

2 Voter Registration, Organ Donation, and State Identification Cards

The Department of State oversees many areas involving traffic safety issues, automobile and other vehicle registrations, and licensing issues. This section provides information about several programs not directly related to motor vehicles, such as voter registration and organ donor programs.

Voter Registration Information

You must be registered to vote to participate in Michigan elections. Eligible residents may register at a Secretary of State office.

If you are applying for, renewing, or updating information on your driver's license, you also will be provided with an opportunity to register to vote.

To register to vote you must be:

- A U.S. citizen.
- At least 18 years of age on or before election day.
- A resident of Michigan and the city or township where you wish to register to vote.

In addition to Secretary of State offices, you may register by mail or at your local county, city, or township clerk's office. You must register at least 30 days before the election. If you move within your city or township, you must change the address on your voter registration. If you move to another city or township, you must register to vote in that jurisdiction to remain eligible to vote.

The Department of State will enclose a voter registration application with your renewal notice if you are eligible to renew your driver's license by mail. To register, fill out the voter

registration form and send it with your driver's license renewal form. If you are already registered and your address has not changed, you do not need to mail the voter registration form supplied with your driver's license renewal notice.

Michigan's mail-in voter registration form may also be printed from the Department of State Web site.

If the address you provide on a voter registration application does not match the residential address on your driving record, your driving record will be updated to match your voter registration. In such an instance, a change-of-address sticker will be provided for your driver's license.

Organ Donor Program

No matter what your age or medical history, consider yourself as a potential organ, tissue, and eye donor. In 2007, nearly 900 organ transplants were performed in Michigan, continuing a record-breaking trend established over the last several years. Yet in spite of these tremendous gains, more than 3,000 Michigan residents wait for a life-saving organ transplant. Thousands more benefit through the recovery of tissue, such as corneas, bone, muscle, and skin.

The Department of State provides several convenient ways to add your name to the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. You can enroll online at www.Michigan.gov/sos. You can also say "yes" by telling the clerk to add your name to the donor registry the next time you are at a Secretary of State office.

People who add their names to the registry will receive a heart sticker, showing a red heart and the word "Donor" for their driver's license or state identification card. (If you signed up to be an organ and tissue donor *before* Jan. 1, 2007, please enroll again so that you receive your heart sticker.) The sticker indicates that you wish to donate your organs and tissues – no further consent is needed. And, because the sticker is on the front of the license or ID card, it is readily visible. In the future, licenses and IDs will be "branded" with the heart logo, eliminating the need for a sticker.

Once you have enrolled on the registry, make sure to tell your family, so they are aware of your wish to be a donor.

The department maintains the donor registry on a secure, confidential database. Access is granted to Gift of Life Michi-

gan, the state's federally designated organ and tissue recovery organization, to help coordinate organ donor recovery services for the state's donor hospitals and transplant centers. Other partners include the Michigan Eye-Bank, Michigan Coalition on Donation, Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Michigan Department of Community Health, National Kidney Foundation, American Liver Foundation, American Heart Association and American Lung Association. These are just some of the groups that work together to promote greater organ, tissue, and eye donor awareness among healthcare providers as well as the general public.

For more information about organ, tissue, and eye donation, go to the Department of State Web site at www.Michigan.gov/sos or contact:

Gift of Life Michigan

(800) 482-4881; www.giftoflifemichigan.org

Michigan Eye-Bank

(800) 247-7250; www.michiganeyebank.org

State Identification Cards

A state identification (ID) card can be issued to any eligible resident, regardless of age. You may not have a state ID card and a Michigan driver's license unless your license has been restricted, suspended, or revoked. To obtain a state ID card, visit a Secretary of State office. Proof of identification will be required before a state ID card will be issued. Please refer to "Providing Proof of Identity" in Chapter 1 or contact a Secretary of State office or the Department of State Web site for more information about acceptable identification. All identification is subject to Department of State approval.

There is a fee for a state ID card, but the cards are issued free to residents who are blind, age 65 or older, or who have had their driving privileges terminated due to a mental or physical disability. Your state ID card expires four years from your last birthday and may be renewed by mail. Under Michigan law, a state ID card is as valid as a driver's license for identification purposes.