

# 8 Voter Registration and State ID Cards

The Secretary of State oversees many areas involving traffic safety, including the teen driver, motorcycle safety and Commercial Driver License programs. This chapter provides information about two programs not directly related to traffic safety and licensing but very important nonetheless.

## VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

You must be registered to vote to participate in local, state and federal 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 or state ID card, 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 old 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. If you are registering to vote in person, state law requires you to show picture ID or sign an affidavit attesting that you are not in possession of picture ID. 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 Secretary 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 also may be printed from the Secretary of State website. First-time voters who register by mail must vote in person in their first election, unless they hand-deliver the application to their local clerk, are 60 years old or older, are disabled or are eligible to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

If the address you provide on a voter registration application does not match the residential address on file with the Secretary of State, your driver's license or state ID card will be updated to match your voter registration.

## STATE IDENTIFICATION CARDS

A state identification 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.

You will need to provide proof of your citizenship or legal presence, identity documentation, two proofs of residency and proof of Social Security number (or present a letter of ineligibility from the Social Security Administration).

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.

Applicants presenting temporary legal presence documents may be issued a state ID card that expires in less than four years.

Free ID cards are provided to those who are legally blind, drivers 65 or older who voluntarily relinquish their driver's license and drivers whose driving privilege is suspended, revoked, or denied due to a physical or mental disability.