

## WHO CAN VOTE

### Can I vote in Michigan?

- You can vote in the November 2 election if you're registered to vote by October 4, 2010.
- You can register if you meet **all** of the following qualifications:
  - (1) you're a U.S. citizen;
  - (2) you're a Michigan resident;
  - (3) you'll be at least 18 years old on Election Day; and
  - (4) you're not incarcerated on Election Day after a conviction for a misdemeanor or felony.

### What if I'm a student?

- You can register to vote at whatever address you regard as your primary legal residence. This can be your school address or your home address—even if you're an out-of-state student at a Michigan college or University.
- If you have questions about whether to vote on campus or at home, and how to do it, see "Student Voting Made Easy" at <http://www.aclumich.org/studentvoting>.

### What if I've been convicted of a crime?

- If you were convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in Michigan, you can vote if you're not currently incarcerated. Your right to vote is automatically restored when you're released from incarceration.
- You can also vote by absentee ballot if you're in jail awaiting trial or arraignment and are not serving a sentence.

### What if I've moved or changed my name?

- You should submit an address change each time you move within a city or township, and re-register each time you move to a different city or township or change your name.
- If you moved within a city or township, or if you moved to a different city or township in a different county after September 4, but haven't updated your address, you can vote at your old precinct and update your information there. MCL § 168.506-507a.
- If you moved to a different city or township within the same county after September 4 but haven't updated your address, you can vote at the office of the clerk on or before Election Day, or at the election precinct of your new address. MCL § 168.507b. Call your county clerk for more information.

### What if I miss the deadline?

- You won't be able to vote in the November 2 election, but you can register to vote in future elections.

### How do I know if I'm registered?

- You can check your registration status at <http://www.Michigan.gov/vote>, or by calling your city or township clerk.

## VOTING EARLY

### Can I vote before Election Day?

- Maybe. You can vote by absentee ballot before Election Day if you're registered to vote and you meet **any** of the following conditions:
  - (1) you're disabled;
  - (2) your religion prevents you from voting at the polls,
  - (3) you're a poll worker away from your regular polling place;
  - (4) you're at least 60 years old;
  - (5) you'll be out of your city or township on Election Day, or
  - (6) you're in jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

### How do I get an absentee ballot?

- You have to submit an application for an absentee ballot, and your application must be received no later than 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 30.
- You can get an application at your clerk's office or you can download one at <http://www.Michigan.gov/vote>.
- If you're a first-time Michigan voter who registered by mail or through a voter-registration drive, you have to submit your application in person at the clerk's office unless you're over 60, disabled, or an overseas voter. Other voters can submit their application by mail or by hand.

- If you have a last-minute emergency that will prevent you from voting at the polls on Election Day, you can request an emergency absentee ballot until 4 p.m. on Election Day.

### What's the deadline for returning my absentee ballot?

- To be counted, your absentee ballot must be received by your clerk's office no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day.

## VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

### When is Election Day?

- Tuesday, November 2.

### When are the polls open?

- Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. You have the right to vote if you're in line when the polls close. MCL §168.720.

### Where do I vote?

- On Election Day, you have to vote at the polling place to which you're assigned.
- Your assigned polling place will be listed on the Voter Identification Card that you should receive in the mail when you register.
- If you don't have your card, you can call your city or township clerk or look up your polling place at <http://www.Michigan.gov/vote>.

## What if my polling place is not accessible?

- If you find this out before Election Day, call your local clerk right away and ask for an assignment to an alternate site that is accessible. You have the right to an accessible polling place and an accessible voting machine.
- On Election Day, you can also send someone into the polling place to request curbside voting on your behalf. Poll workers will bring a ballot outside so you can vote.
- Or you can bring one or more people to assist you. MCL § 168.751.

### What if I need help in the voting booth?

- If you need help because you're blind, disabled, or unable to read or write, tell a poll worker when you get to your polling place. You have the right to vote on an accessible voting machine.
- You also have the right to have anyone you choose assist you in the voting booth, as long as the person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union. MCL § 168.751.
- If you need instructions on how to use voting equipment in your precinct, ask a poll worker for instructions. Poll workers are required to help you any time you ask—even after you've entered the voting booth. MCL §§ 168.736 and .797a.

## PHOTO ID

### Does Michigan law require me to show photo ID to vote?

- No. You can vote by **either**
  - (1) showing a photo ID, or
  - (2) signing an affidavit form stating that you don't have photo ID with you.
- The accepted forms of photo ID include a Michigan driver's license or personal ID card, a driver's license from another state, a passport, a federal or military ID with a photo, a student ID with a photo, or a tribal ID with a photo.

### What if I don't own a photo ID or don't bring it with me to the polls?

- Just ask the poll worker for the affidavit for voters who don't have ID. You have the right to cast a regular ballot without ID if you sign this form. MCL § 168.523.

### Do I have to show ID if this is my first time voting in Michigan?

- Possibly. If you're a first-time voter in Michigan, federal law may require you to show some form of identification, but **only** if
  - (1) you registered to vote by mail or registration drive without filling in the section of the form asking for your driver's license number, personal ID number or last 4 digits of your social security number,

(2) you didn't provide some other form of identification when you registered, **and**

(3) you're not disabled, over 60, or an overseas voter.

■ If the first-time-voter ID requirements apply to you, you can show either a photo ID or another accepted document such as a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck stub, government check, or any other government document that shows your name and address.

■ If you aren't able to show any of these documents, you still have the right to cast a "provisional ballot." That ballot won't be counted, however, unless you bring ID to your clerk's office before the close of business on November 8. If you have time and have ID at home or work, it's usually better to get your ID and return to the polls to cast a regular ballot.

## PROBLEMS AT THE POLLS

### What if I'm not on the voter list?

■ First, ask the poll worker to check the list again and to confirm that you're at the right polling place. If the poll worker doesn't find you on the list, you can show your voter ID card or registration receipt that shows it's your correct precinct and be permitted to vote on a regular ballot. MCL § 168.523a.

■ If you're at the right polling place but your name isn't on the voter list, and you don't have your voter ID card or registration receipt, then ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if your name isn't on the voter list, as long as you're willing to swear that you believe you registered to vote. MCL § 168.523a.

### What if I go to the wrong polling place?

■ Go to the right polling place. You can ask a poll worker to help you find the polling place where you're registered. You can also call your city or township clerk or look up your polling place at <http://www.Michigan.gov/vote>.

■ If you can't figure out where you're registered, go to the polling place that you think is most likely to be the right one for your address and ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if you're not sure that you're at the right polling place. MCL § 168.523a

### What if someone challenges my right to vote?

■ Ask to be sworn in and answer whatever questions are necessary to establish your eligibility. Once you truthfully answer questions that show that you're eligible, you have the right to cast a regular ballot. MCL §§ 168.727-168.729

### What if someone tries to intimidate or harass me?

■ Tell a poll worker right away. If the poll worker is the problem, tell a poll watcher, call your local clerk, or call one of the election hotline numbers listed below.

### What if I make a mistake on my ballot or the optical scanner malfunctions?

■ If you make a mistake or spoil your ballot, tell a poll worker before you put it in the optical scanner. You have the right to a replacement ballot as long as you catch your mistake before you put it in the optical scanner. If your ballot is rejected by the optical scanner, ask for a replacement immediately. By law, you have the right to vote another ballot. MCL §§ 168.740, 168.795(b), 168.795(d)

### How do I make a complaint?

■ First, ask the person in charge of your polling place. Candidates, political parties, and nonprofit groups may also have poll watchers outside your polling place who might be able to assist you. If any of those people ask you who you voted for, or if they can't resolve your complaint, call your local clerk or call the Michigan Bureau of Elections at (517) 373-2540.

■ You can also call one of the election hotline numbers listed below.

**Election Protection Hotline:**  
(866) OUR-VOTE

**Michigan Bureau of Elections:**  
(517) 373-2540

**U.S. Department of Justice:**  
(800) 253-3931

**ACLU Voting Rights Project:**  
(877) 523-2792

**ACLU of Michigan:**  
(313) 578-6800  
<http://www.aclumich.org>



# MICHIGAN VOTER EMPOWERMENT CARD

2010 ELECTIONS



The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a nationwide, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than 500,000 members dedicated to defending the principles of liberty and equality embodied in the Constitution and our nation's civil rights laws. The

ACLU doesn't endorse or oppose any candidate or party, but we believe that no civil right is more important in our democracy than the right to vote.

### QUICK TIPS FOR VOTING:

■ Check your voter registration status at least 30 days before the election at <http://www.Michigan.gov/vote> or by calling your city or township clerk.

■ Vote before Election Day, using absentee voting, if you're eligible to do so.

■ Vote early in the day to avoid the last-minute rush.

■ If you have them, bring more than one form of photo ID, and your voter ID card, registration receipt, or any other official documents that show your eligibility to vote.

■ Ask for help if you need it.

■ Take your time. The board of inspectors may impose a reasonable limit on the time you can remain in the voting booth. MCL § 168.742.

