



Michigan Bureau of Elections

Drop boxes

An election **drop box** is a secure receptacle where voters can return absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots in sealed and signed envelopes. The state requires the following:

- Every jurisdiction is entitled to at least one new, state-funded drop box
- Municipalities with more than 15,000 registered voters must have at least one drop box for every 15,000 voters
- Drop boxes must be accessible 24 hours each day for the 40 days before Election Day and until 8 p.m. on Election Day
- The location of drop boxes must be available to voters at Michigan.gov/Vote

Ballot **drop box locations** are determined using the following considerations:

- Accessibility to historically disenfranchised communities
- Proximity to dense concentrations of voters
- Accessibility by public transportation
- Equitable distribution of drop boxes throughout the county
- Maximizing voter participation through placement at community centers and public gathering places

Whether used as an alternative to in-person voting due to public health concerns or as a precaution against potential postal slowdowns, it has been proven in Michigan communities large and small that absentee ballot drop boxes are a safe and secure alternative to in-person voting.

The **safety and security requirements** for election drop boxes, as specified in law, ensure that they must be:

- Clearly labeled and located in a public and well-lit area
- Designed to prevent the removal of absentee ballots when locked
- Secured to prevent the removal of the drop box from its location
- Equipped with a single slot or mailbox-style lever to allow ballots to be placed in the drop box
- Monitored by video during the 75 days before each election (*except for drop boxes ordered or installed prior to Oct. 1, 2020*)

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/Vote