



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HEALTHY VOTING IN MICHIGAN

[Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://michigan.gov/Coronavirus)

The following guidance is based on the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommendations for prevention of the spread of COVID-19.

For the **November 3, 2020**, general election in Michigan:

- All voters must be registered to cast a ballot. Same-day registration is available at designated locations. (Not sure if you are registered to vote? Check [here](#).)
- All voters can request an absentee ballot.
- Early voting (in-person absentee voting) is available at your local clerk's office.
- Polling places are open on Election Day.
- All voters will be asked to show a photo ID. Voters without ID can sign an affidavit and still vote.

To reduce exposure to COVID-19, voters are encouraged to consider voting by mail or voting early in person.

Voting by mail is safe and easy

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all registered voters may request to vote by mail in the November 3 general election. The deadline to request a ballot is **Friday, Oct. 30**. The U.S. Postal Service recommends requesting a ballot as soon as possible; no later than **Monday, Oct. 19**.

Voters can:

- Request a ballot [online](#).
- Download, print and mail a [request form](#).
- Download and email a request form.
- Call or visit your local clerk's office.
- Track your ballot online

You can return your ballot by dropping it off in person at a secure drop-off location or at the local clerk's office. You can also mail it by putting it in your own mailbox for the mail carrier to collect, putting it in a Post Office blue mailbox or taking it into a post office.

Voters are encouraged to mail their ballots as soon as possible. **After Monday, Oct. 19** voters should hand-deliver them to their clerk's office or the ballot drop box.

The deadline to return your ballot is by **8 p.m.**, on Election Day, **Tuesday, Nov. 3**. All ballots must be delivered to your local clerk's office by this time.

Voting by mail is a healthy and easy option because you vote at home. If you go out, it is only to mail or drop off your ballot.

- If you return your ballot by mailbox or drop box, wash your hands with soap and water afterward for 20 seconds.
- If you go out to drop off your ballot, practice physical distancing and wear a mask or other face covering to protect yourself and others.
- If you need to buy stamps, consider using the Post Office's online store at usps.com.
- If you go to a post office or store to buy stamps, wear a mask or other face covering and maintain 6 feet of social distance to protect yourself, the postal clerk, and others.

If you are worried there is not sufficient time to request and return a mail-in ballot, you may consider voting early in person.

Early voting in person

Early voting is voting in person before Election Day, which is usually less crowded. Fewer people and shorter lines reduce the risk of COVID exposure, so early voting is another safe and easy way to vote.

Early voting methods vary, so check the options available in your area.

At minimum, all local clerk's offices are open for absentee in person voting **September 24 through November 2**. To vote early, request a ballot from your local clerk at their office, and complete and submit the ballot before you leave. All voters will be asked to show a photo ID. Voters without ID can sign an affidavit and still vote.

Healthy tips for early voting in Michigan:

- Follow instructions for healthy voting at your early voting location.
- Wear a mask or other face covering and maintain a physical distance of 6 feet to protect yourself, election workers and other voters. It is especially important to

sanitize hands and maintain 6 feet of social distance if your mask is removed for identification purposes.

- Before and after voting, wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- If you can, go when the early voting center will not be as busy, usually mid-morning or early-afternoon.

Voting in person on Election Day

When you vote in person on Election Day, you go to a voting center to mark and cast your ballot. Voting centers also have accessible voting systems and language accessible options. All voters will be asked to show a photo ID. Voters without ID can sign an affidavit and still vote.

Polling locations are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

All polling places are open on Election Day.

- Find a location near you at your [election website](#).
- If you prefer to vote in person on Election Day, there are important steps you should take to protect yourself from COVID-19.
- Follow posted instructions for healthy voting at your in-person voting location.
- Wear a mask or other face covering which covers your mouth and nose, and maintain a physical distance of 6 feet to protect yourself, election workers and other voters. It is especially important to sanitize hands and maintain 6 feet of social distance if your mask is removed for identification purposes.
- Bring a coat and other clothes you may need in case you have to wait outside due to distancing requirements for lines.
- Before and after voting, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- If you can, go when the voting center will not be as busy, usually mid-morning or early-afternoon.