

One of the fundamental rights of our democracy is the right to vote. Any U.S. citizen who is at least age 18 on Election Day is eligible.

But before you can cast a ballot, you must register. Voter registration forms are available at any Secretary of State office, online at the Michigan Voter Information Center at [Michigan.gov/vote](http://Michigan.gov/vote) or from your local clerk. This brochure outlines what you need to know about registering to vote and voting.

This election year, make sure your voice is heard – register and vote!

## ★ To Register ★

To register to vote, you must be:

- ★ A U.S. citizen;
- ★ At least 18 years old by Election Day;
- ★ A resident of Michigan and the city or township where you are applying to register to vote.

**How:** You can register to vote for federal, state and local elections by mail; at your county, city or township clerk's office; or by visiting any Secretary of State office.

In addition, agencies providing services through the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs offer voter registration services to their clients. Military recruitment centers also provide voter registration services.

You may also register at the same time you renew your driver's license by mail. Eligible drivers receive a voter registration application in the mail with their driver's license renewal information.

**VOTER ID REQUIREMENT:** If you are registering to vote in person, state law

requires you to either show picture ID or sign an affidavit attesting that you are not in possession of picture ID. See the "Voter ID Requirement" section under the "TO VOTE" information later in this brochure for a list of acceptable picture ID documents.

**WHEN:** You must register at least 30 days before the election.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** If you move, you must update your registration. This can be handled through your local clerk, at a Secretary of State office, online at [ExpressSOS.com](http://ExpressSOS.com), by mail or at any other location where voter registrations are accepted.

The residential address used for your voter registration **must be the same** as the address on your driver's license. Consequently, when you submit a driver's license address change, it will be applied to your voter registration. Similarly, when you submit a voter registration address change, it will be applied to your driver's license.

**FIRST-TIME VOTER:** If you have never voted in Michigan and register by mail, you **must appear in person to vote in the first election in which you wish to participate**. This requirement does **not** apply if (1) you personally hand deliver the mail-in registration form to your county, city or township clerk's office (instead of mailing the form), (2) you are age 60 or older, (3) you are disabled or (4) you are eligible to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

If you have never voted in Michigan and register by mail, you also may be subject to identification requirements provided under federal law. The identification requirements are explained on the mail-in registration form.

**VOTERS IN THE MILITARY AND OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES:** A Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) form can be used to register. The FPCA form is available online at [fvap.gov](http://fvap.gov) from the Federal Voting Assistance Program and is distributed through U.S. embassies and military bases. A Michigan resident who moves and registers out of state may not re-register to vote in Michigan until he or she re-establishes residency here.

To vote, simply appear at your assigned polling place on Election Day. The polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

## ★ To Vote ★

**WHERE:** Your Voter Identification Card lists your precinct number and your assigned polling place location. If you do not receive your card within three weeks after registering, contact your city or township clerk's office to confirm your registration status. You also may check your status online at the Michigan Voter Information Center at [Michigan.gov/vote](http://Michigan.gov/vote).

**VOTER ID REQUIREMENT:** When you arrive at your polling place to vote, state law requires you to either show picture ID or sign an affidavit attesting that you are not in possession of picture ID.

You can satisfy the ID requirement by showing a **Michigan driver's license or state ID card**. If you do not possess either document, you may show any of the following forms of picture ID as long as it is current: driver's license or ID card issued by another state, a federal or state government-issued photo ID, a U.S. passport, a military ID card with a photo, a tribal ID card with a photo or a student ID with a photo from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education.

If you do not bring a picture ID to the polls or do not possess picture ID, you can vote like any other voter by signing an affidavit that will be provided to you.

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** Absentee ballots are available for all elections. You may vote by absentee ballot if you:

- ★ Are unable to attend the polls without assistance;
- ★ Are age 60 or older;
- ★ Expect to be absent from your city or township for the entire time the polls are open on Election Day;
- ★ Are in jail awaiting arraignment or trial;
- ★ Have been assigned to work as a precinct inspector in a precinct other than where you are registered; or
- ★ Are unable to attend the polls because of religious beliefs.

If any of these situations exist, you can obtain an absentee ballot by writing your city or township clerk. You must state the reason why you need an absentee ballot and you must sign the request.

A preprinted absentee ballot application form is available from your city or township clerk upon request. Application forms are also available online at the Michigan Voter Information Center at [Michigan.gov/vote](http://Michigan.gov/vote).

The Michigan Voter Information Center has information on absentee voting, local clerk contact information and the status of your absentee ballot request. Send your completed absentee ballot application to your city or township clerk.