



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS  
LANSING

October 29, 2018

**TIPS FOR VOTERS**  
**NOVEMBER 6, 2018 GENERAL ELECTION**

Michigan has more than 7.4 million registered voters, and election officials are expecting voter turnout to exceed levels ordinarily seen in mid-term elections. These tips are offered to make your voting experience as pleasant and efficient as possible.

1. Visit [www.Michigan.gov/Vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/Vote) to review your sample ballot, locate your polling place, track your absentee ballot or contact your clerk. Simply input your name, month/year of birth and zip code (or your driver's license number and month/year of birth). The online sample ballot contains the same federal, state and local candidates and state and local proposals that will appear on your official ballot.
2. **On Election Day, please be patient and courteous to poll workers (your neighbors!), who are working long hours on Election Day to ensure that your vote counts.** Michigan has approximately 30,000 poll workers trained and ready to serve you on Election Day in over 4,800 precincts and 1,500 cities and townships statewide. They are selected by your local clerk and must pass an examination or attend training in order to be appointed.
3. **If you are eligible, please consider voting by absentee ballot.** You may [apply](#) for an absent voter ballot if you are 60 years old or older, expect to be absent from the community in which you are registered to vote during the hours of 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, are physically unable to vote at the polls without assistance, cannot attend the polls on account of your religious beliefs, are serving as a precinct inspector outside of your home precinct, or are in jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

Your application can be submitted *in person* up until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, or *by mail* until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Applicants who prefer to receive their ballot *by mail* are strongly encouraged to apply as soon as possible in order to ensure there is adequate time for delivery and return of the ballot through the U.S. Postal Service. You may track your absentee ballot online at [www.Michigan.gov/Vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/Vote).

4. **If your schedule permits, please consider avoiding the peak voting hours of 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** The busiest times in the polling place tend to overlap morning and evening rush hours. You are less likely to encounter long lines if you are able to visit your polling place between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. No matter when you vote, though, remember that all voters who are standing in line at 8:00 p.m. when the polls close are entitled to cast a ballot.

5. **Remember, there is no straight ticket voting option available on the ballot for this election.** Instead, voters must select a candidate (or candidates, if the ballot instructions allow) for each race in which they wish to cast a vote. This, coupled with strong voter turnout projections, warrants a few minutes of advance preparation. Our website, [www.Michigan.gov/Vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/Vote) is a good place to start.
6. **If you are told that your name is not on the precinct list of registered voters, kindly follow the poll worker's instructions and if necessary, ask to vote a provisional ballot.** Your ability to cast a regular or provisional ballot is affected by the following circumstances:
  - a. **If you are in the correct precinct and can produce a voter registration receipt dated on or before the deadline to register, you can vote a regular ballot in that precinct.** Simply follow the poll worker's instructions, complete the required forms, and vote.
  - b. **If you are not in the correct precinct, you can still vote a regular ballot if you travel to your correct precinct.** The poll worker will inform you of your proper polling location. Taking the time to vote in your correct precinct will ensure that your ballot is counted.
  - c. **All others, whose names are not on the precinct list and do not meet the criteria described in (a) or (b) above, should ask for a provisional ballot.** Follow the poll worker's instructions, complete the required forms, and *most importantly*, make sure you comply with any post-election identification or proof-of-residency requirement (as described in the "Notice to Voters Who Do Not Appear on the Precinct's Registration List" you received from the poll worker) within 6 days of the election.
7. **Please refrain from wearing campaign apparel to the polls,** such as t-shirts, hats, or buttons that clearly advocate for or against specific candidates or ballot proposals on the ballot. Poll workers may ask any voter who enters the polling place to remove campaign buttons or cover up clothing that refers to candidates or proposals.
8. **Your vote counts!** While Michigan has *not* been the victim of a cyberattack, rest assured that the Secretary of State is working proactively with cybersecurity experts at the state and federal level to protect our election systems. We also work with your local election officials to detect and prevent any attempted system intrusions. You can trust the rigorous check-and-balance system Michigan has built over many decades, which includes everything from paper ballots, vote tabulator software and electronic poll books that are *not* connected to the Internet, tamper-evident ballot container locks and seals, redundant result reporting to different government agencies, a 14-day post-election canvass period for manually reviewing and verifying individual precinct results at the county level, recounts, post-election audits, and so on. All of these features work in tandem to ensure accurate election results.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018**