

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

Registering to Vote

Who can register to vote?

You are eligible to vote if:

- You are at least 18 years old by election day;
- You are a U.S. citizen and a resident of the city or township where you are registered to vote.

How and when do I register?

Changes approved by Michigan voters in 2018 allow citizens to register up to election day. You can register in person at any Secretary of State (SOS) branch office or your local clerk's office, or by mail. To get a registration form, go to: www.michigan.gov/vote and click on the "Register to Vote" button.

What if I've moved since the last election?

In Michigan, the address on your driver's license and voter registration must match. If you updated your driver's license with your new address, your voter registration has been updated automatically. If not, you can do this in person at any SOS branch office or your city, township or County Clerk's office. You can also re-register by mail.

Where do I Vote?

To find your polling location, see your voter registration card, check with your city or township clerk, or go to www.michigan.gov/vote. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. til 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

What if my name doesn't appear on the local clerk's list of registered voters?

Please don't give up. If you have your voter registration card, show it and you can vote. If you don't have your card, ask the election worker to help you make sure you're in the right voting location.

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How can I vote for someone whose name is not on the ballot (a written-in candidate)?

Space is provided on the ballot to write in the name of someone who is not pre-listed. Write-in votes will be counted only if that person has filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate.

Do I have to show photo ID to vote?

In Michigan all voters are required to present an acceptable current photo ID, including:

- Driver's license or government-issued ID;
- US passport;
- Military ID card with photo;
- Student ID with photo from a high school, college or university;
- Tribal ID card with photo.

If you do not have your ID with you, you can sign an affidavit and you will be allowed to vote.

May I take campaign literature or wear campaign clothing into the polling place?

You cannot wear a button or shirt bearing election-related images or slogans into the polling location. You may carry literature for personal use only.

Can I vote while in jail or prison?

If you are in jail or prison awaiting trial, you are eligible to vote. You must vote by absentee ballot. Anyone serving a sentence in jail or prison after conviction cannot vote while incarcerated.

Can I vote if I've been through foreclosure?

Yes. Home foreclosure status does not affect your eligibility to vote.

May I ask for help with voting?

Yes. Two inspectors (one from each political party) will help you. Election inspectors cannot suggest how

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you should vote. If you cannot read English, you can ask anyone to help you (except employer, an agent of your employer or an officer or agent of your union).

In addition, Michigan law entitles persons with disabilities to receive reasonable accommodations for voting, which may include having someone read the ballot. You cannot be denied access to a polling place because of a disability. Contact your local clerk for more information.

Voting By Absentee Ballot

Who can vote by absentee ballot?

If you are registered and have previously voted in person, you may vote absentee if any of these situations apply:

- You will be absent from the community on Election Day;
- You are unable to go and vote without help;
- Religious beliefs prevent you from voting;
- You have been appointed an election inspector in a precinct other than your own;
- You are in jail awaiting arraignment or trial;
- Or other personal situation or reason that would not make it possible for you to vote in person.

How do I request an absentee ballot?

You must request an absentee ballot in writing from your city or township clerk (you cannot ask over the phone). Your written request must include your name, date of the election, the address where you are registered to vote, the address where you want your ballot sent, your signature and the date of your request. You can also request to vote by absentee ballot in person at your local clerk's office during business hours including election day.

For information call NAACP office: (989) 752-0614