MDCR
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Language Access and Voting in Michigan

Your Civil Rights, Language Assistance, and Your Right to Vote

Voting is a Fundamental Civil Right

Language barriers should not prevent an eligible voter from understanding the voting process or casting a ballot. Michigan voters who need information or assistance in a language other than English have access to translated resources and may have someone assist them throughout the voting process. This includes help when registering to vote, visiting a local clerk's office, voting early, and voting at the polls on Election Day.

Michigan.gov/Vote is the state's official source for personalized information including voter registration, polling locations, early voting sites, mail-in voting, and other election information.

Language Assistance is a Right

If you need language assistance to vote, you have the right to:

- Bring an interpreter to your local clerk's office
- Bring an interpreter when voting early
- Bring an interpreter to your polling place on Election Day
- Receive assistance if you do not read or write English and a ballot is not available in your language
- Choose the person who assists or interprets for you, with limited exceptions
- Access translated election information and forms that are available through the Michigan Department of State

Bringing an Interpreter to Vote

Michigan voters have the right to bring an interpreter with them when they vote. You can choose someone you trust to help you understand information and cast your ballot. This right applies when visiting your clerk's office, voting at an early voting site, and voting at your polling place on Election Day. Your interpreter cannot tell you how to vote or try to influence your choices.

When a Ballot is Not Available in Your Language

Not every ballot in Michigan is available in every language. If you do not read or write in English and your ballot is not available in your language, you have the right to receive assistance from a person you choose, subject to the previously described restrictions. This means the lack of a translated ballot does not mean you have to vote without language assistance.

Your interpreter cannot be:

- Your employer
- An agent of your employer
- An officer or agent of your labor union

Michigan voters have the right to bring an interpreter with them when they vote. If you need assistance in a language other than English, you do not have to navigate the voting process alone.

Translated Voting Information

The Michigan Department of State provides translated resources to help Michigan residents understand elections and voting.

Language resources are currently available in multiple languages, including:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Bengali
- Chinese – Mandarin
- Dari
- French
- Haitian Creole
- Hindi
- Japanese
- Korean
- Pashto
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Somali
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Ukrainian
- Vietnamese

Available information includes resources related to voter registration, mail-in voting, early voting, Election Day voting, voting rights, and other parts of the election process.

Registering to Vote

Language resources are available to help eligible Michigan residents register to vote.

Depending on how and when you register, options may include:

- Using online voter registration with a web browser's translation features
- Using a translated printable voter registration form
- Registering through a Secretary of State self-service station that offers transactions in languages other than English
- Registering in person at your local clerk's office

Mail-in Voting and Language Access

Every registered Michigan voter has the right to vote using an mail-in ballot.

Voters who need translated information may be able to use translated mail-in ballot application materials. Options for requesting an mail-in ballot include:

- Completing an online application using a browser with an automatic translation feature
- Asking your local clerk to mail you a printed application
- Downloading an available translated application
- Visiting your local clerk's office in person
- Registering in person at your local clerk's office

Translated information can help voters understand how to request, complete, and return an mail-in ballot.

Know Your **Voting Rights**

If you are having difficult casting your ballot because of a language barrier, ask an election worker for assistance and remember that you have the right to bring an interpreter.

Election Protection Hotlines also provide assistance in multiple languages:

English: 866-OUR-VOTE (Phone: **866-687-8683**)
Spanish: 888-VE-Y-VOTA (Phone: **888-839-8682**)
Arabic: 844-YALLA-US (Phone: **844-925-5287**)
Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, Urdu, and Vietnamese: 888-API-VOTE (Phone: **888-274-8683**)

Voters can also contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights if they believe they have been discriminated against during the voting process. To file a complaint:

Phone: **800-482-3604**
URL: **www.michigan.gov/mdcr/public-portal**