



[Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote)

## Voting in Michigan's Nov. 8, 2022 election

*Helpful information and deadlines for voters*

### Register to vote at any time

- Michiganders can **register to vote up to and on Election Day**. You can register online at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote), by downloading a form at [Michigan.gov/VoterRegForm](https://Michigan.gov/VoterRegForm) and mailing it, or by visiting your local clerk, Secretary of State office or state public assistance office until two weeks before the election. **Within two weeks of Election Day, you must register in person at your city or township clerk's office.**
- If you moved, you **must be a resident of your city or township for at least 30 days** prior to the election to register and vote in the new jurisdiction. Registered Michigan voters who have moved within 60 days of the election may still vote at their previous address if they did not register to vote at their new address.

### Applying for and obtaining an absentee ballot

- To obtain an absentee ballot for the Nov. 8 general election, voters must **submit a request to their local clerk in one of the following ways:**
  - Voters with a Michigan driver's license or ID may apply online for an absentee ballot at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote).
  - Voters may download and complete an absentee ballot application at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote), print it and sign it, OR write out a request for an absentee ballot and sign it.
    - **Signed** applications/requests may be mailed to the clerk OR scanned or photographed and emailed to the clerk. Make sure the entire application, including your signature, is readable in the picture.

- You can find your clerk's contact information at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote) or by calling your city or township office.
- Accessible absentee ballot applications are available at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote). Voters with qualifying disabilities may apply for an accessible electronic ballot that can be marked remotely, printed and returned to the clerk.
- By law, clerks must have absentee ballots available 40 days prior to Election Day. Voters should **request a ballot well in advance of the deadline for any election** to allow time for processing and delivery. If possible, get your request to the clerk one month before Election Day. Once your request is received by the local clerk, your signature on the request will be checked against your voter registration record before a ballot is issued.

## Casting your absentee ballot

- After receiving your absentee ballot, **complete the ballot and return it to the clerk's office as soon as possible**. Your ballot will not be counted unless your signature is on the outside of the return envelope and matches your signature on file. All absentee ballots received by 8 p.m. on Election Day with a matching signature will be counted.
- **Ideally, voters should mail their ballot at least TWO WEEKS prior to the election**, to give the U.S. Postal Service enough time deliver it. Within two weeks of Election Day, if possible, voters should deliver their ballot to a clerk's office or ballot drop box if one is available. Voters should contact their clerk to verify the hours they can drop off their ballot in the office. Clerk address and contact information can be found at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote).
- **Many clerks offer secure ballot drop boxes** where voters can return their completed absent voter ballots. This is a good option anytime but especially when there is not enough time to mail the ballot back. Enter your voter information at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote) to get the location of a drop box for your jurisdiction or contact your local clerk.

## Secure voting by mail

- **Mailing of absentee ballot applications does not make voting by mail less secure**. It's very easy to get an absent voter *application*—it has long been freely available online for download, and political parties and organizations mail applications out before most elections—but the local election clerk will not issue a *ballot* until they have verified the completed, signed application. The ballot envelope must also be signed and verified for the ballot to count.
- **Voting by mail is secure and trying to cheat is a crime**. Forging someone else's signature on an application and submitting it to receive a ballot is a crime that is often prosecuted as a felony. It is rarely attempted.

- If a resident receives a mailing for someone who no longer lives in their residence or is deceased, they are advised to write “**No longer at this address**” or “deceased” on the envelope and put it back in the mail. When the mailing is returned, clerks will use the information to cancel or update voter registration after a federally required notice and waiting period, improving the accuracy of the registered voter list.
- Bureau of Elections staff and clerks across Michigan **work closely with U.S. Postal Service specialists** to approve the design and markings of election-related envelopes so they’re clearly marked, and to quickly address any issues so the vote-by-mail process functions efficiently. If a voter has a question about whether their ballot has been sent or received, they should contact their clerk.
- **Michigan voters can track their ballot** – whether their clerk has mailed it out and when their completed ballot has been received – by visiting [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote).
- Clerks are instructed to make every attempt to contact a voter without delay if there is an issue with their ballot application or ballot (for example if the signature is missing or does not match the one on file). For this reason, voters should **provide their phone number and/or email address** so they can be easily contacted. This information will only be used for election purposes.
- Michigan uses paper ballots, which is **the most secure way to conduct elections**, as they can be audited and recounted.

## Voting in person

- **In-person voting will be available in every jurisdiction on Election Day** for voters who choose to do so. Voters are not required to wear a mask while at the polls.
- **Early in-person voting with an absentee ballot is available in your clerk’s office** from Sept. 29 until Nov. 7 for the Nov. 8 general election. Go to your clerk’s office, ask for your absentee ballot, vote and submit it in one trip.

## For voters with disabilities

- Voters with qualifying disabilities **may apply for an accessible electronic absentee ballot** at [Michigan.gov/Vote](https://Michigan.gov/Vote). They are able to vote this ballot from home, print it out and send it to their clerk.
- Inside the polling location, at least one voting station will be adapted to allow a person to vote while seated. In addition, all voters, including voters with disabilities, **have access to a Voter Assist Terminal in all polling places**. The Voter Assist Terminal helps the voter mark a ballot. It will mark the ballot with the voter's choices but does not tally the votes. Once the ballot is marked, it is counted in exactly the same fashion as all other ballots.

## For voters who are or were serving time

- Citizens who are **currently** serving a sentence in jail or prison are **ineligible to vote**. Those in jail or prison awaiting trial or sentencing may vote using an absentee ballot. **Once a resident has been released from jail or prison, their voting rights are immediately restored and they are eligible to vote** – even if they are on probation, on parole, have unpaid fines, or are in a halfway house.

## For more information

- The Department of State will continue to make **election-related materials** available on its social media accounts, on its website at [Michigan.gov/SOSPartnersInDemocracy](https://Michigan.gov/SOSPartnersInDemocracy) and in communications with its partners and stakeholders. To request specific information, please contact [Elections@Michigan.gov](mailto:Elections@Michigan.gov).

### Report election wrongdoing!

Efforts to confuse voters – about the election process, their rights, and the issues at stake. – are designed to sow mistrust in our elections process and undermine our democracy. Fighting back against them is critical to ensuring our elections are a secure and accurate reflection of the will of the people.

- Before, during or after Election Day, if you encounter election-related information that may be misleading or incorrect, please report it by emailing details and a photo of the misinformation if possible to [Misinformation@Michigan.gov](mailto:Misinformation@Michigan.gov) or by calling **517-285-9771**.
- At the polls, report any voter intimidation, harassment or coercion you witness. Notify an election worker or contact the nonpartisan election protection hotline at **866-OUR-VOTE**.