



## Prohibited Conduct at Voting-Related Locations

### Powers of Election Officials

- A clerk, a member of the clerk’s staff, and/or an election inspector is empowered to ask a person engaging in any of the below conduct to leave the voting location and, if the person refuses to leave, request that law enforcement remove the person from the voting location. *(MCL 168.678)*
- Michigan election inspectors have the “full authority to maintain peace, regularity, and order” in the polling place, and to “enforce obedience to their lawful commands during any primary or election and during the canvass of the votes after the poll is closed.” *(MCL 168.678)*
- Local clerks and their staff have full authority to issue instructions and direction to anyone present in the polling place, and those persons are required to obey all lawful instructions or directions issued by the clerk or their staff. In particular, clerks and their staff have full authority to instruct and direct election inspectors. <sup>1</sup> *(MCL 168.678)*

### Duty of Law Enforcement

Police, sheriffs, and any other peace officers who are present and have knowledge of a violation under the Michigan Election Law have a duty to institute criminal proceedings for the punishment of an offender. *(MCL 168.941)*

### Federal crimes

- The use of force or threats to stop or attempt to stop a person from registering to vote or from voting in a primary or general election where a federal office appears on the ballot. *(18 U.S.C. § 245 (b)(1)(A); 52 U.S.C. § 20511; 18 U.S.C. § 594.)*
- An attempt to use force or threats to stop or attempt to stop a person from registering to vote or from voting in a primary or general election where a federal office appears on the ballot. *(18 U.S.C. § 245 (b)(1)(A); 52 U.S.C. § 20511; 18 U.S.C. § 594.)*

### Michigan Election Law crimes

Campaigning within 100 feet of any building entrance used by voters to enter a polling place is a misdemeanor.	<i>MCL 168.744; MCL 168.931(1)(k)</i>
A challenger challenging a qualified and registered elector to annoy or delay voters is a misdemeanor.	<i>MCL 168.727(3)</i>
Attempting to bribe, menace, or use other corrupt means to influence a voter or deter a voter from voting is a felony.	<i>MCL 168.932(a)</i>
An unauthorized person breaking open or violating the seals or locks of ballot boxes or voting machines is a felony.	<i>MCL 168.932(b)</i>
Impersonating another person or attempting to vote under another person’s name is a felony	<i>MCL 168.932a(a)</i>

<sup>1</sup> See Authority of City and Township Clerks Over Election Inspectors, published by the Bureau of Elections and available at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/Election-Administrators/Clerk-Authority-Over-Election-Inspectors.pdf>.