

PRIMARIES

What is the difference between a primary and a general election?

- In a primary election voters nominate candidates of their major party for the general election. Voters may vote for candidates in one major party only. Also conducted are nonpartisan primaries where the list of candidates exceeds more than twice the number to be elected.
- In a general election all voters elect officials from the party nominees and independent candidates. They also elect candidates in nonpartisan races. Voters may vote for candidates in more than one party.

How do I establish which party's ballot I am entitled to vote when participating in a partisan primary?

- You may vote the primary ballot of any political party but vote for candidates of one political party only. If you vote in more than one partisan section of the ballot, the partisan ballot will be rejected.
- Except for the February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary, under Michigan Law you do not have to make a party choice until you enter the voting station.

ABSENTEE VOTING

You may vote by absentee ballot if you:

- Expect to be absent from the community in which registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day.
- Are physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.
- Cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of your religion.
- Have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where you reside.
- Are 60 years of age or more.
- Cannot attend the polls because of confinement in jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

How do I apply?

- By contacting the clerk of your city or township in writing. State a statutory reason (listed above), tell where the ballot must be mailed or delivered, give your present registered address and sign the request. Absentee Ballots can be mailed only to your registration address or an address outside the community.
- Each person who desires an absentee ballot must sign the request as ballots are sent or delivered only to those who sign.
- Application can be made for one election only or for the primary election and general election which follows on one form. Applications can be requested by phone, fax, email, in person or by mail.

NOTE: Absent Voter Ballots cannot be supplied through telephone requests.

Application can be by:

- Letter
- Post Card
- Returning application form obtained from your local clerk or completing application form when visiting clerk's office.
- Federal Post Card Application.
NOTE: This is restricted to:
 - Members of the Armed Forces & Merchant Marines and their spouses and dependents.
 - U.S. Citizens temporarily living or traveling outside of the territorial limits of the United States.

What is the deadline for applying for absentee ballots?

- Application sent by mail must reach the clerk by 2:00 p.m. on the Saturday preceding the election.
- An elector may visit his/her city or township clerk's office and apply for an absentee ballot in person up to 4:00 p.m. the day preceding the election.
- An emergency absent voter ballot can be obtained on election day if a family death or illness requires you to leave your city or township on election day or you are unable to attend the polls because of personal illness or accident. The emergency must have occurred late enough that you could not file a regular absent voter ballot request. Have someone deliver your written request for an emergency absent voter ballot to the clerk's office before 4:00 p.m. on election day.

How do I return my absent voter ballot application?

- Public postal service, express mail service, parcel post service, or other common carrier.
- Personally deliver it to your clerk or an assistant of the clerk.
- Have an immediate family member mail or deliver it to the clerk or an assistant of the clerk.
- Have another person living in your household mail or deliver it to the clerk or an assistant of the clerk.
- If none of the above are available to you, another registered voter may deliver your application to the clerk but must sign an authorizing certificate.

For more information visit the Secretary of State's web site at: www.Michigan.gov/sos

The following features may be of interest:

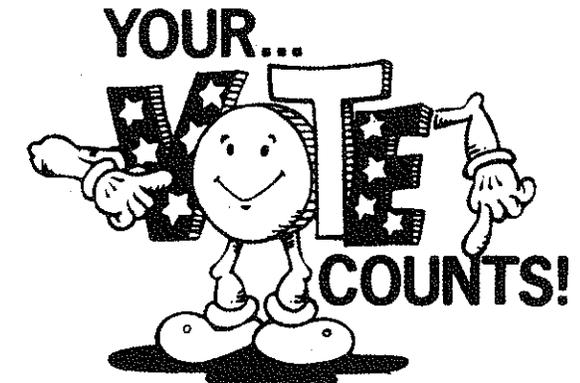
- Michigan Voter Information Center web site (www.Michigan.gov/vote): Allows voters to confirm their registration status, locate their polling place or local clerk's office and learn how to cast a ballot. Voters can also view the ballot they will vote on election day.
- Campaign Finance Statements Online: Offers access to campaign finance reports and data filed by candidates, PACs and political organizations.

2012

★ Voter ★ Information

From the office of:

Cynthia A. Luczak
Bay County Clerk
County of Bay



POLLS OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. - CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.

REGISTER AND VOTE

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

PRIMARY ELECTION - TUESDAY, AUGUST 7TH

GENERAL ELECTION - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

IN 2012 VOTERS THROUGHOUT MICHIGAN WILL ELECT:

- President & Vice President
- U.S. Senator (1 seat)
- U.S. Representative in Congress (all districts)
- State Representative (all districts)
- State Board of Education (2 seats)
- University of Michigan Regents (2 seats)
- Michigan State University Trustees (2 seats)
- Wayne State University Governors (2 seats)
- Justice of the Supreme Court
- Judge of the Court of Appeals
- Judge of the Circuit Court
- Judge of the District Court
- Judge of Probate
- County Officials
- Specified City Officials
- Township Officials
- Specified Village Officials
- Specified School District Positions

VOTER ELIGIBILITY

You are qualified to vote if:

- You are a citizen of the United States.
- You are at least 18 years of age on or before the day of election at which you seek to vote.
- You have been a resident of Michigan for at least 30 days before the election.
- You have registered to vote on or before the close of registration preceding the election at which you seek to vote.



How is residence determined?

- By law your residence is the place where you habitually sleep, keep your personal effects and have your regular place of lodging. Service People, U.S. Government Employees, the families of both, and citizens outside U.S. territorial limits may register in the community of their last legal residence. If you hold a Michigan driver license, Michigan Law requires that the same address be used for voter registration and driver license purposes.

REGISTRATION

Does everyone have to register to be eligible to vote?

- Yes



How can I Register?

- At the office of your county, city or township clerk
- Secretary of State Branch Offices
- State and federal mail-in forms
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Community Health
- Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
- Armed Forces Recruiters

How do I register to vote by mail?

- Mail-in registration forms are available on the Michigan Department of State web site (www.michigan.gov/sos).

Are there any additional requirements if I register by mail?

- Yes. 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 60 years of age or more 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 registered by mail, you may also be subject to an identification requirement provided under federal law. The identification requirement is explained on the mail-in registration form.

Change of Address?

- If you move within your city or township, a change of address must be made with your local clerk or at a Secretary of State Branch Office. If you have not completed a change of address prior to election day, you may lose your right to vote. A change of address card will be completed at the polling place when you vote.



- If you move outside your city or township, a change of address must be made with your local clerk or at a Secretary of State Branch Office. The change of address may be made by mail as well as in person.
- If you submit a change of address on your driver license at a Secretary of State Branch Office, the address on your voter registration record will automatically be changed as well.
- Printed forms for changing your address are available on the Michigan Department of State web site (www.michigan.gov/sos). The Secretary of State web site also offers an online change of address option.

Change of Name?

For any name change due to marriage or legal action please visit a Secretary of State Branch Office. Documented proof of the name change will be required. Additional information is also available on the Michigan Department of State web site (www.michigan.gov/sos).



REGISTRATION CLOSES:

- For the February 28th Presidential Primary in 2012, the last day for registration is January 30th, during regular business hours. For the August 7th Primary Election in 2012, the last day for registration is July 9th, during regular business hours. For the November 6th General Election in 2012, the last day for registration is October 9th, during regular business hours.

VOTING PROCEDURES

Where do I vote?

- Each voter must cast his/her ballot at the polling place designated to serve the precinct in which they reside. If you are in doubt as to the location of your polling place you should check with the clerk of your city or township.

Then What?

- The first step in casting a ballot involves entering your name, current address, and date of birth on an Application to Vote form.
- Inspectors then compare your birthdate and address with the information on the registration list.
- You must also comply with Michigan's voter identification requirement by showing acceptable picture identification or signing an affidavit.

Instructions for marking ballots.

- Detailed instructions for the proper method of casting your vote are posted in each precinct. If additional help is needed, ask the election inspectors.

What can I do if I spoil my ballot?

- If you tear, soil, or erroneously mark a ballot, you may return it to the precinct officials and another ballot will be given to you. Before you return the spoiled ballot, be sure to conceal any marks you have made on it.

Can a voter ever receive assistance in voting?

- Two election inspectors (Michigan Law) who have expressed an affiliation for different political parties may assist any voter who requests assistance.
- Any voter who requires assistance to vote because of blindness, physical disability or inability to read or write may be given assistance by any person of the voter's choice (Federal Law). The person assisting cannot be the voter's employer, officer of voter's union or an agent of either.

Accessibility for voters who are disabled

- State and Federal Law requires that every precinct be made accessible to voters who are disabled and all persons over 60 years of age.
- A specially equipped voting station is available for use by voters who are disabled. The voting station permits voters who are disabled to vote independently without the assistance of another person.

Can persons confined in jail or prison vote?

- A Michigan resident confined in jail or prison who is awaiting arraignment or trial is eligible to vote. A Michigan resident who is serving a sentence in jail or prison after conviction cannot vote during his or her period of confinement. After a Michigan resident who is serving a sentence in jail or prison is released, he or she is free to participate in elections without restriction.