2026 for the 2026 General Election), but the exact 8 hours will vary by community.) If the voter IS at the correct location and it is closed, contact their city or township clerk's office immediately. Contact information can be found [here](#).

66. LONG LINES: There are long lines at the polling place or early voting site. 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 in line before the location closes.⁷¹ For polling places on Election Day, the voter forfeits their right to vote if they leave the line after 8:00 p.m. (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 poll worker at their early voting site or polling place immediately. If the poll worker cannot remedy the situation, they must contact their city or township clerk's office 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.⁷²

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 or early voting site, and
- They cannot enter the building of the polling place or early voting site, and
- They can only approach and speak to voters AFTER they have cast their ballot.⁷³

⁷¹ M.C.L. 168.720.

⁷² M.C.L. 168.744.

⁷³ [Election Officials Manual Chapter 12: Election Day and the Voting Process](#), p. 24.

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 early voting site, or the hallway used to access the polling place or early voting site).⁷⁴ 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.⁷⁵

Voters may bring in campaign materials or voter lists for their own use while in the voting booth but they must be concealed within 100 feet of the polling place or early voting site (either in their pocket or a bag).

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 includes any solicitation of 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.

Poll workers must request that voters entering the polling place or early voting site 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.⁷⁶

⁷⁴ M.C.L. 168.744(3).

⁷⁵ [Election Officials Manual Chapter 12: Election Day and the Voting Process](#), pp. 23-24.

⁷⁶ [Election Officials Manual Chapter 12: Election Day and the Voting Process](#), p. 23.

Photos: The use of video cameras, still cameras, and recording devices by voters, challengers, and poll watchers is generally prohibited in the polling place or early voting site 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.

The voter may not share the photo until the voter is outside the 100 ft electioneering zone.⁷⁷

Electronic devices are permitted in the location as long as they are not being used to take prohibited recordings or photos. Voters may use cell phones while waiting in line at the processing table if not disruptive to the voting process.⁷⁸

70. POLL WORKER CONDUCT: What is a poll worker prohibited from wearing or doing in a polling place?

Poll workers are subject to the same campaigning prohibition as voters and members of the public, see [FAQ #69](#). In addition, poll workers may not intimidate or harass voters, disrupt elections through disinformation, improperly challenge a voter's eligibility, or tamper with/improperly remove election equipment.⁷⁹

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 poll workers. Poll workers have the duty to maintain the peace and order at the early voting site or polling place.⁸⁰ 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 A POLL WORKER may speak to the challenged voter.**

Challenges can only be made for reasons of:

1. Voter eligibility (see [FAQ # 14](#)) or
2. The voter has previously applied for an absentee ballot and now wants to vote in person without having surrendered their absentee ballot.⁸¹

The Challenge Process based on Eligibility:

⁷⁷ [Election Officials Manual Chapter 12: Election Day and the Voting Process](#), p. 38.

⁷⁸ *Id.*

⁷⁹ M.C.L. 168.932.

⁸⁰ M.C.L. 168.678.

⁸¹ M.C.L. 168.727.

- Step 1: The voter swears to truthfully answer relevant questions by the precinct chairperson/poll worker.
- Step 2: The voter answers whatever questions are necessary to establish their eligibility to vote (the poll worker **may only ask** the questions necessary to confirm that the voter meets the criteria disputed by the challenger).⁸²
- Step 3: If the voter establishes their eligibility, they are permitted to vote.⁸³

The Challenge Process based on Absentee Voter Status: See [FAQ #62](#).

The Challenge Process and the Challenger Liaison: Each clerk will designate one or more Challenger Liaisons to address the questions and concerns raised by a challenger.⁸⁴ This includes challenges based on eligibility and the election process.⁸⁵

NOTE: Pending litigation may change the Challenger Liaison rules and otherwise affect certain rules relating to the number of challengers at a polling place and their rights to observe election processes.⁸⁶ This suit does not seek to change any rules relating to the grounds for a challenge or the steps outlined above to resolve a challenge.

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

Police may be present at an early voting site or polling place if there is a disturbance of the peace that the election inspectors feel unable to handle, and to investigate alleged violations of the election law and pursue enforcement actions.⁸⁷ The police cannot interfere with a voter's right to cast a ballot legally. They cannot use their body worn cameras to intentionally record a voter who is casting their ballot.⁸⁸

Members of the military are allowed to be inside the early voting site or polling place if they are voting, but otherwise are prohibited unless necessary to repel armed enemies of the United States.⁸⁹

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 [here](#). Enter the required information to see if they are registered to vote where they currently live.⁹⁰

⁸² M.C.L. 168.729.

⁸³ *Id.*

⁸⁴ Mich. Admin. Code R. 168.205

⁸⁵ Mich. Admin Code R. 168.208; 168.209.

⁸⁶ *Michigan Republican Party v Benson*, Mich Ct of Claims Case No 26-000134-MZ, filed June 23, 2026.

⁸⁷ M.C.L. 168.678; 168.941.

⁸⁸

<https://www.michigan.gov/ag/-/media/Project/Websites/AG/releases/2024/October/Law-Enforcement-Guidance-10102-4-Final.pdf>

⁸⁹ 18 U.S.C. 592; 593

⁹⁰ [MI.gov/VOTE](https://www.michigan.gov/VOTE)

- Calling their city or township clerk's office. Contact information is [here](#). The voter should click on "Your Voter Information," scroll down to "Search for your city/township clerk," and enter their residential address to find the clerk's contact information.

If the voter's registration is confirmed, then work with the voter through the provisional ballot 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 8:00 p.m. on Election Day (November 3, 2026 for the 2026 General Election) 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 place if in line by 8:00 p.m..⁹¹ NOT PREFERRED if there is no guarantee the voter will be able to get to their polling place in time. If they wish to go to their polling place, it is recommended that they bring their new voter registration receipt with them.

Additionally, a voter may go to an Election Day Vote Center, if one is available in their jurisdiction, to register and then 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; contact info: [here](#)

NOTE: If the voter checks their registration status online and it says they are registered but not eligible to vote in this election, this means they registered online or by mail within 14 days of the election. To be eligible to vote in this election they have to go in person to their city or township clerk's office and show proof of residency. See [FAQ 5](#).

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 voting location (see [FAQ #16](#)). Information on locations found [here](#).
- If the voter is **not** at the correct location, help them find the correct location. The poll worker **MUST** assist the voter in finding their correct polling place or early voting site if the voter is duly registered.⁹²
- If the voter is at the correct polling place or early voting site, do the following:
 - Confirm with the voter **when** they registered to vote. Even if they are at the correct polling place or early voting site based on their address, if they registered **online or by mail within 14 days of Election Day** (October 20, 2026 for the 2026 General Election), they **must** go to their city or township 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 poll workers and ask them to contact the clerk's office **while they remain at the polling place or early voting site** to confirm registration status.
 - Ask the voter if they have had a recent name change. They should ask the poll worker to check the registration roll under their previous name to see if they can locate them.

⁹¹ M.C.L. 168.499e, 168.523a, 168.759(1)(d).

⁹² M.C.L. 168.523a(1)(b).

- 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 rolls.

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.⁹³ The poll worker 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).**⁹⁴
 - 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 19, 2026 or earlier for the 2026 General Election).
 - 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).**⁹⁵
 - 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 required documentation to verify their voter registration within six days after Election Day (November 9, 2026 for the 2026 General Election).

See also [Question 22](#) and [Question 23](#) above.

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. Poll workers must assist any voter who requests assistance.⁹⁶ The voter can ask the poll worker for instructions on how to use the voting equipment or assistance at any time, even after they've entered the voting booth.⁹⁷

⁹³ M.C.L. 168.523a.

⁹⁴ M.C.L. 168.523a(4).

⁹⁵ M.C.L. 168.523a(5).

⁹⁶ M.C.L. 168.797a(1)

⁹⁷ M.C.L. 168.751, 168.754.

If the voter is blind, disabled, or unable to read or write English, 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.⁹⁸

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?

All polling places **must** be accessible, including offering curbside voting. If the voter is concerned, suggest that the voter contact their clerk's office to confirm their voting site is free of obstructions. If their site isn't accessible, they can be directed to an alternative site.⁹⁹ Contact information found [here](#).

Each polling place must have at least one accessible voting machine, or "Voter Assist Terminal," for voters with a disability.¹⁰⁰ The Voter Assist Terminal helps the voter mark the ballot. **Poll workers cannot ask a voter why they are using the VAT.**

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.¹⁰¹

Voters with print disabilities may apply for an accessible electronic absent voter ballot that can be completed electronically, printed, and returned to the local clerk. Apply online [here](#). Voters may also request to be placed on the permanent accessible ballot list, which means they will automatically receive an accessible absentee ballot from their local clerk in each future election for which they are eligible.

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.

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.¹⁰² If the voter does not have someone to assist them, two poll workers—one from each major political party—must assist the voter with reading and/or marking the ballot upon request.

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 Arabic and Bengali.¹⁰³

⁹⁸ <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting>.

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

¹⁰⁰ M.C.L. 168.795(3).

¹⁰¹ <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting>.

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

¹⁰³ <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting>.

- Voters in the City of Dearborn have the right to a ballot and election materials in Arabic.¹⁰⁴

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.¹⁰⁵

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 early voting site or polling place and verifies that they made the request. **Poll workers cannot ask the reason the voter needs curbside assistance.**¹⁰⁶

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 voting location instructing the voter on how to request curbside voting. Contact information: [here](#).

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

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 cannot be visible when standing in line, waiting to vote, or anywhere outside of the voting booth. So be sure to keep it in a bag, your pocket, or cover up those portions ahead of time.

STATE SPECIFIC SUPPLEMENT

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

Firearms are prohibited in voting-related locations with limited exceptions.¹⁰⁷ Specifically, possession of a firearm is prohibited:

- In a polling place or within 100 feet of the entrance of a building with a polling place on Election Day while polls are open;¹⁰⁸
- In an early voting site or within 100 feet of the entrance of a building with an early voting site on days when early voting is occurring;¹⁰⁹
- Within 100 feet of an absentee ballot dropbox in the 40 days before an election;¹¹⁰ and
- In a city or township clerk's office or satellite office, or within 100 feet of the entrance of a city or township clerk's office or satellite office in the 40 days before an election.¹¹¹

¹⁰⁴<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting#language>.

¹⁰⁵<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/AccessibleVoting>.

¹⁰⁶[Election Officials Manual, Chapter 12: Election Day](#), pp. 19-20.

¹⁰⁷[Overview of Current Voter Intimidation and Firearms Laws](#)

¹⁰⁸ M.C.L. 750.234d(3)(a).

¹⁰⁹ M.C.L. 750.234d(3)(b).

¹¹⁰ M.C.L. 750.234d(3)(c).

¹¹¹ M.C.L. 750.234d(3)(d).

- In an absent voter counting board, or within 100 feet of the entrance to an absent voter counting board, while absentee ballots are being processed.¹¹² This specific prohibition does not apply to a uniformed law enforcement officer acting in the course of their duties.¹¹³

A firearm may still be carried within those boundaries in any of the following instances: (1) by a peace officer;¹¹⁴ (2) if lawfully carried on private property that falls within 100 feet of the location;¹¹⁵ (3) by a concealed pistol license (CPL) holder who is carrying concealed;¹¹⁶ or (4) if the firearm is lawfully contained in a vehicle.¹¹⁷

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.¹¹⁸

The open carry of firearms **is also 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.¹¹⁹

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

Yes. If the voter does not have stable housing, they can register to vote using a street corner, park, shelter, or any other place they consider their regular domicile.¹²⁰ Their mailing address can be a local shelter, advocacy organization, outreach center, or the home of someone who will accept mail for them.

84. CALLS FROM ELECTION PROTECTION VOLUNTEERS (E.G. CHALLENGERS, POLL MONITORS, POLL OBSERVERS) REPORTING AN ISSUE: An on-the-ground volunteer is calling to report a problem. What should I do?

Michigan election protection organizations have trained volunteers on the ground during the early voting period and on Election Day to observe the voting process and identify specific issues, such as inadequate signage, inaccessible voting locations, voting equipment issues, poll worker errors, unlawful campaigning, etc. They are instructed to call (866) OUR-VOTE to report these issues as a streamlined way to alert the Michigan state team and provide them with the necessary information to follow up.

If you receive a call from one of these volunteers, please get as many details as possible as quickly as you can (these volunteers need to spend as much time on the ground observing as possible so they do not want to be on the phone for more than a few minutes!) and escalate! Here are examples of the types of questions to ask:

- City/township and county they are in;

¹¹² M.C.L. 750.234d(6).

¹¹³ M.C.L. 750.234d(7).

¹¹⁴ M.C.L. 750.234d(4)(a).

¹¹⁵ M.C.L. 750.234d(4)(b).

¹¹⁶ M.C.L. 750.234d(4)(c).

¹¹⁷ M.C.L. 750.234d(5).

¹¹⁸ [Election Officials Manual Chapter 12: Election Day and the Voting Process](#), p. 1.

¹¹⁹ M.C.L. 750.237a, 750.234d.

¹²⁰ M.C.L. 168.11.

- Name of the voting location **and** the precinct number, if calling on Election Day (many polling places on Election Day serve multiple precincts);
- What issue they are identifying;
- When the issue began;
- Who is aware of or has been alerted to the issue (e.g. poll workers, clerk, law enforcement if necessary);
- What actions have already been taken to resolve the issue, if any.

85. **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 found [here](#).