



Michigan Secretary of State - Jocelyn Benson

Frequently Asked Questions regarding correcting sex designation on a Michigan driver's license or ID

In November 2019, Secretary Benson and the Michigan Department of State implemented policy changes to make it easier for Michigan residents to update their sex designation on their driver's license or ID. Now, two years later, the department is expanding on that opportunity and, as of November 10, 2021, includes the option to add a nonbinary sex designation marker (X) to a driver's license or state ID. This addition makes it easier for nonbinary Michiganders to obtain legal and proper identification that accurately reflects their identity.

Below are answers to frequently asked questions regarding the procedure for changing the sex designation on a driver's license or state ID.

1. How do I correct the sex designation on my license or state ID?

To correct the sex designation on your license or state ID, visit a Secretary of State office to submit a [Sex Designation Form](#). At the time of your visit, staff will correct your license or state ID, take a new photo, and issue a temporary paper credential for you to use until your corrected card arrives in the mail. A correction fee (\$9 for a driver's license, \$10 for a state ID) will be due at the time of your visit.

Keep in mind, this is not the process by which you change your name or any item on your birth certificate. For more information [on how to change your name on your license or ID](#), visit Michigan.gov/SOS. For more information on how to change your birth certificate, visit Michigan.gov/VitalRecords.

2. How will my gender appear on my license or state ID?

Effective Nov. 10, 2021, Michigan residents can denote their sex on their license or state ID as nonbinary (X), female (F), or male (M).

3. Is there a cost to correct my sex designation on my license or ID?

A correction fee (\$9 for a driver's license, \$10 for a state ID) will be due at the time of correcting your credential, as is the case for any license or ID correction.

4. Can I also use the Sex Designation Form to change my name on my driver's license or ID?

No, submitting a Sex Designation Form will only correct the sex designation on your license or ID and cannot be used to apply to change your name on your credential or any other municipal, state, or federal identification records.

5. How do I change my name on my license or state ID?

To change your name on your driver's license or state ID, you will need to visit a Secretary of State office.

You can schedule an office visit or stop by any office unannounced, and staff will provide immediate assistance if there is availability, invite you to wait, or return that same day for the next opening. Staff will also assist you in booking a return visit, often for the next day.

To schedule your visit in advance, visit Michigan.gov/SOS and select [Schedule an Office Visit](#) or call 888-SOS-MICH (888-767-6424). Visits may be scheduled up to six months in advance or for the next day. Thousands of office visits are released twice per day at 8 a.m. and noon every business day.

At the time of your visit, you will need to present:

- Your driver's license or state ID card
- Documented proof of your legal name change (i.e.: court order, marriage license, divorce decree, etc.) or other evidence that you have been using the name for at least six months.

If you are correcting a commercial driver's license, you must also provide proof of legal presence.

At the time of your visit, staff will correct your license or state ID, take a new photo, and issue you a temporary paper credential to use until your corrected card arrives in the mail. A correction fee (\$9 for driver's license, \$10 for state ID) will be due at the time of your visit.

As a reminder, changing your legal name must be done with the Social Security Administration separately.

6. Can I convert my license or state ID to REAL ID and correct my sex designation on my credential at the same time?

Yes, you can update your standard license or state ID to a REAL ID-compliant version at the time of correcting your sex designation. To do so, you must also provide documentation proving your legal presence in the United States. More information is available at Michigan.gov/REALID.

7. Will I be automatically registered to vote if I correct my sex designation on my license or state ID?

Unless you opt out or are already registered to vote in Michigan, you will be automatically registered to vote at the time of updating your license or state ID. If you are already registered to vote, your voter registration status will not change after updating your license or ID.

8. Will the appearance of my voter registration information change on my voter record when I correct my sex designation on my license or state ID?

No. Because sex designation is not recorded on voter registration, your voter registration information will not change after correcting your sex designation on your license or state

ID, provided that no other aspects of your registration have changed (i.e. your name, address, etc.). If you have changed your address, you will need to update your voter registration information. You may update your voter registration online at Michigan.gov/Vote or at your local clerk's office.

9. Will election supervisors/inspectors be able to turn me away if I haven't changed my name, but have changed my sex designation on my license or state ID?

No. When you arrive to vote, state law requires that you provide photo ID. However, poll workers aren't instructed to verify sex designation before issuing a ballot and you aren't required to provide verification.

If you do not have your ID or if there is a question about your identity, you are permitted to sign an affidavit, under the penalty of perjury, that you are who you claim to be, and you will be issued a special ballot to be counted on Election Day. For more information, contact your local clerk's office or the Michigan Bureau of Elections. Contact information for all local clerks is available at Michigan.gov/Vote.

10. If I have a question or concern about how my request was handled at a Secretary of State office, who should I contact?

We are committed to providing excellent customer service. As part of this commitment, we are working with community groups to develop training for our staff on implicit bias and working with various marginalized groups. If you have any questions or concerns about how your request was handled, please contact us at Michigan.gov/ContactSOS or email our office at Secretary@Michigan.gov.