

You can vote in Michigan if you are:

- U At least 18 years of age by election day
- U Not presently incarcerated following conviction
- U A Michigan resident and citizen of the United States
- U Registered to vote by October 6th to vote on November 4th

If you were convicted, you can still vote if:

- U You are no longer incarcerated
- U You are currently on probation or parole

**If you are in jail awaiting plea or trial,
you can still vote using an absentee ballot!**

For those in jail awaiting trial:

If you are currently in jail awaiting a plea or trial, you may vote using an absentee ballot. Please see the below steps:

- U **Step 1:** You must have registered by October 6, 2008 in order to vote November 4, 2008!!!
- U **Step 2:** If you already registered, you must request an application for an absentee ballot from your city or township clerk's office. If you don't have contact information for your local clerk's office, you may call the MI Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973. You can also visit <http://www.michigan.gov/vote> and click the absentee voting button on the left side menu. Click the download link found in the section of the page on absentee voting.
- U **Step 3:** Complete the form and mail or deliver it to your city or township clerk before 2:00PM, on Saturday November 1, 2008. An emergency absentee ballot may be available after this date. Contact your clerk to determine if this option is available.
- U **Step 4:** You have until 8:00 PM on election day to complete the ballot and return it to the clerk's office. Only you, a family member or person residing in your household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver your absentee ballot.

Options for Voting

If you are registered to vote, you may do so by:

- 1) Voting at the correct precinct in person on Election Day.
- 2) Voting in person by absentee ballot at your local clerk's office between now and Election Day if you will not be present in the precinct on Election Day (or if you meet another of the below requirements for absentee voting). Contact your local clerk for more information.
- 3) If you have voted in Michigan before or if you registered to vote in person, you have until 2:00PM on November 1st to request your local clerk mail you an absentee ballot, but the clerk must receive the completed ballot by Election Day.
- 4) If you are a first time Michigan voter, it may be possible to appear at another clerk or secretary of state office in person to establish your identity and address, and then ask your clerk to mail you an absentee ballot. Consider this option only if there is sufficient time for you to receive the ballot and get it back to the clerk by Election Day. Contact your local clerk if you need to consider this option.

Absentee Ballots:

If you meet any of the following requirements, you may be able to vote by absentee ballot. Contact your local clerk for information:

- 1) you're disabled;
- 2) your religion prevents you from voting at the polls,
- 3) you're a poll worker away from your regular polling place;
- 4) you're at least 60 years old;
- 5) you'll be out of your city or township on Election Day;
- 6) you're in jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

First time Michigan voters should be prepared to show photo ID or other documents proving address. If you have a question contact your local clerk.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to show photo identification before I can vote?

- U No.** Bringing photo ID is the fastest and easiest way to vote, but you can also vote by signing an affidavit if you don't have ID with you. **You choose whether to sign an affidavit or bring photo ID.**

What if my name isn't on the local clerk's list of registered voters?

- U Do not give up!** If you registered by October 6th, you can still vote!
- U** If you have your registration receipt, just show it and you can vote.
- U** If you don't have a receipt – ask the election worker to help you make sure you are in the correct precinct.
- U** If you're in the wrong place – go to the right one. Your vote will not be counted if you cast it in the wrong precinct.
- U** Only if you are positive you are in the correct precinct, ask for a provisional ballot. You will be asked to fill out a new application and answer some questions about where you live and when you registered. If your answers establish that you should be on the list, you will be able to vote.
- U** Provisional ballots may go into the scanner and be counted immediately or they may go into a sealed envelope for the clerk to review later. If your ballot is placed in an envelope you will be given instructions on how to follow up to be sure your vote is counted.

For Immediate Assistance On Election Day

- U FIRST: contact the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 1-800-292-5973 and ask for assistance.** They will either assist you with the problem or direct you to your city, township or county clerk's office. You can also visit <http://www.michigan.gov/vote> and select "Find Your Clerk" to get contact information for your local clerk's office.
- U SECOND: contact the Election Protection Coalition and request help. Call 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683) or visit www.866ourvote.org.**

Voting Rights & Criminal Convictions



Unless you are currently incarcerated following conviction, you can vote!!!



Michigan Department of Civil Rights
Linda V. Parker, Director

For more information:

1-800-482-3604

<http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr>

TTY: (877) 878-8464