

Absent voter ballot application period begins

Voters encouraged to apply at Michigan.gov/Vote, return ballots early

The application period to request an absent voter ballot for the Nov. 3 general election is now open and Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson encourages voters to sign up to vote absentee and return their ballots as early as possible. Here is what you need to know:

- All registered voters can apply for an absent voter ballot and may do so by filling out an online form at Michigan.gov/Vote and providing information including their driver's license or state ID card number and the last four digits of their Social Security number.
- Alternatively, voters may print out an application form from the site and send it, or a written, signed request for a ballot, to their clerk. They can mail their request, email a scan or photo of it or deliver it in person. Voters can find their clerk's contact information at Michigan.gov/Vote.
- Voters with print disabilities may apply online for an accessible electronic absent voter ballot at Michigan.gov/Vote or Michigan.gov/AccessibleBallot. The accessible ballot can be completed electronically, printed and returned to their clerk.

Clerks will begin mailing out regular absent voter ballots on Sept. 24. They will be available for early, in-person voting in clerks' offices on that date as well. A ballot-tracking tool on the Michigan.gov/Vote site allows voters to check when their clerk received their absentee ballot request, when they mailed out the ballot and when they received the ballot back from the voter.

Voters applying for absent voter ballots online or through the mail should do as soon as possible. After Oct. 19, voters are advised to go to their clerk's office in person if possible, where they can receive their ballot and vote it while they are there.

Voters have until 8 p.m. on Election Day to complete their absentee ballot and return it to the clerk's office. It is recommended that voters deliver their ballot as early as possible to a drop box if their clerk has one, to the clerk's office in person or by mail at least two weeks ahead of the election.

For more information on absentee voting, or to register to vote, go to Michigan.gov/Vote.