

## **Registration Closes:**

For the August 3rd Primary Election 2010,  
the last day to register to vote is July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
during regular business hours.

For the November 2nd General Election 2010,  
the last day to register to vote is October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
during regular business hours.

## **Voter Registration**

### **To register to vote in Michigan you must be:**

- a U.S. citizen
- at least 18 years of age by election day
- a resident of Michigan and the city or township where you are applying to register to vote

**Where:** In Michigan, your voter registration for all federal, state, and local elections is maintained by your local city or township clerk. You should register to vote at your clerk's office. Voters may also register to vote by mail, at your county clerk's office or by visiting any Secretary of State branch office. In addition, specified agencies providing services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, and the Department of Career Development offer voter registration services to their clients. Military recruitment centers also provide voter registration services.

**When:** You must register at least **30 days before the election**. This gives the clerk time to process the forms and send you a Voter Identification Card.

**Moving:** Whenever you move to a new city or township, you must re-register to vote. If you move within a city or township, **you must update your address**. This can be handled through your local clerk, at a Secretary of State branch office, or by mail. *Michigan voters must use the same residential address for voter registration and driver's license purposes.* Consequently, if you submit a driver's license address change, it will be applied to your voter registration. Similarly, if you submit a voter registration address change, it will be applied to your driver's license.

**Mail-in Forms:** A mail-in voter registration form can be obtained on the [Michigan Secretary of State](#) web site. Mail the completed form to the address indicated on the form. If you register by mail, you must vote in person at your assigned precinct the first time you vote, unless you are:

- disabled as defined by state law
- 60 years of age or older
- temporarily residing overseas.

If you are temporarily outside the U.S., you may use a Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) form to register. The FPCA forms are distributed through U.S. embassies and military bases. A Michigan resident who moves and registers out of state may not re-register to vote in Michigan until he or she reestablishes residency here.

You may also register at the same time you renew your driver's license by mail. Eligible drivers receive a voter registration application in the mail with their driver's license renewal information.

### **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). Michigan Law requires that the same address be used for voter registration and driver license purposes.

### **Does everyone have to register to be eligible to vote?**

Yes

### **How can I Register?**

- At the office of your county, city, township, or village clerk.
- Any other registration locations established by the local clerk.

### **Are there other sources of voter registration applications?**

Voter registration applications can originate at any of the following, but are not registrations until accepted by your local clerk:

- Secretary of State driver's license office
- Secretary of State "renewal by mail"
- State and federal mail-in-forms

**Note:** Voters using mail-in-registration forms must vote in person the first time they vote!

These governmental agencies:

- Family Independence Agency
- Department of Community Health
- Michigan Jobs Commission
- Commission for the Blind
- Armed Forces Recruiters
- Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

### **Will I ever have to re-register?**

- Registration in this state is considered permanent, however, any time you move out of one community and into another in this state you must re-register. The same is true if you move out of state. Re-registration is also necessary if for any reason your registration has been cancelled and it cannot be reinstated.

### **Change of Address?**

- If you move within your city, township or village, a change of address should 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 will not 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, township or village, a change of address should be made 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.

### **Change of Name?**

- Any name change due to marriage or legal action may be reported to the clerk by:
  - Mail
  - In Person
  - At the Secretary of State Branch Office
- A person changing name should re-register, but may vote under former name.

## **Voting Procedures**

### **Where do I vote?**

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

### **Then What?**

- The first step in casting a ballot involves signing your name, current address, and date of birth on the poll list (application for ballot). Inspectors then compare your birth dates and address with the information on the computer registration list.

### **Instruction for marking ballots or operating machines.**

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 mark you have made on it.

### **Can a voter ever receive assistance in voting?**

- Any voter who requires assistance to vote because of blindness, physical disability or inability to read or write may be given assistance. Any person of the voter's choice (Federal Law) may assist except their employer, officer of their union or an agent of either. Two election inspectors (Michigan Law) who have expressed an affiliation for different political parties shall give assistance if the voter has no one to assist when assistance is requested.

### **Handicapped Voting Precinct Accessibility**

- Federal Law requires that every precinct be made accessible to the handicapped and all persons over 60 years of age. Where regular voting equipment cannot be made accessible, then an alternative ballot must be provided at the precinct. Most precincts are equipped with special booths which permit the elderly and handicapped to be seated while voting.

## **Primaries**

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

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

### **How do I establish which party's ballot I am entitled to vote?**

- Under Michigan Law you do not have to make a choice until you enter the voting station.
- You may vote the primary ballot of any political party but vote in more than one partisan section of the ballot, the partisan ballot will be rejected.