

Michigan

Provisional Ballot Survey

Provisional Ballots Cast: 5,610
Provisional Ballots Counted: 3,227
Percent Counted: 57.5%
Percent of Vote: 0.07%

DESIGN

1. Who designs the provisional ballot, the state or county?

The state designs the provisional ballot.

2. Is the entity responsible for designing the provisional ballot designated by statute or rule?

The state is designated by statute.

3. Does Michigan have a provisional ballot that also serves as a voter registration application?

Yes, a voter registration application is incorporated into the form that must be completed by each voter who receives a provisional ballot.

4. Is Michigan's provisional ballot visually distinguishable from a regular ballot?

Provisional ballots are not visually distinguishable in any way as they are, in effect, the same as regular ballots. Consequently, if a provisional ballot were placed in the precinct's tabulator, it would count. A provisional voter votes on a regular paper, punch card, or optical scan ballot in a voting station. After the voter returns the ballot, instead of being submitted through the tabulator, the ballot is secured in an envelope for later disposition.

AVAILABILITY AND STANDARDS

1. Are there a required number of provisional ballots at polling places?

No, the state does not set a minimum number of provisional ballots. City or township clerks are responsible for determining the number of provisional ballots for each polling location. However, voters who are eligible to receive a provisional ballot are issued the same ballot that is issued to every other voter who attends the polls.

2. What do poll workers do if the polling place runs out of provisional ballots?

As provisional and regular ballots are indistinguishable, the only way a precinct could run out of provisional ballots would be if it depleted its entire ballot supply. If such an event were to occur, the precinct board would contact the local city or township clerk.

3. Are provisional ballots tracked through distribution to polling sites through counting?

Provisional ballots are tracked individually, but they are not tracked differently than regular ballots.

COUNTING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

1. Who determines whether or not a provisional ballot is valid?

By state law, the city or township clerk determines the eligibility of each provisional ballot.

2. What is the time frame for counting provisional ballots?

Within 6 days after the election, the city or township clerk must evaluate each provisional ballot voted by the jurisdiction's voters to determine whether it will be counted.

3. What is the process for determining the eligibility of a provisional ballot?

After the polls close, any ballots issued and voted under the above procedure are forwarded to the local election official for verification. If the election official determines that the individual is eligible to vote, the ballot is counted; if, on the other hand, the election official determines that the individual is not eligible to vote, the ballot is not counted.

4. Who can observe the process?

Any member of the public can observe this process.

5. Is a provisional ballot counted if it is cast in the wrong precinct?

No, a provisional ballot is counted only if cast in the correct precinct.

6. What information must voters provide on the provisional ballot?

The voter must sign and complete the affidavit form and provide all information that is required for voter registration.

7. May a voter remedy a provisional ballot that may be rejected?

Voters who are issued a provisional ballot because they are unable to satisfy the identification requirement and/or residence verification requirement associated with the provisional voting process are given special notice that they may produce required documents any time during the 6 day period following an election. However, if a provisional voter makes an error in filling out the ballot (e.g. double-votes or crosses parties), he/she will not have an opportunity to cure that error because city and township clerks do not have the authority to issue replacements ballots after an election has been conducted.

8. If voters remedy a flawed provisional ballot, how are they notified of this opportunity?

In instances where a voter is issued a provisional ballot because he/she is unable to satisfy the identification requirement and/or residence verification requirement associated with the provisional balloting process, the voter can produce the required document(s) anytime during the 6 days that follow the election. Voters who are subject to this allowance are issued a special notice in the polls.

9. What can voters do if they failed to bring ID to the polls?

The voter must provide their local city or township clerk with the required information no later than the sixth calendar day after the election. The voter can appear in person in their city or township clerk's office to show the information, fax the information to the clerk or mail a copy of the information to the clerk. If they do not satisfy the information requirement within six calendar days after the election, the ballot will not count.

NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

1. What is the state's Free Notification System to inform voters whether their provisional ballot was counted?

Local election officials administer Michigan's notification system. The local clerks either send a notice to every voter who was issued a provisional ballot or set up a phone line that the voter may call to obtain information.

2. Who administers the Free Notification System?

The local clerks administer the notification system.

3. What is the timeline for posting information to the Free Notification System?

Results are available no later than the 7th day after the election.