

Creating Your Voting Plan

Key dates

Early voting in Michigan: Thursday, September 24, 2020 – Monday, November 2, 2020 at 4 p.m.
Election day: Tuesday, November 3, 2020, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Step one – voter registration

Check if you are registered to vote

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>

This will give you your voter registration information:

- Registered (yes/no)
- If yes – you will see your polling place locations/precinct and hours, sample ballot, clerk location and hours (move to **step two**)

Note: There is no deadline to register to vote. You can even register until 8 p.m. on Election Day at your clerk's office, although we recommend registering much sooner.

Register to vote

If you have a driver's license or state identification, you can register online until October 19:

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/RegisterVoter/Index>

After October 19 (or If you do not have a driver's license or state identification):

1. Go to your local county, city or township clerk's office to get the registration application (find your clerk: <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk>) – **YOU CAN REGISTER AND VOTE ON THE SAME DAY**
2. Print application from the Michigan SOS website and take to clerk's office: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf

*When registering to vote, you must bring proof of residency. Documents must have your name and current address. **You can show a digital copy of any document.***

- Michigan driver's license or state ID
- Current utility bill
- Other government document
- Bank statement
- Paycheck or government check

Note: Michigan law states that the same address must be used for voter registration and driver's license purposes.

Step two – choosing how to vote

Voting in person

Verify that you are registered and find your polling place:

<https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>

- Dress comfortably and for the weather
- Give yourself plenty of time and be prepared to wait
- Bring mask and hand sanitizer
- Bring identification
- Do not wear any election/political clothing (or other items) to the polls – prohibited in Michigan
- Must be in line before 8 p.m.
- Focus on exercising your right (do not let others distract or intimidate you)

Vote absentee by mail or in person

Request your absent voter ballot

- In person at your local city or township clerk's office – preferred if after October 19. You will be able to submit your ballot (vote) while there. (Deadline: 4 p.m. on the day before the election, Monday, November 2)
- Online: <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/AVApplication/Index>. (Deadline: Must be received by your clerk by 5 p.m. the Friday before the election, October 30)
- Use application form – sign and return by mail or in person to clerk
 - Download online form (also in Spanish)
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/AVApp_535884_7.pdf
 - Use form already mailed to all registered voters
 - Call city or township clerk and ask that an application be mailed to you

Note: If after October 19, we recommend going in person to the clerk's office to request your absent ballot rather than requesting online or through the mail. This is to avoid delays.

Returning your absent voter ballot – must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day

- In person at your local city or township clerk's office (recommended if after October 19)
- Drop box at your clerk's office (there should be a special marked box outside)
- Mail

Note: Only you, a family member or person residing in your household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver your signed absent voter ballot to your clerk's office.

Check that your absent voter ballot was received:

<https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>

Step three - researching candidates and policies

Preview your ballot:

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>

Places to find information:

- WSU library guide <https://guides.lib.wayne.edu/c.php?g=1089004>
- Local and national newspapers
 - Detroit Free Press endorsements
 - [University boards](#)
 - [President](#)
 - [Senate](#)
 - [U.S. House of Representatives](#)
 - [Michigan House of Representatives](#)
 - [Michigan Supreme Court](#)
 - Detroit News 2020 election editorial endorsements guide (requires paid subscription)
<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/editorials/2020/09/29/michigan-election-2020-endorsements/3534897001/>
- Endorsements from organizations that you belong to (or follow)
- Candidate and political party websites
- Talking to people that you trust and respect

Note: There is a lot of misinformation and disinformation out there (see [this article](#) about partisan websites pretending to be local news). Research librarian Ida Martinez is available to help students look for sources that cover local elections and candidates and to help determine if a source is legitimate. She can be reached at hb6180@wayne.edu. Alicia, Melissa, Tamara and Zach are also available to help you find sources.

Other helpful resources

Michigan Voter Information Center

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/Index>

Warriors Vote

<https://studentsenate.wayne.edu/warriorsvote>

Free Press Absentee Voting Guide

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/08/20/absentee-ballot-michigan-election-2020/3382648001/>