

Prepaid postage on election mail

- Pre-paid postage was one of several election initiatives passed overwhelmingly by voters in 2022 under “Proposal 2022-2.” Proposal 2 enshrined several protections to voter rights in the state constitution, including prepaid postage on return envelopes for absentee voter applications and absentee ballots.
- Voters will no longer have to buy stamps to return the absentee ballot application or the absentee ballot that was sent to them by their local clerk. The return envelopes for these documents are automatically postage paid.
- The postage on return envelopes for absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots is paid for by state government.
- Return envelopes for absentee ballot applications that are provided by a third-party, such as a civic nonprofit agency and voter advocacy group, will need a stamp.
- Voters do not need to request pre-paid postage. It is automatically provided. Voters will have fair and uniform access to pre-paid return envelopes no matter where in Michigan they live.
- Public Act 82 extended pre-paid postage to the return of a form that allow a voter to “cure” a missing or non-matching signature on an absentee ballot application or AV return envelope.
- Public Act 86 extended it to the return of a presidential primary ballot selection form for voters on the permanent mail ballot list who have not made a party selection.

What types of mail are covered under the prepaid postage for election materials clause that was added to the Michigan Constitution by voters in 2022?

- The passage of Proposal 2022-2 by Michigan voters in November 2022 brought many changes to local elections. Proposal 2 enshrined several protections to voter rights in the state constitution, including prepaid postage on return envelopes for absentee voter applications and absentee ballots.
- During a presidential election year, voters who are on their local clerk’s permanent absentee ballot list who have not made a party selection will also receive the presidential primary ballot selection form with prepaid return postage. Voters who are not on the permanent absentee ballot list must first submit a request for an absentee ballot application to their local clerk. They will then receive the application and a return postage-paid envelope, which includes a space to select which ballot type the voter wants.
- PA 82 also extended pre-paid postage to the return of a form that allows a voter to “cure” a missing or non-matching signature on an absentee ballot application or an AV return envelope.

How does the state pay for return postage for absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots?

- Although some city and township clerks in Michigan have offered postage-paid envelopes to their registered voters for years, recent changes in state law require all municipalities to provide

postage-paid envelopes for returning absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots. Funding for the postage will be paid for by the state.

Do I have to sign up to request prepaid postage?

- No, prepaid postage will be automatically included on the return envelopes for all absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots that were provided by your local clerk. Voters will have fair and uniform access to pre-paid return envelopes no matter where in Michigan they live.

When will I start seeing prepaid postage for absentee ballots?

- All local clerks started using envelopes with prepaid postage for the November 2023 statewide municipal elections. Prepaid postage may be in the form of a stamp or the permit printed on the envelope.

Can I get free postage for a voter registration form?

- Only if the voter's city or township clerk sent it and paid for it. The postage used on return envelopes for absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots is specifically reserved for election use and is paid for by the state government. Funding for the mailing of election materials is not transferrable.

If I have a mailing address in another state in the U.S., is my postage prepaid?

- Yes, any election mail from the local clerk will be sent to the voter's mailing address on file, including if it is an out-of-state address.

Do I need to buy a stamp to return my ballot?

- No, prepaid postage will be automatically included on the return envelopes for all absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots.

If I'm overseas, do I get a postage-paid return envelope for my absentee ballot application and absentee ballot?

- Yes, when clerks have mailing costs for ballot applications and ballots for military personnel and U.S citizens living overseas, they should seek reimbursement from the Michigan Bureau of Elections.

Can I be reimbursed for postage if I get my absentee ballot application from a third party?

- Only absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots provided by the city or township clerk or, in the case of overseas voters, the federal government, will have prepaid return postage. Voters will have to pay the return postage when mailing absentee ballot applications obtained from other third-party sources.