★★★ Registering and Voting in Michigan ★★

It is an election year and your voice does matter! Races have been won or lost by one vote, so do your part – get involved by registering to vote and voting!

Something NEW to Make Voter Registration Easier – Online Registration

Under Michigan law your driver license address and voter registration address must match. If you are registered voter, but are now living at a different address you may change both your driver license and voter registration ONLINE. Go to www.ExpressSOS.com

Michigan’s Voter Information Center

Do you know if you are registered to vote? Or where your polling place is located? Do you know which candidates or statewide ballot initiatives are on your ballot? Visit Michigan’s Voter Information Center at www.Michigan.gov/vote for instant information about registering to vote and voting.

Registering to vote

Eligibility:

You can register to vote in Michigan if you are 1.) a U.S. citizen; 2.) at least 18 years old by Election Day and 3.) a resident of Michigan and the city or township where you are applying to register to vote.

How to register:

You can register to vote by visiting any Secretary of State branch office. You can also register at the clerk’s office of the city or township where you maintain your principal residence. Additionally, you may register to vote by mail. Mail-in voter registration application forms are available from Michigan’s Voter Information Center – simply click on the “Register to Vote” button in the left menu and scroll down to the link to access a copy.

★ If you have never voted in Michigan and you register to vote by mail, you must vote in person at your first election.

Your voter registration and driver’s license addresses must match:

In order to vote, you must be registered in the city or township where you maintain your principal residence. As a college student, you have the option of claiming your campus address as your principal residence or maintaining your hometown address as your principal residence.
Michigan law requires residents to use the same address for both voter registration and driver’s license purposes. Whether you submit a change of address for your driver’s license or voter registration, the new address will be applied to both documents. You are free to change your voter registration or driver’s license address as frequently as needed. No fees are assessed for address changes.

When to register:

You may register to vote at any time during the year. However, to be eligible to vote in an election, you must be properly registered at least 30 days before the election. The last day to register to vote for the November general election is Tuesday, Oct. 9.

Whenever you move to a new city or township, remember to submit a change of address for your driver’s license and voter registration. You can do this online at www.ExpressSOS.com.

About absentee voting

Absentee ballots:

Absentee ballots are available for all elections. If you are voting for the first time and you wish to vote by absentee ballot, you must register in person at your city or township clerk’s office or a Secretary of State branch office. You may vote by absentee ballot if you are:

- Expecting to be absent from the city or township in which you are registered to vote for the entire time the polls are open on election day
- Assigned to work as a precinct inspector in a polling place other than where you are registered to vote
- In jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- Unable to attend the polls due to religious beliefs
- 60 years of age or older

To obtain an absentee ballot, submit a signed absentee ballot application stating one of the reasons above to your local city or township clerk. Preprinted absentee ballot applications are available upon request or you may compose your own. An application form is also available at Michigan’s Voter Information Center. Click on the “Absentee Voting” button for the link to download the form.

Please note: If you want your absentee ballot mailed to you, your request must be received by your local clerk no later than 2 p.m. the Saturday before the election. Anyone eligible to vote by absentee ballot may vote in person at the clerk’s office anytime up to 4 p.m. the day before the election.

Make your voice heard in November!

Election Day:

- Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012: The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information about registering to vote and voting, visit: