



MY CHOICE!



MY VOTE!



**Answers To
Your Questions
About Voting**

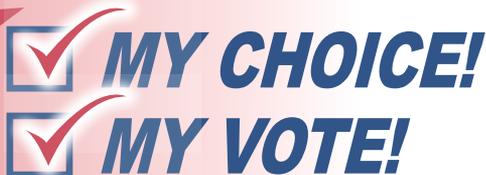
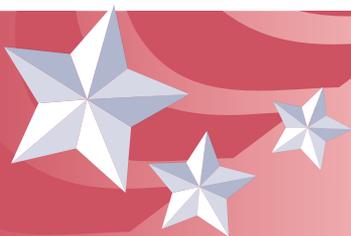
A Voting Awareness Project
of Michigan Protection &
Advocacy Service, Inc.

MICHIGAN

MP&AS

PROTECTION & ADVOCACY
SERVICE, INC.

"Protecting the Rights of Persons With Disabilities"



Frequently Asked Voting Questions

1. Can I register to vote?

You can register to vote if you are:

- ★ a US citizen, and
- ★ at least 18 years old by Election Day, and
- ★ a resident of Michigan and the city or township where applying

2. Where can I register to vote?

You can register to vote by mail, at your local clerk's office, at a Secretary of State office, or online at www.mi.gov/vote.

You can also register at places like:

- ★ Department of Health and Human Services
- ★ Michigan Rehabilitation Services
- ★ Community Mental Health
- ★ Bureau of Services for Blind Persons
- ★ Voter registration drives

First time voters who registered by mail are required to vote in person on election day. An exception is allowed for people 60 and older and individuals with disabilities.

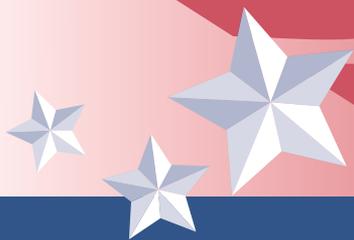
3. Do I have to show ID to register to vote?

No, you do not need a photo ID to register. However, by law, every Michigan voter must present photo ID at the polls, or sign an affidavit stating that he or she does not have photo ID.

4. When should I register to vote?

You can register to vote any time. However, you must be registered to vote at least 30 days before the next election.





5. How do I know if I am registered to vote?

- ☆ First-time voters should receive a voter registration card in the mail. This is proof that you are registered to vote. If one is not mailed to you, contact your local clerk's office or check your registration at the Michigan Secretary of State website at www.mi.gov/vote.
- ☆ If you are not a first-time voter and want to know if or where you are currently registered, call your local clerk or check online at www.mi.gov/vote.

6. What if I move?

The address on your voter registration and state ID (or driver's license) should always be the same. If you've moved, you need to update both at any Secretary of State office.

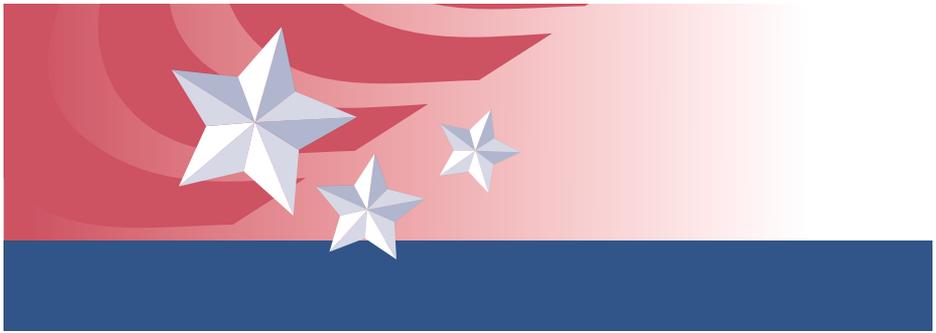
7. Do I need to show my voter registration card to vote?

No, you don't need to bring your voter registration card with you to vote. Bring a valid photo ID.

8. Where do I vote?

Your voter registration card will tell you the precinct number and address of your polling location. If you don't know where to vote, you can:

- ☆ call your local clerk, or
- ☆ United Way's 2-1-1 hotline, or
- ☆ Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service at 800.288.5923, or
- ☆ **visit www.mi.gov/vote**



9. What do I need to bring with me to the polls?

Bring valid photo identification to the polls. Types of identification that are accepted include:

- ★ Driver's license or personal ID card
- ★ Federal or state ID card
- ★ Student ID card with photo
- ★ Military ID card with photo
- ★ US Passport
- ★ Tribal ID card with photo

10. What if I don't have photo ID?

You can still vote, even if you don't bring photo ID with you on election day. You will be asked to sign an affidavit which confirms your identity. Once you sign this form you can cast a regular ballot.

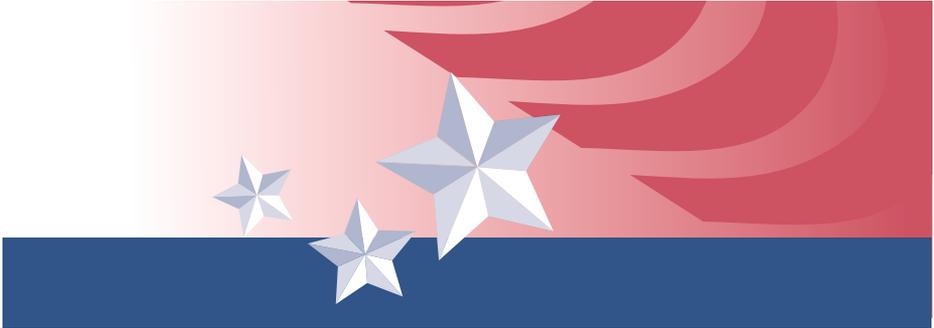
11. Can I take someone to help me vote?

Yes. If you want someone to help you vote, you may ask someone of your choosing. However, they cannot be your employer, your union representative, or a candidate. Poll workers can also help you vote, as long as there are two people representing at least two political parties.

12. Can I still vote if my name does not appear on the list of registered voters at the polls?

Yes. Never leave without voting. You can cast a provisional ballot. You must present identification to your local clerk within six days of the election. They will determine if your ballot can be counted.





13. What is a provisional ballot?

A provisional ballot allows you to cast a ballot, even if you are denied a regular ballot because:

- ☆ Your name does not appear on the voter rolls
- ☆ You are at the wrong polling location

Counting of the provisional ballots begins the day after the election. If election officials can verify that you are registered to vote in the appropriate jurisdiction, your provisional ballot will count. A poll worker can tell you how to find out if your ballot was counted.

14. What if my polling place is not accessible?

The clerk must resolve the accessibility problem and ensure that you can cast an independent private ballot. You can also call MPAS for help on election day.

On Election Day (7 am-8 pm), call:

Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service: 800.288.5923

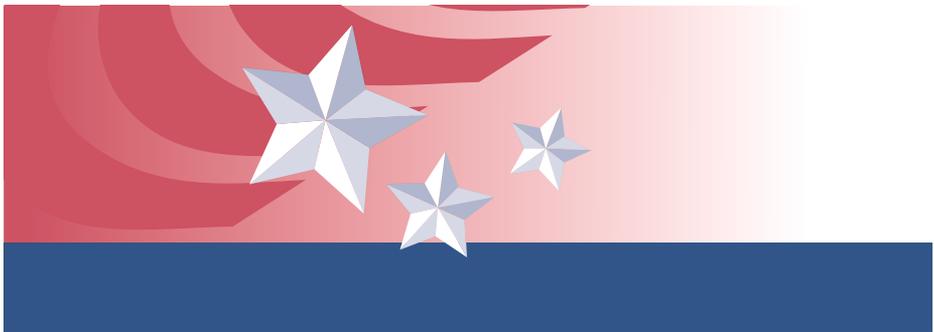
Election Protection Coalition: 866.OUR.VOTE (866.687.8683)

United Way 2-1-1 hotline

15. Is there an accessible voting device available and who can use it?

Michigan's accessible voting device is called the AutoMARK. It has many features that make it possible for people with disabilities to cast a secret ballot. The AutoMARK has a screen that can increase text size and modify background color. It also has selection keys that include Braille, the ability to read a ballot to a voter through headphones, and is at an accessible height. After the votes are cast, the machine prints the ballot.

Anyone – with or without a disability – can use the AutoMARK. Do not let anyone challenge your right to use this machine or ask for proof of disability.



16. Who is eligible for an absentee ballot?

You must answer at least one of the following questions with a yes to be eligible to cast an absentee vote.

- ★ Are you 60 years or older?
- ★ Are you unable to vote without assistance?
- ★ Do you expect to be out of town on election day?
- ★ Are you in jail waiting arraignment or trial?
- ★ Are you unable to visit the polls due to religious reasons?
- ★ Do you plan to work as an election inspector in a precinct other than your own?

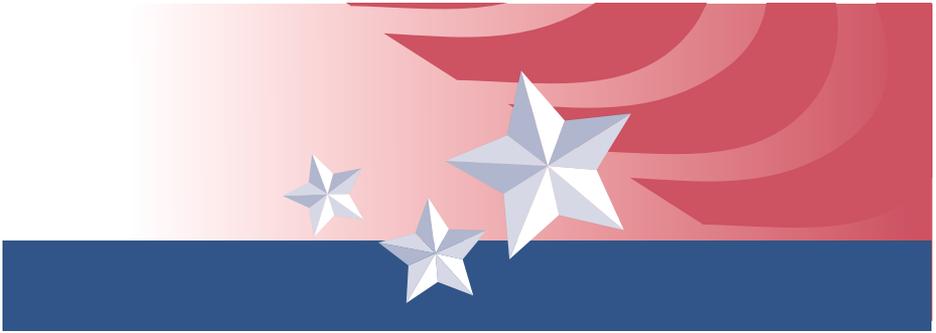
17. How do I ask for an absentee ballot?

You may request an absentee ballot from your local clerk in writing. The request must be signed and include one of the reasons listed above. Applications are also available to request an absentee ballot. You can get an application by contacting your local clerk or at www.michigan/sos. Your clerk must receive the request or application by 2 pm the Saturday before the election.

18. What are the deadlines for absentee ballots?

Request an absentee ballot from your local clerk as soon as you know you will be unable to visit the polls on election day. You must be a registered voter to receive a ballot. Requests for absentee ballots are processed immediately. However, the sooner you submit your request, the more time you will have to complete and return your ballot. All absentee ballots must be returned to the local clerk by 8 pm on election day.





19. I received an absentee ballot, but I want to vote in person, can I?

Yes. When you go to vote at the polls, bring your absentee ballot with you. If you don't bring the ballot to the polls, you will be asked to sign an affidavit stating that you did not vote by mail.

20. Can I vote if awaiting a trial?

Yes. You are eligible to obtain an absentee ballot if you are awaiting arraignment or trial.

21. I served time in jail, can I vote?

Yes, unless you are currently serving time in jail or prison for a conviction.

22. I haven't graduated from high school yet, can I vote?

Yes you can vote. You need to be registered ahead of time, be at least 18 years old by Election Day, and a resident of Michigan and the city or township where you will be voting.

23. I don't speak English, can I vote?

Yes. Call your clerk two weeks before an election to make sure you can get a ballot in your language.

24. What if I need an accommodation?

If you need an accommodation at the polls, such as an interpreter or a ballot in Braille, you must call your local clerk at least two weeks in advance. The clerk must provide a reasonable accommodation.



25. What if I can't find a ride to the polls?

There are many organizations that provide rides to the polls. Call your Center for Independent Living, United Way's 2-1-1 hotline, local churches, or family and friends for assistance.

26. I live in a state facility, and no one will take me to the polls.

No one can take away your right to vote. Plan ahead and make sure you will be able to find a ride to the polls. If staff, family, or friends are unable to take you, make sure you apply for an absentee ballot before the deadline.

**If you have questions
about your rights, call
MPAS at 800.288.5923.**



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