Secretary of State
Michigan.gov/SOS

Michigan Elections

Secure and fair, accurate and accessible

2023

One of the Nation's Strongest Election Systems

Secure

- **Decentralization prevents systemic attack**
- **Paper ballots and tallies available for reference**
- **Security checks throughout the system prevent fraud**

Fair

- **Republican, Democratic and independent clerks ensure integrity**
- **Bipartisan boards of canvassers certify results**
- **Transparency throughout the system**

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Accurate

- **Tabulator accuracy confirmed before and after elections**
- **Post election audits identify best practices to ensure continuous improvement**
- **Officials prioritize accuracy over speed when reporting results**

Accessible

- **Record setting turnout in 2020 and 2022**
- **Online and automatic voter registration**
- **Vote by mail, early in person with an absentee ballot, early, or at polls**

Proposal 2022-2: Changes to Election Process

- **Permanent "absent" voter list**

- **Early in-person voting**

- **Prepaid return postage for applications and ballots**

- **Ballot drop boxes**

Proposal 2022-2: Permanent "Absent" Voter List

- **All voters have right to complete a single application and be mailed an absent voter ballot for all future elections**

- **This status moves with voter when voter moves within Michigan**

- **Voters can be removed from list**
  - **upon request**
  - **upon cancellation of registration**
  - **reliable information provided that the voter is no longer eligible**
  - **not voting for 6 years**

- **Ballot mailed for every election**

Proposal 2022-2: Early In-Person Voting

- **All voters have right to 9+ days of early in-person voting**

- **Early in-person voting is polling-place style voting (voters put ballots through tabulator), not in-person absentee voting (dropping off a ballot)**

- **Ballots are tabulated upon receipt**

- **Tabulator reports of results only run after polls close**

- **Municipalities within a county may share early voting sites (hosted by municipality or county)**

Proposal 2022-2: Prepaid Postage and Ballot Tracking

- **All voters have right to state-funded prepaid return postage on ballot request forms and ballots themselves**

- **All voters have right to state-funded system that tracks submitted absent voter applications and ballots**
  - **including notice of deficiencies in application/ballot and need to cure**

Proposal 2022-2: Absent Voter Ballot Drop Boxes

- **All voters have right to access state-funded absent voter ballot drop boxes within their jurisdiction**

- **Each municipality must have at least one drop box, and one for every 15,000 registered voters**

- **Drop boxes must accept both ballot request forms and ballots themselves, be available 24/7, and be distributed equitably**

- **Required to be available in every election**

Legislation Needed to Ensure Robust Implementation

Align election laws to match constitutional requirements:

- **Allow absentee ballots to be processed and tabulated during the same period as early voted ballots**

- **Ensure automatic registration of young citizens by age 18 (pre-registration through driver's license with right to opt-out, or completing a form)**

- **Provide more flexibility – e.g., for polling places and precinct size**

- **Provide resources to support and staff accessible early voting sites in every jurisdiction for 9 days prior to election day**

Legislation Needed to Ensure Robust Implementation

Funding:

- **Needed: Predictable, sustainable and efficient funding for all elections.**
  - **Involve clerks and MDOS to determine specific costs and enable flexibility**

- **New funding will be needed in FY2024 to ensure:**
  - **9 days of early voting (including staff, equipment and rental space)**
  - **Staffing for absentee ballot processing and tabulation**
  - **Full and secure placement of drop boxes throughout the state (2000+)**
  - **Pre-paid postage for ballot request forms and ballots**
  - **Other costs to enable technical upgrades (ballot tracking, etc)**

Funding Estimates

- **Prior to 2022 enacted constitutional changes, escalating cost of elections cost clerks and their jurisdictions $100 million annually (about $20,000 per precinct)**

- **With new 2022 enacted constitutional requirements: additional $30-45M**
  - **$15-20M annually for MDOS/BOE**
    - **$3-4M for postage (for 3M voters)**
    - **$5-7M for drop box security, monitoring and maintenance**
    - **$3-5M for staffing and technical support**

  - **$15-25M direct to local jurisdictions**
    - **$5-10M for drop box security, staffing**
    - **$10-15M for early voting staffing, space and other resources**

Attacks on Democracy

Election Misinformation

- Voters are inundated with lies and false conspiracy theories about elections

- Intent and effect: to undermine voters' faith in elections and distrust accuracy of outcomes

- These lies lead to threats and harassment of election officials and workers

- They also lead to violence, including the Jan. 6 attack on the United States Capitol

Protect the People who Protect Democracy

- **Explicitly ban and penalize threats, harassment and doxing of election officials and workers**

- **Prohibit intentionally sharing false information about elections or a person's right to vote**

- **Provide funds to ensure the security of our elections, election workers and voters**

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