



# 2020 YOUNG ADULT'S GUIDE TO VOTING IN MICHIGAN

"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the minority who participate."

Thomas Jefferson

## Vote November 3, 2020

Prepared for you by  
Children's Special Health Care Services of  
Washtenaw County



## Quick Guide on How to Vote in Michigan

\*\*\*This guide is designed to help young voters learn about the rules and guidelines for voting. **Please be sure to double check all important details by calling your local clerk's office to protect your vote.**

### A Special Note on Signatures:

Your ballot signature must be signed **exactly as directed** in the instructions on your ballot, using the **SAME signature you used on your ID.**

Go to the pages noted next to each action for more details on the rules and deadlines that apply to each step.

#### 1. Register to vote:

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- Register online by **October 19, 2020** or up to **2 weeks before the election**.
- Print a registration form to fill in and drop off or mail to the correct address. Mail registration form early so it will arrive on time. **It must get there by October 19, 2020 at least 15 days before the election.**
- Register in person at the city or township clerk's office with proper ID and proof of residency at **any time, even on Election Day!** See page 13 types of ID accepted

**Note:** Most years you can go the Secretary of State Office, *but this is not a good idea in 2020 because there are few appointments available due to Covid-19.*

**Remember:** Be sure to follow all directions **very** carefully and understand the deadlines.

#### 2. Verify Your Registration and Find Your Polling Place

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Make sure your registration is still ok by calling your local or county clerk and check to see if you are registered, especially if you have moved or changed your name or haven't voted in a while. Also, give them your address and ask where you should go to vote.

Checking online is very fast and easy! Just go to the Michigan Voter Information Center online at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/> to check your registration and Poll Location (voting place).

#### Remember:

- Polling places may change, and a vote cast at the wrong poll may not be counted.

- If you have moved, changed your name, or it has been a while since you voted check (verify) your registration.

### 3. No Excuse Absentee Ballots (AB), Early Voting, Emergency AB, Spoiling an AB

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In Michigan **all registered voters** are eligible to vote absentee by mail without an excuse.

You can **vote early by absentee ballot** beginning on September 24 for the 2020 election.

**Request a ballot online at:** <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/avapplication> or through the city clerk, county clerk, or **Secretary of State Office** (**not a good option for 2020** due to Covid-19).

Requests for an absentee ballot to be mailed to your home should not be made later than 5 p.m. the Friday before the election. **Earlier is always better.**

**Print an absentee ballot application online, fill it out, and mail it or drop it off** at your local clerk's office. You can find your local clerk here: <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/> under **Your Voter Information** or call your city or township clerk to find the correct address to mail it to.

**Absentee ballots** are allowed on the same day as the election at the city or township clerk's office. **Bring ID and proof of residency, follow the directions carefully and fill it out right there. Drop it in the proper collection box at the clerk's office.**

**For special directions and deadlines for the next two items please see page 11**

#### **Emergency Absentee Ballot**

If there is an emergency and you can't go to vote you can ask for an **Emergency Ballot**.

#### **Spoiling Your Ballot**

If you make a mistake on your ballot or change your mind about who you want to vote for **you have the right to ask the clerk to spoil your ballot (throw it out) and get a new one.**

#### **Important things to remember:**

- If you are mailing your ballot in **be sure to give it lots of extra time so it will arrive on time.**

- Pay close attention to all deadlines. **Read *and follow*** the directions on the absentee ballot ***very*** carefully. **Use blue or black ink only and do not use gel pens or pencils**
- **Your ballot signature must be signed exactly as directed in the instructions using the SAME signature you used on your ID.**
- **Be sure to bring proper photo ID and proof of residency to the clerk's office. Listed on page 13**

**Remember: If you have any questions, please call your city or county clerk.**

- 4. Election Day at the polls: Bring Proper Identification** **Page 12**  
Bring a valid form of photo ID or sign an affidavit which is like a promise that you are who you say you are and that you do not have a photo ID or you have one but didn't bring it.
- 5. Under federal law, you can bring someone to help you at the voting booth (this person is called an assistor).** **Page 13**
- 6. If you make a mistake you have the right to ask a poll worker for a new ballot**  
**Remember: Don't scribble out mistakes and be sure to fill the bubbles in completely and neatly, your ballot must easy to read.** **Page 14**
- 7. Don't Leave Without Voting** **Page 14**  
If you are in line when the polls close at 8pm, **you have the right to stay in line and vote. They cannot ask you to leave.**
- 8. What to do if you are given a provisional ballot** **Page 14**  
A poll worker might tell you that there is a problem with your registration (for example, that you are not on the voter list) and offer you a provisional ballot. Be sure to ask if you are in the correct precinct. If no other way is available, cast a provisional ballot.
- 9. To learn about voting machines, candidates (Voting Guides) and more** **Page 14**  
Visit the League of Women Voters website at: <http://www.vote411.org>  
Or visit [mvic.sos.state.mi.us](http://mvic.sos.state.mi.us).
- 10. Accessibility and the Rights of Voters with Disabilities** **Page 14**
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**Important points to remember:**

**Be sure to read and follow the ballot instructions carefully!**

If you will **need accommodations**, call the city or township clerk's office **well ahead of time** to find out how and where to get help. **See this link for information on accommodations:**

[https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-5647\\_12539-311832--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-5647_12539-311832--,00.html)

**Before** voting, research the candidates, both partisan and non-partisan, learn about the proposals and **make a list of who you want to vote for and bring it with you.**

Phones **ARE** allowed in the voting booth, **but only for notes. You cannot place phone calls, text anyone or take a selfie with your ballot in the voting booth**

**Look at both sides and all pages of your ballot** so you do not miss anything.

**Carefully sign your absentee ballot and place back in the envelope as directed.**

When in doubt about *anything*, **ASK!**

**Who Do I Ask?** A worker at the city or county clerk's office or a poll worker.

Keep these non-partisan hotline numbers with you in case you have a problem on election day:

1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español)

1-888-API-VOTE (Asian multilingual assistance)

1-844-418-1682 (Arabic)

**Remember: For all questions about voting call your city or county clerk.**

## Annotated Voter's Bill of Rights

**2020 Registration and Election Deadlines for November Election are listed in red**

There are elections throughout the year, and they are all important. At these elections we choose who will represent us at all levels of government from decisions in your hometown to those made in Washington DC. Because all levels of government affect our lives in many ways, it is very important to vote in every election so your voice will be heard everywhere in your community.

**At the Michigan Voter Information Center site [mvic.sos.state.mi.us](http://mvic.sos.state.mi.us), you can:**

- register to vote
- find out who your clerk is
- find out where to go vote
- get an absentee ballot sent to you
- look at a sample ballot with directions on how to fill it out
- learn about voting equipment at your voting site.

**Follow all directions carefully so your vote will count!**

### A Special Note on Signatures:

Your ballot signature must be signed **exactly as directed** in the instructions using the **SAME signature you used on your ID**

### 1. Registering to vote

There is **NO DEADLINE to register to vote in Michigan** **but there are important rules for each method of registering that you must follow carefully.**

If you move to a new city or township, **you must re-register.**

If you move within the same a city or township **and** are already registered to vote, you only need to **update your address.**

You can register the same day that you vote, **but it's always best to register early.**

**Important:** If you wait to register on the day of the election **you will need to bring more information with you to prove who you are and where you live, see the list on page 13.**

## The Secretary of State requirements:

Bring a photo ID *or* if you don't have a photo ID you will be asked to fill out an *Affidavit of Voter not in Possession of Picture Identification*, this is your promise that you are who you say you are and it can be checked with records on file.

### To be eligible to vote you must be:

- A Michigan resident (at the time you register) and a resident of your city or township for at least 30 days (when you vote)
- A United States citizen
- At least 17.5 when you register and will be 18 years of age when you vote
- Not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison

### Proof of residency:

If you must show proof of where you live for any reason the **documents must have your name and current address on them**. You can show an original or a copy of documents. See a complete list on page 13

Acceptable documents include:

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

## Deadlines and Rules for Each Method of Registering:

### a) Online:

You ***MUST*** have a valid driver's license or State ID card **with your correct address *and*** register online by ***October 19, 2020***, 15 days before the election. ***After this time, you must register in person at the City or Township Clerks Office.***

Register online here: <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/RegisterVoter>

### b) By Mail:

Applications ***must*** be postmarked on or before ***Monday October 19, 2020***. The postmark deadline will always be 15 days before the election.

Download a mail in Voter Registration application here:

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/Voter\\_Reg\\_Form\\_18\\_pt\\_type\\_470427\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/Voter_Reg_Form_18_pt_type_470427_7.pdf)

**You must** enter in your driver's license/ID number or the last 4 digits of your social security number on the registration application **or** send either a photocopy of your driver's license/photo ID or a copy of a proof of residency such as a paycheck stub, utility bill, bank document, or government document **that lists both your name and your address.**

You may **NOT** register by mail after **October 19.**

If you register to vote after October 19, 2020 **you must appear in person at the city or township clerk's office AND provide proof of residency.** See list on page 13

If you can't show proof when you register, you may provide one of the proofs of residency items listed on page 13 **when you go to the poll on election day to finish the process.**

**IMPORTANT:**

- **If you are registering for the first time** and submitting your application **by mail**, you will be required to **submit a copy of your photo identification.** See the application form for further details.
- Mail your application **early to make sure you will get your ballot and have enough time to make sure it gets to the clerk's office on time if you are able.**

**c) Register at the Election Office:**

Register at the election office **by Monday November 2, 2020 the deadline is 4:00pm Eastern Time.**

**Be sure to bring** a photo ID or sign a paper promising you are who you say you are. **Also, bring proof of residency listed on page 13.**

**d) Register and Vote on Election Day, November 3, 2020:**

**You can register and vote on the same day, but you CAN'T do this at your polling place!**

To register on Election Day, you need to **go to your city/township clerk's office by 8 pm** and tell them you would like to **register and vote.** Once you register, **you can vote right there, you cannot** vote at your polling place. **Voting must be completed at the clerk's office.**

Call ahead to **make sure** you have all the proper identification and a proof of residency listed on page 13. Bring a photo ID or sign a paper promising you are who you say you are

## e) Voting at the Poll on Election Day November 3, 2020:

**You must already be registered if you want to vote at the poll on election day!**

**You can't register at the poll.** If you decide to vote at the poll you **must** be in line by 8:00 pm.

If you are still in line at 8:00pm when the polls close, **you still have the right to remain in line to cast your vote.**

**You must bring your Driver's License or State ID card.** If you don't have one or forgot it, you may sign a paper promising you are who you say you are. This is called an affidavit.

**Call ahead if you have any questions!**

## 2. Verify: Be sure that you are registered to vote well before Election Day, this is also called Verifying.

**One month before each election you should verify or check to make sure your registration is still valid** so you **know** you can vote and **where to vote.**

Make sure there are no problems with your registration, ***especially if you have moved recently, changed your name, or have not voted in a while.*** So, if there is a problem, you will have time to fix it.

**Do this even earlier for 2020.** Things are slower than usual due to Covid-19

## Three ways to Check Your Michigan Voter Registration Status

Choose one of the following:

Visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/>

- To check online to see if you are registered, just fill in the information and submit it. You will find out immediately.
- Call your local elections office (your city or township clerk), ask them to verify your registration.
- Contact the County Clerk's Office and ask them to check your registration:

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/register  
200 N Main St  
Suite 120  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
Ph: 734-222-6730

Fax: 734-222-6528

Email: [elections@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:elections@ewashtenaw.org)

### 3. Voting Absentee, Early Voting, Emergency Absentee Ballot, and Spoiling an Absentee Ballot

No Excuse Absentee Ballots and Early Voting **are** both permitted:

All registered voters are eligible to vote by mail.

#### Requesting an Absentee Ballot:

Online:

**Deadline: Requests for an absentee ballot to be mailed to your home should be made no later than 5 p.m. the Friday before the election. *Earlier is better so it will get to you on time.***

Go to the Michigan Voter Information Center site (MVIC)

<https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/avapplication> and fill out the requested information.

**To request a ballot online you must be registered to vote in Michigan and have a valid Michigan driver's license or state ID.**

If you need to register to vote, click on "Registering to Vote" on this MVIC page.

If you don't have a Michigan driver's license or state ID but you are registered to vote, go to "Absentee Voting" on this MVIC page for more information on how you can apply for an absent voter ballot.

**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. There is a form available at this site to apply online for an accessible electronic absent voter ballot. There is also a tool to apply online for a regular absent voter ballot. **Follow the directions in the box that says "How do I request and absentee ballot if I have a disability" on the MVIC link above.**

By Mail:

**Deadline to have a ballot mailed to you: Requests to have an absent voter ballot mailed to your home must be received by your clerk **no later than 5 p.m. the Friday before the election** but *earlier is better due to the 2020 mail slowdown.***

**Deadline to mail your ballot:** Your ballot must be **mailed early in the day**, so it arrives at the post office and is **postmarked by no later than November 2**. Due to the mail slowdown, be sure to mail it as early as possible or drop it in a local ballot drop box.

### **In Person at Clerk's Office:**

**Deadline: Up to 4pm on November 2, 2020**

If you are already registered at your current address, you can request an absent voter ballot in person at your clerk's office **anytime up to 4 p.m. on the day prior to the election**, this ballot must be completed at the clerk's office.

### **On Election Day or Day Before:**

**Deadline: When requesting an absentee ballot on Election Day, you may only vote at the clerk's office. If you are in line at 8pm you have the right to remain and vote.**

You can register to vote and update your address at the clerk's office on Election Day. You can request an absentee voter ballot at the same time.

If you already have an absentee ballot you have **until 8 p.m. on Election Day to complete the ballot and return it to the ballot drop off box at the clerk's office.**

### **Early Voting:**

**Michigan permits early voting with *in-person absentee ballots at the city clerk's office.* For 2020 early voting begins on September 24 and ends on November 2.**

**Michigan Voters can cast absentee ballots beginning 45 days before Election Day.**

These ballots are counted on Election Day.

### **Important:**

- Mail your ballot **as early as possible** so it will arrive on time.
- If requesting an absentee ballot on the day before the election or on Election Day, **you must** cast the ballot in the clerk's office.
- Call ahead to **make sure** you have all the proper identification when you register and vote on the same day at the clerk's office.
- Bring a **photo ID** or sign an **affidavit** (paper promising you are who you say you are, and you don't have a photo ID with you). Also, bring **proof of residency** listed on page 13.
- Your ballot **will not be counted unless your signature is on the return envelope and matches your signature on file.**
- If you got help with voting your ballot, then **the signature of the person who helped you must also be on the return envelope.**
- Read the instructions on the ballot VERY carefully and be sure to sign in correct spot and place the ballot in the envelope as directed.

## Returning your ballot:

**Only** you, a family member, or person residing in your household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver your signed absent voter ballot to your clerk's office.

### Remember:

- Beginning **September 24, 2020 through Election Day you can get an absentee ballot and vote early** at the City or Township Clerk's office where you reside.
- If you are registering to vote on the same day that you vote early, **you must** provide proof of residency in the city or township to vote a regular ballot. Bring proof of residency as listed **on page 13**
- If you cannot provide proof of residency, **you can still vote but the ballot is considered a provisional ballot**. It will still be counted unless residency is not valid.
- **Mail-in registration forms must be postmarked by October 19.**

## Emergency Absentee Ballot

If there is an emergency, such as a sudden illness or family death that stops you from going to vote on Election Day, you may ask for an emergency absent voter ballot so you can still vote.

Request an emergency ballot **after the deadline for regular absent voter ballots has passed but before 4 p.m. on Election Day**. The emergency must have happened at a time that made it impossible for you to apply for a regular absent voter ballot. **Contact your local clerk for more information about emergency absent voter ballots.**

## Spoiling an absent voter ballot

(Spoiling means to make a mistake on your ballot or wanting to change your vote)

If you have requested an absentee ballot and one is mailed to you **but you change your mind and decide to vote in person, bring your absentee ballot with you to the polls, but DO NOT fill it out**. They will spoil that ballot and issue a new one to you.

**If you have filled out the ballot already**, you cannot use that ballot at your polling location. **You will be directed to your township or county clerk to drop it off or you can spoil that ballot and fill out a new one at your polling place.**

If you have already voted absentee and you want to change your vote (because the candidate has dropped out of the race, or for any other reason), **you have the right to spoil your ballot by giving the clerk a signed written request and asking for a new ballot.**

There are 3 ways to recast your ballot after it is spoiled:

- 1) Sign the request and tell them you would like a new absentee ballot mailed to you.
- 2) Ask for one at the clerk's office when you sign the request.
- 3) Sign and return your request to the clerk and recast your ballot at the polls.

**Deadlines:** The request to spoil a ballot must be received by 2 p.m. the Saturday before the election if ballot was received by mail.

**OR**

**An absentee ballot may be spoiled in person at the clerk's office until 4 p.m. the Monday prior to the election.**

**Remember:** After you spoil a ballot you can get a new absentee ballot at the clerk's office or go vote at the polls.

**\*\*\*There is NO option on Election Day to spoil an absentee ballot that has been received by the clerk.\*\*\***

**Important:** Pay close attention to deadlines for applying. **Read and follow** the directions on the absentee ballot **very carefully.** Your ballot signature must be signed exactly as directed using the SAME signature you used on your ID. Be sure to **bring proper ID and proof of residency to the clerk's office.**

#### **4. Voting on Election day at the polls:**

The election will be held on **Tuesday, November 3, 2020** beginning at 7:00am and ends at 8:00pm Eastern Time. **If you are still in line at 8:00pm when the polls close, you still have the right to stay and vote.**

**To Find Your Polling Place Contact Your City or County Clerk or search online at Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC)**

Be prepared to give them your address since the polling location is based on where you live. You may also find this and other helpful information at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>

**Remember:** If you make a mistake on your ballot **do not** scribble it out. **Ask a worker to spoil your ballot and give you a new one.**

**Caution! Check your polling location. Polling locations may change, and a vote cast at the wrong place may not be counted.**

## Bring Proper Identification

To vote in Michigan, every registered voter voting in person must show a valid form of photo ID **or sign an affidavit attesting that he or she is they don't have of a photo ID. You may sign even if you have a photo ID but did not bring it with you to the polls.** Your address does not need to be included on the photo ID and your name may be shortened, for example from Elizabeth to Beth on the ID.

### Valid forms of photo ID in Michigan include:

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

### How to get an identification card:

#### State ID

ID cards and driver's licenses can be applied for at the Secretary of State Office. Please check their website for information on what information you will need to apply. The fee for a basic ID card is \$10.00. Due to Covid 19 this option may not be the best choice.

#### Washtenaw ID Card

You may apply for a Washtenaw County ID for a fee of \$25.00. **Due to Covid 19 there is a wait time for an appointment so call ASAP.** The following link provides information on how to get an appointment and apply:

<https://www.washtenaw.org/280/Apply-for-a-Washtenaw-County-ID-Card>

## 5. You have a right to bring a someone to help you vote

Under federal law, **you can bring someone to help you vote (an assistor) into the voting booth.**

“Voters with disabilities who require assistance in casting a ballot may receive assistance from another person, provided that the person assisting the voter is not the voter's employer, agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a union to which the voter belongs.

If you or someone you know requires special access to the polls, it is important to call the clerk's office ahead of time to make sure your voting site is free of obstructions. If your precinct is not accessible, you will be directed to an alternative site that is accessible. For more

information, contact your local clerk. Hearing impaired residents with questions may contact the Department of State's Bureau of Elections by email at [MDOS-ADAVoting@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDOS-ADAVoting@Michigan.gov).” For more information please visit:

[https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_8716-27710--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716-27710--,00.html)

## 6. You have the right to ask a poll worker for a new ballot, if you make a mistake

See section 3 above for more information on how to spoil an absentee ballot. Under federal law, **you have a right to ask the clerk or a poll worker for a new ballot if you make a mistake.**

## 7. Don't Leave Without Voting

**If you are in line when the polls close at 8:00 pm, stay in line, because you have the right to vote. They cannot ask you to leave.**

## 8. What to do if you get a provisional ballot (see page 19 for a definition of provisional ballot)

A poll worker might tell you that there is a problem with your registration (for example, that you are not on the voter list) and offer you a **provisional ballot**. **If this happens first make sure to ask if you are in the correct precinct. If no other way is available, you can cast a provisional ballot.**

## 9. Where to learn about voting machines, candidates, who represents you, and more:

- Visit [https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_8716\\_45458---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716_45458---,00.html)  
Here you will find information about registering to vote and voting, voting equipment, polling place locations, state and local ballots, the candidates, campaign finance and more.
- Visit the **League of Women Voters** website at: <http://www.vote411.org/ballot> at this site you enter your address and you can **learn more about voting** and see **a voter guide** to help you pick your candidates, watch videos of debates for different candidates, and a view a schedule of Presidential debates to help you make wise decisions about who to vote for.
- Contact your city or county clerk for more information or check out their websites.
- Search “who are my representatives” or go to the following site:  
<https://www.commoncause.org/find-your-representative/addr/>  
Visit this website to find out who all of your elected officials are. Just enter your address.

## 10. Voter Accessibility

If you or someone you know requires special access to the polls, it's important to **call the**

**clerk's office** ahead of time to make sure your voting site is free of obstructions. If your precinct is not accessible, you will be directed to an alternative site that is accessible. **For more information, contact your local clerk.** Hearing impaired residents with questions may contact the Department of State's Bureau of Elections by email at [elections@michigan.gov](mailto:elections@michigan.gov).

**For more information see:** [https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_8721\\_8742-27710--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8721_8742-27710--,00.html)

If you have problems on election day bring these numbers for non-partisan help:

1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español)

1-888-API-VOTE (Asian multilingual assistance)

1-844-418-1682 (Arabic)

### **What if my polling place is not accessible?**

You have the right to an accessible polling place and an accessible voting machine. **If it is before Election Day, call your city/ township clerk right away and ask for an assignment to an alternate site that is accessible.** You can also call the non-partisan Election Protection hotline at the top of this page to report the issue.

If it is **Election Day**, **send someone into the polling place to request curbside voting on your behalf.** An election inspector at your polling place will bring a ballot outside so you can vote.

### **Can I get a ballot in my language?**

If you vote in Colfax Township or the City of Fennville, you have the right to a ballot and election materials in Spanish.

If you vote in the City of Hamtramck, you have the right to a ballot and election materials in Bengali.

If you do not read or write English, and a ballot is not available in your language, **you have the right to assistance from anyone you choose.** However, the person cannot be your employer, an agent of your employer or an officer or agent of your labor union.

### **What if I need assistance voting?**

**You have the right to vote independently using an accessible voting machine.** If you would like to use an accessible voting machine, **tell an election official when you arrive to vote.**

**You have the right to assistance from the election officials.** You can ask the election officials for instructions on how to use the voting equipment or assistance at any time, even after you've entered the voting booth.

**If you are blind, disabled, or unable to read or write, you have the right to assistance from anyone you choose.** However, **the person cannot be your** employer, an agent of your employer or an officer or agent of your labor union.

## 11. What to Expect at the Polls

**Station 1 - Voter Check-in** where they complete an application to vote (Name, DOB, Current Address, Signature).

**Station 2 - Processing at Poll Book** where poll workers check your application to vote against your photo ID (looking to see that your face matches that on your ID and your name on your application matches your ID). Once these are verified, you will be issued a ballot in a secrecy sleeve. Go to an open Voting Booth where you will take your ballot out of the secrecy sleeve and carefully fill in the bubbles next to your chosen candidates.

**Station 3 - Casting Your Ballot** where you feed your completed ballot into the tabulation machine. The poll worker will remove the stub at the top of your ballot while it is still in the secrecy sleeve and then you will feed the ballot into the machine yourself. **Be sure to wait for the "Ballot Successfully Cast" message on the tabulation machine screen before leaving your polling location.**

## 12. Special Notes for Student Voters:

**Know Your Rights:** <https://www.michiganvoting.org/know-your-rights>

Students who come from Michigan and attend a school in Michigan can register to vote at their school address or their home address.

Students coming from Michigan who attend a school outside of Michigan can still register to vote at their home address in Michigan.

Students who are not from Michigan but are attending school in Michigan can register to vote at their school address in Michigan.

For questions about registering to vote in other states, check out that state's resources on voting in their state.

If you have a Michigan driver's license or state ID card, and you are registered to vote in Michigan, your voter registration address and the address on your ID will be the same.

If you change the address on one, it will automatically change the other. The Secretary of State will mail you a sticker with your new address to place on your license or ID card.

### **Student Voting Information from the Michigan Secretary of State:**

[https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_8716\\_93658---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716_93658---,00.html)

Registering to vote

Out of State

Voting FAQs

Take Action

### **Voting in Michigan 101 - A Student Voter's Step-by-Step Guide**

[https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_8716\\_93658-538079--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716_93658-538079--,00.html)

Helpful information and links so you can follow these steps

Step 1 – CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS

Step 2 – REGISTER OR UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

Step 3 – MAKE YOUR PLAN TO VOTE

**Campus Vote Project Michigan link for more info and FAQs:**

<https://www.campusvoteproject.org/stateguides/Michigan>

Students have a choice about where to register to vote.

Students attending college may register at their campus address or choose to remain registered or register at their permanent or home address.

***You may only be registered and vote in one location they must be the same. If you are from out of state and you wish to vote at home because that is where your ID address is, you must either go home to vote or vote absentee.***

If you have any questions, please call your local city or township clerk.

### **13. If you have Election Day problems:**

Call one of these non-partisan hotlines:

1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español)  
1-888-API-VOTE (Asian multilingual assistance)  
1-844-418-1682 (Arabic)

## 14. Understanding Common Voting Terms

VoteSmart offers a list of terms to know about voting and they offer Government 101 to help citizens learn about how our government works: <https://votesmart.org>

**Absentee Voting-** A way to vote when you can't get to your polling place. You can vote on a special form and mail it in or drop it off at a ballot drop box. **All registered voters in Michigan have the right to an absentee ballot.**

**Assistor-** A person to give help or support while voting. **When you vote you have a right to bring someone to help you with an absentee ballot or at the polls.**

**If you are blind, disabled, or unable to read or write, you have the right to assistance from anyone you choose.** However, **the person cannot be your** employer, an agent of your employer or an officer or agent of your labor union.

If you get help from another person **when voting an absentee ballot, that person must sign the ballot too.** There is a space called a certificate. The certificate appears on the outside of the ballot return envelope and must be signed by any person who assists an absentee voter to mark his or her ballot.

**\*\*\*Check this information by calling the township or city clerk's office well ahead of time.**

**Ballot-** A paper slip used to list candidates and proposals and to cast your vote.

**Cast a ballot-** means to vote with the ballot.

**Constituent-** You are your representative's constituent. They represent you. You are a voting member of a community and have the power to help appoint or elect a member of a constituency to represent you in the government.

**Electoral District (also known as a constituency, riding, ward, division, electoral area, district, or electorate)-** Every community is divided into districts to elect a person to a political office to pass legislation and represent them. Generally, only voters (constituents) who live in the district are allowed to vote in an election held there.

**Emergency Absentee Voter Ballot**-A special ballot that you can apply for after the usual deadline to register as an absentee voter ballot but before 4p.m. on Election Day. This can only be used if an emergency calls you away from your local voting area. **If you have an emergency that keeps you from going to the polls you have the right to an emergency ballot.**

**Gubernatorial Election**-The selection of a governor by a state's voters. The governor can affect much of what happens in each state.

**Legislation**- Documents written by our elected representatives that cover things like laws, rules, rulings, regulations, acts, bills, statutes, ordinances that affect our community, state, and country.

**Millage**- A tax that people who own property pay which funds services and needs of the community. The amount or rate stated in terms of tenths of cents in tax per dollar of property value. 1 mill is 1 cent added to each tax dollar that is paid in property tax.

**Nominee**-The person that a political party chooses to represent them in a general election. This is called a nomination.

**Non-partisan**- Not specifically supporting or controlled by a either party. Non-partisan candidates are often running for a school board position, as Judges, or positions in the local government like commissioners. **A non-partisan candidate may still be biased or lean in one way toward a party. So, it is important to read the biographic information on Non-partisan candidates to weigh it against your own values or needs.**

**Partisan**- A partisan candidate has a strong, tie to their party.

**Party**- A group of people who join together because they share many ideas about what the government should do. Examples: Democratic Party and Republican Party

**Petition**- A formal written request, signed by many registered voters, asking the government to consider a cause, make a new law, and more. You must be registered to vote to sign a petition. A petition can be used to help someone run for office or to make a change in a law or some other thing in the community. **Caution! If you are not a registered voter do not sign a petition because it invalidates the entire page of signature**

**Polling location**- Where you go to vote. The place you vote depends on your address, because of this **you must vote at your specific polling location.**

**Provisional Ballot**- A special ballot used to record a vote when there are questions about a person's eligibility to vote. **You are still able to vote; they just check your information more**

**closely.** A provisional ballot would be cast when: The voter can't show a photo ID (in regions that require one), or if the voter's name does not appear on the electoral roll at the precinct.

**Proposal-** A plan or suggestion, especially a formal or written one, put up for a vote. These plans change things in your community. They often allow a tax increase in the form of a millage for things that help the community like money for schools, libraries, parks, and the fire department. **Be sure to read about each proposal before you go to vote so you know what ones you like.**

**Precinct-** A group of voters divided up by their neighborhood. It is the smallest political unit in U.S. politics. Cities and counties are divided into precinct polling districts that have different numbers of registered voters based on State law.

**Renewal Millage-** This renews a tax that has already been approved

**Spoiling a Ballot-** When a ballot is filled out wrong, is too messy to read, or the voter changes their mind they can ask for their ballot to be "spoiled" and to get a new one. The person to ask is the clerk at the City or Township Clerk's Office or a poll worker if you are at the polling place. **You have the right to spoil a ballot and get a new one if you make a mistake.**

**Third Party Candidates-** These candidates belong to other parties besides the Democratic or Republican Party. Our system is generally a two-party system, but there are other parties whose candidates often receive less votes and do not win in major elections. Because of this the two major parties are usually the ones that have the most power.

**Verify Registration-** To make sure your voter registration is still good, especially after moving, a name change we, or not voting for a while. **Check early so it can be fixed in time to vote.**

**Voting Booth-** Where you will take your ballot out of the secrecy sleeve and fill in the bubbles next to your chosen candidates.

**Voter Guide-** a guide to help you pick your candidates. Each candidate writes about who they are and what they stand for to tell you a little about themselves and what their views are. **You can go to [Vote411](#) or [Google: Voter Guide](#) to find out more about candidates and proposals.**

**These terms have been compiled or inspired by the following websites:**

<https://justfacts.votesmart.org>

<https://en.wikipedia.org>

<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com>

## **15. Sources and resources:**

This information was compiled using the resources listed below:

Know Your Rights:

<https://www.michiganvoting.org/know-your-rights>

Secretary of State Office (SOS Office):

<http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633---,00.html>

The Michigan Voter Information Center:

<https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>

Voters can use the Michigan Voter Information Center Michigan.gov/vote to:

View your Sample Ballot

Request and Track your Absentee Ballot

Verify your Voter Registration

Find your Polling Place

Contact your Local Election Official

Find answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Vote.gov

<https://vote.gov/register/mi/>

Register to vote step by step:

[http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_8716\\_8726\\_47669---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716_8726_47669---,00.html)

Absentee Voting:

[http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_8716\\_8728-21037--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716_8728-21037--,00.html)

Rock the Vote Voter ID information:

<https://www.rockthevote.com/get-informed/elections/voter-id-requirements/state/>

Campus Vote Project Michigan:

<https://www.campusvoteproject.org/stateguides/Michigan>

Voting guides for students (voting from an out of state school):

<http://www.lwvmi.org/voting/voting-collegeStudents.html>

This document is based on the Voters Bill of Rights:

[https://uploads.democrats.org/Downloads/Know\\_Your\\_Rights.pdf](https://uploads.democrats.org/Downloads/Know_Your_Rights.pdf)

Vote 411.org

<https://www.vote411.org/>

Enter your address to find your polling place and learn about your ballot with their online voters' guide and more. The voters' guide will allow you to see the races on your ballot, compare candidates' positions side-by-side, and print out a list of your preferences as a reminder and take it with you to the polls on Election Day.

**Updated 10/06/2020**