

Requesting an Absent Voter Ballot

If you expect to be absent on Election Day from the city or township where you are registered to vote, *you can obtain an absent voter ballot by submitting a written request to the clerk of the city or township where you are registered, or by filling out a pre-printed application.* Your written request must include your signature and the address where you wish to receive your ballot. You can phone or email your city or township Clerk's Office to request an absent voter ballot application form.

You can also ask the Clerk to place your name on the permanent list of absentee voters so that you will receive the application automatically. This can serve as a helpful reminder of upcoming elections!

Saving a Trip to Update Your Driver's License

If the address you submit on a voter registration application does not match the address on your driver's license, the SOS will send you an address update sticker for your license. This results from the automatic "handshake" between the centralized Qualified Voter File and the State Driver's License records.

Your "Principal Residence"

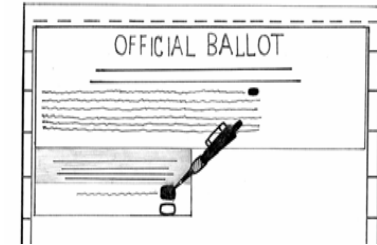
There are a few other things you may want to consider in making your decision regarding your "principal residence." Residency requirements for various colleges and universities follow the rules set down by those institutions. Your residence can determine how much tuition you will pay. Health insurance may require that you "reside" with your parents. Your residence may also determine your automobile insurance rates.

Regardless of the address you use for voter registration and driver's license purposes, you can maintain a separate mailing address. You may also change your voter registration/driver license address as frequently as needed, free of cost.

Since Michigan keeps one "principal address" on record for your driver's license and your voter registration, if you change one, you'll change them both. You can tell where you're expected to vote if your driver's license is current.

For more information, visit: www.michigan.gov/sos and follow the 'Elections in Michigan' link.

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VOTING TIPS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

First time voters and college students often find themselves caught in the technicalities of Michigan election laws.

These are a few tips to help guide you through.

VOTING TIPS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS



Eligibility

You can register to vote in the State of Michigan if you are:

- 1.) A U.S. citizen
- 2.) 18 years old or will turn 18 by the date of the next election
- 3.) A resident in your community for 30 days

Deciding on Your Address

If you are eligible to vote in Michigan, you must identify your “principal residence” in the state. This will determine your voting jurisdiction. As a college student, you can choose to register with your campus address, OR the address where you previously resided before moving to campus.

Michigan will only keep one residence address on file, so you have to choose whether your home or school address is going to be your “principal residence.”

See back flap for more info on principal address

The 30-Day Deadline

Current law requires you to register to vote 30 days before the date of the election in which you wish to vote. If you register and then move within the 30 days before an election, you can still vote at the polling place for your old address.

How to Register

The easiest place to register is generally at your local city or township Clerk’s Office. You can also register by visiting any Secretary of State branch or County Clerk’s Office. As a last resort, you can register to vote by mail. A copy of the mail-in voter registration application can be found at the Michigan SOS website: www.michigan.gov/sos. Be sure the postmark date is 30 days before the election!

Confirm Your Registration

You should receive a Voter Identification card from your local Clerk, mailed to your principal address. You can also check your status at www.michigan.gov/vote

Caution! If you register to vote by mail and have never voted previously, you must physically attend the polls for your first election, a potential problem if your community is far from campus. If you will need an absent voter ballot

for the first election that you participate in after registering, you must register in person at a Secretary of State branch or at your local Clerk’s Office.

Protect Your Right to Vote

If you haven't already voted in person and want to vote absentee, plan to register in person at least 30 days before the election. If you registered by mail, plan to vote in person at the Clerk’s Office using an absentee ballot prior to Election Day, or attend the polls on Election Day.

If you registered by mail and must leave for school before absentee ballots are available, visit the Clerk’s Office to have an official witness your signature so they can send you an absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots are available 45 days before a state election (unless delayed by legal appeals or printing problems). If you need to vote in person and can’t make it to your voting place on Election Day, call your Clerk to learn the office hours when you can vote in person, or to make an appointment to vote.

Your local Clerk’s Office is open on the Saturday before every election from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., to provide absentee ballots, which may be voted on the spot.