

KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS

Michigan Local Elections Tuesday, May 5, 2020

*Your vote is your voice and your voice matters.
It's now easier than ever to register and vote in Michigan!*

Read this guide for the most up-to-date information on how to register and vote for Michigan's Presidential Primary.

You'll find answers to common questions, including:

- how to register to vote
- how to vote from home before Election Day
- how to vote on Election Day

WHO CAN REGISTER AND VOTE

Can I vote in Michigan?

You must be registered to vote in order to vote in Michigan.

Can I register to vote?

You can register to vote for the local elections on May 5 if:

- You are a U.S. citizen;
- You are a resident of a city or township in Michigan for at least 30 days (or will be by May 5, 2020);
- You are at least 18 years old (or will be by May 5, 2020); and
- You are not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison.

What address do I use to register to vote?

You use the address you consider to be your primary residence. Your primary residence is the place where you sleep most regularly and keep your belongings.

What if I'm a student?

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

card. Once registered, you can change your address through Michigan's online voter registration system. www.mi.gov/VoterRegistration

What if I'm in jail or was convicted of a crime?

The only time you cannot register and vote is when you are serving a sentence in jail or prison.

You can register and vote:

- If you are in jail but have not been sentenced;
- If you are serving a sentence but are not in jail or prison;
- If you are on probation or parole but are not in jail or prison; or
- If you served your sentence and are no longer in jail or prison.

What if I am homeless?

If you don't have a home, you can register to vote using a street corner, park, shelter or any other place where you usually stay as your address. You can describe the location using two cross-streets.

It is helpful, but not required, to have a mailing address. This can be a local shelter, advocacy organization, outreach center, or someone who will accept mail for you.

VOTER REGISTRATION

You can register to vote at any time!

You can register at any time up to 8 p.m. on Election Day, but in light of Covid-19 you should register as soon as possible.

Am I registered to vote?

Visit the **Michigan Voter Information Center** www.mi.gov/vote to see if you are registered to vote. Make sure you are registered where you currently live.

Or you can call your city, township or county clerk's office, or the Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.

How do I register to vote for the May 5, 2020 local elections?

Prior to April 21, 2020, you have many ways to register to vote:

- Online at www.mi.gov/VoterRegistration; or
- [By mailing in a completed voter registration application postmarked by April 20, 2020.](#)

You can also register at the following locations to the extent they are open:

- At your city or township clerk's office or your county clerk's office.; or
- At any state agency that provides public assistance or services to people with disabilities;

Starting on April 21, 2020 and through 8 p.m. on May 5, 2020, you have one way to register to vote:

- By completing a voter registration form and providing "proof of residency" to the city or township clerk's office in the community where you live and wish to vote.

You can visit your city or township clerk's office to register in person, but in light of Covid-19, you are strongly encouraged to submit your completed voter registration application and a copy of your proof of residency to your city or township clerk by mail, email or fax.

What is "proof of residency"?

"Proof of residency" is a document with your name and current address in the city or township where you wish to register to vote. Paper or electronic copies of any of the following documents will work:

- A Michigan driver's license or state ID card;
- A utility bill;
- A bank statement;
- A paycheck;
- A government check; or
- Any other government document.

Where is my city or township clerk's office and when is it open?

Visit the **Michigan Voter Information Center** www.mi.gov/vote, click on the "MY CLERK" tab, and search by your address to find your city or township clerk's address. You are encouraged to call your city or township clerk's office before visiting their office.

Do I need a photo ID or proof of citizenship to register to vote?

No. You may be asked for a photo ID when registering to vote in person. If you don't have one or don't have one with you, you can sign a simple form and then register to vote.

If you have a Michigan driver's license or state ID card, or a social security number, include the numbers on your voter registration application where indicated.

What if I've moved?

You should update your registration whenever you move.

If you haven't updated your registration to your current address by Election Day, you can vote at your old polling place one last time if you:

- moved within the same city or township; OR
- moved to a different city or township after March 6, 2020.

VOTING BEFORE ELECTION DAY BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

You can vote before Election Day!

All registered voters in Michigan can now vote before Election Day using what's called an absentee ballot. You don't need an excuse or a reason. You can vote by absentee ballot through the mail, without leaving your home! If you need to, registered voters can also go to your city or township clerk's office.

How do I vote FROM HOME before Election Day?

Step 1: Request an absentee ballot. There are a few ways to do this:

- Download an [application for an absentee ballot](#) as soon as possible from the **Michigan Voter Information Center** www.mi.gov/vote.
- Call your city or township clerk and ask for an application to be mailed to you;

Step 2: Complete the application, sign it using your official signature and submit it to your city or township clerk. **YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BY MAIL, FAX, EMAIL OR IN PERSON.** Make sure your signature is visible.

Step 3: Keep an eye out for your absentee ballot to arrive in the mail. You can track your application and ballot at the **Michigan Voter Information Center** www.mi.gov/vote.

Step 4: Fill out your ballot, place it in the envelope provided, and sign the outside of the envelope using your official signature.

Step 5: Turn in your ballot. Your completed absentee ballot must be **received** by your city or township clerk by 8 p.m. on May 5, 2020. To ensure your ballot arrives by the deadline:

- Drop it in the mail by April 28, 2020.
- After April 28, 2020, it is better to drop it off at your city or township clerk's office.

What is the deadline to vote FROM HOME before Election Day?

Your completed absentee ballot must be received by your city or township clerk by 8 p.m. on May 5, 2020.

Begin the process early by mailing in your application for an absentee ballot as soon as possible.

How do I vote IN PERSON before Election Day?

Step 1: Call your city or township clerk's office to confirm the hours the office will be open.

Step 2: Fill out an application for an absentee ballot and submit it to the staff.

Step 3: Fill out your ballot, place it in the envelope provided, sign the outside of the envelope with your official signature, and leave it with the staff.

What is the deadline to vote IN PERSON before Election Day?

If you are already registered to vote where you live and want to vote before Election Day, the deadline is Monday, May 4, 2020, at 4 p.m. at your city or township clerk's office.

If you are not registered to vote where you live, you must visit your city or township clerk's office with proof of residency by 8 p.m. on May 5, 2020 to register and vote.

Where is my city or township clerk's office and when is it open?

Visit the **Michigan Voter Information Center** www.mi.gov/vote and enter your address to find your city or township clerk's address. You are encouraged to call your city or township clerk's office before visiting their office.

VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

When is Election Day?

[Some communities in Michigan have a local election on May 5, 2020. Call your city or township clerk to find out if you have an election on May 5, 2020.](#)

When are the polls open?

At least one polling location will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time. You have the right to vote if you are in line at 8 p.m..

What will be on the ballot?

View your sample ballot at the **Michigan Voter Information Center** www.mi.gov/vote.

Where do I vote on Election Day?

If you don't vote before Election Day and still need to vote on May 5, 2020, you will need to go to the in person voting location in your community. Call your city or township clerk's office for more details.

Can I get time off from work to vote?

Your employer isn't required to give you paid or unpaid time off to vote. Ask if they have a policy that allows you to take time off. If they don't, vote before Election Day.

VOTING ACCESSIBILITY

What if the polling site is not accessible?

You have the right to an accessible polling place and an accessible voting machine. If it is Election Day, send someone into the polling place to request curbside voting on your behalf. The election officials will bring a ballot outside so you can vote.

Call the Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE to report the issue.

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.

IDENTIFICATION FOR VOTING

Do I need a photo ID to vote?

No. But if you have it, bring it with you and provide it to the poll worker.

You will be asked for photo ID when you go vote. If you do not have photo ID or do not have it with you, you can sign a simple form and vote.

Do I need a photo ID to vote if this is my first time voting in Michigan?

No. A small number of first time voters who registered through the mail or a voter registration drive may need to provide some documentation to vote. Electronic or paper copies of any of the following will work:

A **photo ID with your name and picture** (regardless of the address or if it has an address):

- driver's license or personal ID card from any state
- high school or college ID
- passport
- military or government issued photo ID
- tribal ID card

A **non-photo ID with your name and address on it:**

- current utility bill
- bank statement
- paycheck stub
- government check
- any other government document

If you are disabled or a military or overseas voter, this doesn't apply.

Do I need the receipt I received when I registered to vote?

No. But if you have it, bring it with you.

Do I need my Voter Identification Card to vote?

No. But if you have it, bring it with you.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is my absentee ballot?

You can track your absentee ballot and application at the **Michigan Voter Information Center** www.mi.gov/vote. Visit the site to see if:

- Your application was processed by your city or township clerk;
- Your absentee ballot was mailed to you; and
- Whether your absentee ballot was received by your city or township clerk.

Once your absentee ballot is marked "received," you know that there were no problems and your absentee ballot is ready to be counted.

What should I do if I requested an absentee ballot but never received it?

Call your city or township clerk as soon as possible to cancel your first absentee ballot and request a new one.

If you must, you can go to your city or township clerk's office, complete a simple form and vote.

What if I received my absentee ballot but then made an error on it or it was lost or destroyed?

Call your city or township clerk as soon as possible to cancel your first absentee ballot and request a new one.

If you must, you can go to your city or township clerk's office, cancel your first absentee ballot and get a new one. If you have the absentee ballot, because when you made an error it was only partially destroyed, take it with you to the clerk's office.

What if I'm not on the voter list?

If you have the receipt you received when you registered to vote, show that to the poll worker in order to vote. If you don't have your receipt, give the poll worker your address and ask if you're at the correct polling place. If you are not at the right polling place for your address, go to the correct polling place.

If you are not on the voter list, you can register to vote before 8 p.m. on Election Day at your city or township clerk's office or other voting location established by your clerk. You will need to provide "proof of residency". While there, you can vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office.

If you cannot go to the clerk's office with proof of residency, you can cast what's called a "provisional ballot." To do this, you'll have to swear you believe you previously registered to vote.

If you can provide a photo ID that shows your address in that polling place, your provisional ballot will go into the machine and be counted on Election Day. If not, it will go into an envelope and the clerk will review it after Election Day. You have six days after Election Day to go to the clerk's office with any documentation to show you are registered. You must be provided with a handout explaining this.

What if I have a problem voting, or someone is trying to intimidate or harass me?

Tell the city or township clerk. If the city or township clerk doesn't address the problem, call one of the Election Protection hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE.

What if someone challenges my right to vote?

Step 1: Ask to be sworn in by the election official,

Step 2: Answer whatever questions are necessary to establish your eligibility to vote, and

Step 3: Vote.

What if I make a mistake on my ballot or the voting machine malfunctions?

If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot right away.

Call the Election Protection hotlines for assistance at any time.

- For assistance in English,
call 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683);
- Para recibir ayuda en español,
llama a 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682);
- (844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287):
- For assistance in Bengali, Cantonese,
English, Hindi, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog,
Urdu or Vietnamese,
call 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683).

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