MDCR
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS

# Voting in Michigan

## Your Civil Rights, Your Voting Options, and What You Need to Know

# Voting is a Fundamental Civil Right

Every eligible Michigan voter has the right to participate in elections and cast a ballot privately and securely. Knowing your rights and making a plan before an election can help you navigate the process and address potential barriers. **Michigan.gov/Vote** is the state's official source for personalized voting information, including voter registration, polling locations, early voting sites, mail-in voting, sample ballots, and local clerk information.

## Who Can Register to Vote in Michigan?

**To register to vote in Michigan you must:**

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be a Michigan resident when you register
- Be a resident of your city or township for at least 30 days by Election Day
- Be at least 18 years old by Election Day
- Not currently be serving a sentence in jail or prison

Michigan also allows eligible 16 and 17-year-olds to preregister to vote before they are old enough to cast a ballot.

# You Have Options for How You Vote

Michigan voters do not all have to vote in the same way.

**Depending on the election and your circumstances, you can choose to:**

- Vote early in person
- Vote using an mail-in ballot
- Vote at your polling place on Election Day.
- If you have returned to your community after incarceration, you can register to vote

Understanding your options can help you choose the method that works best for your schedule, transportation, accessibility needs, or other circumstances.

# Voting Early in Person

Michigan voters have the right to vote early in person in statewide and federal elections. Early voting works similarly to voting at a polling place on Election Day. You receive a ballot, complete it privately, and insert it into a tabulator. At least nine consecutive days of early voting are provided for statewide and federal elections. Your early voting location may be different from your Election Day polling place, so check the location before you go.

# Don’t Have a Photo ID? You Can Still Vote

If you do not have an acceptable photo ID with you, you can still vote. A poll worker will ask you to sign an affidavit stating that you are not in possession of photo identification. After signing the form, you can cast your ballot. Do not leave the polls simply because you forgot your ID or do not have one. Ask an election worker about your options.

# Assistance is Available

Some voters may need assistance to cast their ballot. Michigan voters have rights related to assistance and accessibility, including accommodations for voters with disabilities and language assistance for voters who need an interpreter. Depending on your circumstances, you may have the right to receive assistance from a person you choose, subject to limited restrictions. If you need an accommodation or assistance, ask an election worker or contact your local clerk.

# Know Your Rights

If you experience a problem at the polls, do not immediately assume that you cannot vote. Ask an election worker for assistance. Depending on the issue, you may also be able to contact your city or township clerk for help.

**Voters with disabilities who have questions or encounter accessibility barriers can contact:**
**Ombudsperson for Accessible Elections**
Email: **MDOS-ADAVoting@michigan.gov**
Phone: **517-335-2730**

If you are having difficulty 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, subject to limited restrictions.

**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**)

# Know Your **Voting Rights**

Voters can 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**