

Michigan's New Voting Rights In 2019

League of Women Voters – Michigan

September 10, 2019

Register to Vote Anytime

Register to vote anytime (through the 15th day before the Election).

Choices include:

- In person to Secretary of State, City/Township or County Clerk's office
- By mail (download an application at www.Michigan.gov/sos)
- Voter Registration Drive
- Online (when it is implemented in the fall of 2019)

Beginning the 14th day before the Election, you must register in person at the clerk's office with proof of residency. Proof of residency:

- Driver's license or personal ID card, or any of the following (if proof is current and has your name and address on it): current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or government document.
(Electronic ok)

Automatic Voter Registration

- All eligible citizens who are not registered to vote will be automatically registered to vote if they conduct any business with the Secretary of State office, unless the citizen opts out. There are safeguards to prevent ineligible residents not to be accidentally registered to vote.

No Reason Absentee Voting

- Apply for an Absentee Ballot either by downloading an application at www.Michigan.gov/sos or in person at your local, County Clerk or Secretary of State office.
- Submit application for Absentee Ballot either in person or by mail to your City/Township Clerk's office.

- When your Ballot is received either in person or in the mail, vote it. Don't forget your signature on the envelope (or your vote won't be counted). Signature must match the signature on the absentee ballot application.
- **Make sure your Ballot is received in the Clerk office before 8 pm on Election Day.** (Ballots not returned by 8 pm will not be counted.)

Early Voting by Absentee Ballot

- Beginning 45 days before the Election you can vote early in person. Apply for an Absentee Ballot either by downloading an application at www.Michigan.gov/sos or in person at your local or County Clerk's office. You can both apply for and vote in the same visit to your local City/Township Clerk's office (until 4 pm the day before the Election). Or you can take your ballot home (and return by 8 pm on Election Day).

Extra hours! City/Township Clerk offices must be open for at least 8 hours the weekend before the Election to allow for registration and voting by Absentee Ballot. Check for your clerk's specific hours at www.mi.gov/vote

- Election Day: Voters who need to register or update their registration address can register and vote in the City/Township Clerk office (until 8 pm). Voters already registered must vote at their polling location.

Straight Party Voting The option to select all the candidates from one party by simply voting a Straight-Party Ballot will always be an option if there is a PARTISAN section to the Ballot. This box eliminates the need to check each partisan candidate individually.

Online Voter Registration (coming fall 2019) The Legislature passed legislation to allow for online voter registration. It is expected to begin in the fall of 2019.

Military Ballots Current practices now are in the constitution.

Secret Ballot Strengthens the secrecy protections, especially for those with disabilities.

Election Audits (2020) Audits ensure that the results recorded by the tabulating machines match the selections voters made on their ballots. Other practices are being studied.