

# Voting by Absentee Ballot

**Absent Voter Ballots.** Absent voter ballots are available for all elections. You may vote by absent voter ballot if:

- you are unable to attend the polls without assistance
- you are 60 years of age or older
- you expect to be absent from your city or township for the entire time the polls are open on election day
- you are in jail, awaiting arraignment or trial
- you have been assigned to work as a precinct inspector in a precinct other than where you are registered
- you are unable to attend the polls because of religious beliefs

If any of these situations exist, you can obtain an absent voter ballot by writing your city or township clerk. You must state the reason why you need an absent voter ballot and you must sign the request. A pre-printed absent voter ballot application form is available from your city or township clerk upon request.

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 may not be accepted sooner than 75 days preceding the primary election. **Warning: No Absentee Voter Ballots will be supplied through telephone requests.**

## Application can be by:

- Letter
- Post Card
- In person at the clerk's office
- Application form obtained from your local clerk
- 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.

### 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.

If you are temporarily outside the U.S., you can use a Federal Postcard Application to apply for an absent voter ballot. The FPCA must be signed under oath unless you, your spouse, or your parents are serving in the armed forces or Merchant Marines.

Send the completed application to your city or township clerk for federal, state, city, and township elections. Send the application to your school district for school elections and your village clerk for village elections.

If you want the ballot mailed, your application must be received by 2 p.m. the Saturday before the election. Make your request early to allow for delivery time.

A voter eligible to vote by absent voter ballot may also vote in person at the clerk's office anytime up to 4 p.m. the day before the election.

All absent voter ballots must be received by the clerk's office no later than 8 p.m. on election day. To obtain an absentee Ballot, simply stop by the Blair Township Clerks Office prior to the election at 2121 County Rd 633 \* Grawn, MI 49637, or call Betty Tharp / Township Clerk or Lori McGee / Deputy Clerk at (231) 276-9263. The Township Office is open from Tuesday through Friday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

A separate absent voter ballot request must be submitted for each election. If you know before the primary that you will be unable to vote in person at the general election, you may request absent voter ballots for both elections at the same time.

**Emergency Absent Voter Ballots.** You may be eligible for an emergency absent voter ballot if a family death or illness requires you to leave your community 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 p.m. on election day.

Emergency ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. on election day.