

Permanent mail ballot list

- Voters can sign up for a permanent mail ballot list when returning their application for an absentee ballot to their local clerk.
- Voters whose names are on the permanent mail ballot list will automatically receive an absentee ballot from their local clerk for all upcoming elections.
- Voters who wish to have their name removed from the permanent mail ballot list should send a signed letter to their local clerk.
- Voters who are on the permanent mail ballot list can still vote in person. They may place their absentee ballot in the tabulator or, after surrendering their absentee ballot to the election worker, they will be issued a new ballot and allowed to vote at the early voting site or polling place.
- If a voter moves within Michigan, as long as they update their address with their new city or township clerk, their permanent mail ballot status will follow them.

How do I sign up to be placed on the permanent mail ballot list?

- Voters may ask to be put on a permanent mail ballot list when they return a completed absentee ballot application from their local clerk. Once on the list, the voter's local clerk will automatically mail an absentee ballot to the voter for all future elections.

How can I get my name removed from the permanent mail ballot list?

- Voters should send their local clerk a signed letter asking that their name be removed from the permanent mail ballot list.
- A voter's name may also be removed by the local clerk if:
 - the clerk receives reliable information that the voter has moved.
 - the voter is no longer qualified to vote in the state.
 - the voter does not vote in six years.

If my name is removed from the permanent mail ballot list, what do I need to do to have it reinstated?

- Voters will need to contact their local clerk in writing. The clerk will want to make sure that the voter's registration information is up to date and will add their name back to the permanent mail ballot list.

What if I'm on the permanent mail ballot list and want to vote in person?

- Voters can surrender their absentee ballot at an early voting site or polling place and vote in person, or voters can take their absentee ballot to an early voting site or to their polling place on Election Day to have it tabulated.

Will I remain on the permanent mail ballot list if I move?

- Yes, the permanent mail ballot list follows the voter as long as they are registered in Michigan. Whenever a voter moves, they should immediately inform their local clerk in order to keep their voter registration information accurate and up to date.

If I fill out the U.S. Postal Service mail forwarding post card, will my absentee ballot be forwarded to my new address?

- No, the U.S. Postal Service does not forward election mail. Election mail is defined as any item mailed to or from authorized election officials that enables citizens to take part in the voting process — including ballots, voter registration cards, absentee voting applications, and polling place notifications.
- Election mail should not be confused with political mail, which is any material mailed for campaign purposes by a registered political candidate, campaign committee, or committee of a political party, as well as any material mailed by a political action committee or organization engaging in issue advocacy or voter mobilization.

Do I have to fill out my absentee ballot if I'm on the permanent mail ballot list?

- Being on the permanent mail ballot list only guarantees that the voter will receive a ballot for each upcoming election. To be counted, the absentee ballot still needs to be filled out and returned to the local clerk to be tabulated.

What if I receive someone else's absentee ballot at my address?

- If a voter receives someone else's ballot in their mailbox, they should write "Return to sender" or "No longer at this address" on the envelope and put it back in the mail. Voters who try to vote someone else's ballot are guilty of the serious crime of election fraud. Several rigorous checks and balances performed by local clerks, such as signature matching, are in place to make sure that a voter can vote the correct ballot only once and that elections are fair, accurate, and safe.

What if I'm on the permanent mail ballot list, but I still get an absentee ballot application in the mail?

- You are not required to submit another application in order to receive an absentee ballot after you have already submitted an application or joined the permanent mail ballot list. Political organizations and campaigns often send absent voter applications to voters before elections, regardless of voter request or need. If you have questions about your absentee ballot status, check Michigan.gov/Vote or contact your local clerk.

Can I join the permanent mail ballot list and then request to not be sent a ballot for specific elections?

No, the permanent mail ballot list does not allow for voters to opt out of specific elections. Clerks have the constitutional requirement to send absentee ballots to all permanent mail ballot voters in every election they are eligible to vote in. Voters who do not wish to receive absentee ballots in every election they are eligible to vote in should forego the permanent mail ballot list and instead fill out absentee ballot applications before each election they would like to vote in.