

CHALO ✓VOTE!



THIS GUIDE COVERS -

- ★ Voter Registration
 - ★ Making a Plan to Vote
 - ★ Cast Your Ballot
 - ★ Vote By Mail
 - ★ Vote In Person
 - ★ FAQ
 - ★ Official MI Helpful Links
-

VOTER'S GUIDE

→ MICHIGAN

The 2016 Presidential Election was decided in Michigan by 10,704 votes. There are 125,000 eligible South Asian voters in Michigan. Our voices can decide the future of this country. Our values and beliefs will be respected by making our voices heard. Lack of knowledge or mistrust of the process and your rights should never soften your voice.

All votes matter and help shape the future of this country and the country we leave to future generations.

This guide serves as a reference tool to help simplify the process of voting and to answer common questions that come up during the voting process. In order to take the first step towards voting this year, go to chalo.vote now and check your voter registration status and let us guide you through the process of voting and give you the tools you need to vote confidently and meaningfully.

TAKE THE 1ST STEP NOW AND VISIT

CHALO.VOTE →

IMPORTANT DATES —

Voter Registration Deadline:

November 3rd 2020

Vote by Mail Application Deadline:

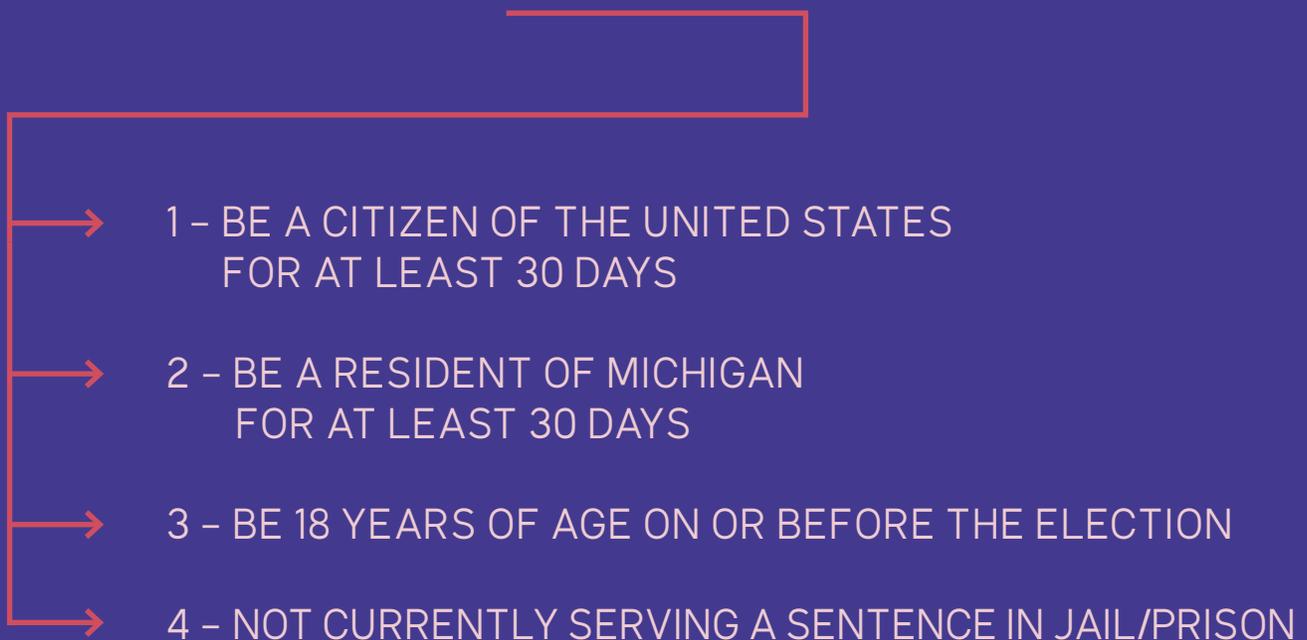
October 30th 2020

Election Day and Vote By Mail Ballot Deadline:

November 3th 2020 (7AM-7PM)

STEP 1 VOTER REGISTRATION

The first step to voting is registering to vote with the state. In order to be eligible to register to vote in Michigan you need to meet 4 criteria.

- 
- 1 - BE A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES FOR AT LEAST 30 DAYS
 - 2 - BE A RESIDENT OF MICHIGAN FOR AT LEAST 30 DAYS
 - 3 - BE 18 YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE THE ELECTION
 - 4 - NOT CURRENTLY SERVING A SENTENCE IN JAIL/PRISON

VOTER REGISTRATION

If you do not meet all 4 of those criteria, you are not able to register to vote at this time. For any specific questions look at our FAQ at the end of this guide. If you meet the criteria, check to see if you are registered to vote at your current address using the [Chalo Vote registration tool](#). We recommend you check your registration even if you know you are registered in case any information has changed.

Enter in your information at:
chalo.vote/registration

If you are registered then you will be directed to apply for a vote by mail ballot for the upcoming election.

See Vote by Mail sections below for more information.

If you are not registered, then you will be asked to enter your state and then have a link that will direct you to the online voter registration form for Michigan as seen below. You can find more information on the FAQ or in our specific guide to filling out the Voter Registration form for Michigan.

The form will take a few days to process and you will be sent a voter registration card in the mail. Check your registration again once you receive the card to confirm your status or check your status at the site below –

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

You can register to vote leading all the way to election day including on election day. If you choose to register to vote on election day then go to the County Clerk's office to do it in person and you can fill out an absentee ballot at the same time. This however is not recommended as there may be long lines and waits.

STEP 2

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

The most important step to following through with voting is knowing when your elections are and having a plan to vote in them.

For election dates you can sign up for reminders with us when checking your registration at [chalo.vote](https://www.chalo.vote) or you can check the election calendar on the Michigan Secretary of State's website –

(https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8721_8739---,00.html)

From there you can make a plan to vote using the **two different options** Michigan provides to vote in every election.

REGISTER TO → VOTE BY MAIL

Vote by mail is an option available to all voters where a voter can request a ballot be delivered to their home for them to fill out and mail or deliver back to the County clerk's office.

**ANY VOTER CAN REQUEST A VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT AND DO NOT NEED TO SUPPLY A REASON TO REQUEST A BALLOT THROUGH MAIL!
EVEN IF YOU APPLY TO VOTE BY MAIL, YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR MIND AND VOTE IN PERSON.**

- ★ In order to request a vote by mail ballot, voters can either fill out an online form or print a paper form and return it to their County clerk's office. Voters can also indicate if they want ballots for other elections during the year and should check those options so they do not have to fill out another application.
- ★ Once a ballot is requested, the process can be tracked online and the ballots will start to be mailed out 45 days before the election. Once you receive your ballot you will need to fill it out and return it to the County Clerk's office, not your polling place, so that it arrives by Election Day.

Mail-in ballots can only be requested up until the Friday before election day (4 days before election).

REGISTER TO → VOTE IN PERSON

This is the traditional method of voting where voters can arrive at their specified polling place and vote in person on the day of the election.

- ★ Each voter has a specific polling location they are assigned to that they need to visit on election day to cast their vote. There is also an option to fill out an absentee ballot in person at your County Clerk's office up to 45 days before the election if you are unsure if you will be in town on election day. For information on this check the Cast your ballot section below. If you are someone that travels a lot for work or are not sure that you will be in the state for any reason, requesting a Vote By Mail ballot is a safer option that allows more time in case anything comes up that prevents you from voting on election day.

***Chalo Vote! recommends all voters Vote by Mail in the current COVID-19 world and beyond as it is the safest way to vote.**

It also gives you time with your ballot before the election and can be tracked to make sure your vote counts.

Voting on election day should be considered a **final option.**

If you choose to vote on election day and can't because something came up, there is no way to cast your vote.

STEP 3

CAST YOUR BALLOT

Once you know your options and decide how you are going to vote, then you just need to find candidates that you support and cast your ballot.

To learn more about candidates you can go to our partner Ballot Ready's site ballotready.org and read about the basic information and issues for all the candidates in your area.

In order to cast your ballot, you need to either send your ballot in the mail if you applied for a mail in ballot or go to your polling place on election day between 7AM and 7PM and cast your vote in person.

Some rules and tips for both methods →

VOTE BY MAIL

You should receive your vote by mail ballot no later than 2 weeks before the election if you requested it in advance and within 3 days of requesting the ballot if you submit your form within 2 weeks of the election.

Status of your ballot can be tracked using the following website where you can be sure that your ballot has arrived and been counted:

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/avapplication>

Once you receive your ballot, you can return it to the elections office with 3 easy steps ↓

- 1** Mark your ballot following the instructions provided by the secretary of state's office with your ballot.
- 2** Once your ballot is complete, place your ballot in the secrecy envelope and then place the secrecy envelope into the official envelope and seal it. On the outside of the envelope make sure that you sign the declaration or your ballot may be rejected.
- 3** Mail or deliver your ballot to your County Clerk's office so that it arrives by 7PM on Election day. The ballot must arrive at the elections office by election day, not just put in the mail by then.

The link to find your clerk is below:

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Clerk>

VOTING IN PERSON

In order to cast your vote in person, you must show up in person with your state issued ID at your polling location. If you do not have your state ID you can sign an affidavit confirming your identity.

You **MUST** vote at your specific polling location which you can find at the following link: <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/>.

When voting in person expect the following steps to cast your vote when you arrive at your polling location ↓

- 1** Follow the signs that say “VOTE” on them to the voting area and check-in with the poll worker sitting at a table.
- 2** Give your ID to the poll worker who will then hand you a paper ballot and a secrecy sleeve.
- 3** Proceed to a voting booth and fill in the bubble or square fully for the candidate of your choice for each election. Be sure to only select one candidate for each election.
- 4** Once you complete your ballot, place it in the privacy sleeve with the stub sticking out of the sleeve and proceed to the tabulator machine.
- 5** Hand your ballot to a precinct worker who will tear off the stub and direct you to the tabulator machine
- 6** Follow the arrows and insert your ballot into the slot and the machine will process your ballot and tell you it has been counted!

FAQ

VOTER REGISTRATION

Should I fill out the optional information including Phone Number, Email, and Party?

- ★ The more information you fill in the more informed you stay. Your phone number and email will be used to keep you informed of upcoming elections in your area.

When do I need to be registered by in order to vote in an election?

- ★ You need to be registered at least 30 days before the election

I might have registered to vote in the past, but don't know if I am currently registered or if my address is up to date.

- ★ You can check your registration status online at the following site: <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>
- ★ You can check registration using your Name or your Driver's License number
 - Name will require your County, Zip Code, Name, and Date of Birth
 - Driver's License will require license # and your Date of Birth

I checked my status and am registered to vote, but the address is not my current address, how do I update my address?

- ★ You can update your address using the same voter application form you would use to register as a new voter. (<https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/registervoter>)

FAQ

VOTE BY MAIL

When is the last day I can apply for a vote by mail ballot?

- ★ There is no stated deadline to complete an application, but if you have not filled out an application at least 7 days before the election, we would recommend voting in person or filling out an absentee ballot in person at the County Clerk's office.

If I apply for an absentee ballot, but change my mind can I still vote in person?

- ★ Yes! If you never received your mail-in ballot or want to vote in person, you will need to fill out an affidavit at your polling location and they allow you to vote normally or with a provisional ballot.

If I put my ballot in the mail on election day will it still be counted?

- ★ NO. Your ballot must arrive at your county election office by 8PM on election day. If you are not able to put in the mail by the Thursday prior to the election, we would recommend dropping it off at the county clerk's office in person or at a dropbox if your county has them. If you do put it in the mail within a few days of the election, make sure to use certified mail to track its status.

What is the difference between an absentee ballot and a mail in ballot?

- ★ Functionally there is no difference between the two in Michigan and are used interchangeably. Regardless of if you are out of town or not you will fill out the same application.

Do I have to apply for a ballot for every election?

- ★ Not entirely. You can fill out an application and mark elections you'd like to receive ballots for the remainder of the cycle, but you must fill out a new application every year and mark each election to ensure you receive ballots in this manner.

FAQ

How do I ensure I fill in the ballot properly?

- ★ If you have any questions you can always contact our hotline or your county election office, but make sure that you fill in exactly ONE oval to pick your choice for each election and then put the ballot into the appropriate secrecy envelope before putting it into the main envelope and sealing it. You **MUST** sign the main envelope in order to certify it is you voting and have your vote counted.

VOTING IN PERSON

Is there early voting available in Michigan?

- ★ Michigan does not offer traditional early voting so if you would like to vote in person at a polling location, you must vote at your polling location on election day.
- ★ Michigan does offer early absentee voting which allows voters to visit their County Clerk's office up 45 days before the election to fill out an absentee ballot in person so if you would like to vote in person early you can go to your County Clerk's office during business hours.
- ★ If you are unsure of your work situation or availability on election day, we **STRONGLY** recommend that you apply for a mail in ballot to make sure you are able to cast your vote safely and in a timely manner.

How do I vote using the voting machine at my polling location?

- ★ Different counties have different machines and steps to cast your vote in person, but you can **ALWAYS** ask for assistance from a poll worker or bring a friend or family member to assist you.
- ★ You can also learn more about your counties voting machine at this link (https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716_45458-162777--,00.html).
Just click on your county and use the links and materials provided.

HELPFUL LINKS

Chalo Vote! Home Page:

<https://chalo.vote>

MI Elections Home Page:

<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633---,00.html>

MI Voter Eligibility:

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/registervoter>

MI Voter Registration Application:

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/registervoter>

MI Voter Registration Status Check:

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/registervoter>

MI Vote By Mail Details:

https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716_8728-21037--,00.html

MI Vote By Mail Tracker:

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/registervoter>

MORE INFORMATION AT
CHALO.VOTE