



# A Short Guide to Helping Voters Register Under Michigan Law

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

In Michigan, any individual may become a registered voter if she is:

- 18 years of age or older by the next election
- a citizen of the United States
- a resident in the State of Michigan and the city, township or village he or she intends to vote in for at least 30 days before the election.

A person convicted of a felony may vote in Michigan as long as he or she is not incarcerated. A person confined in a jail awaiting trial or sentence, who is otherwise a qualified elector, may register to vote.

## WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ALL VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS IN TIME TO VOTE AT THE NEXT ELECTION?

The deadline for submitting voter registration applications is the 30th day before the next election. If the application is received after that date, the registrant will not be eligible to vote until the following election.

## WHAT CONSTITUTES A COMPLETE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION?

The following information about the applicant is required on the Michigan registration application in order for it to be considered complete:

- Name
- Residence address
- Mailing Address, if different from residence address
- Date of birth and birthplace
- ID number (Acceptable ID is a Michigan driver's license, state personal ID number, or the last four digits of the social security number. If the voter does not have any of the above, the voter must check the box next to the ID that she lacks. The state will assign the applicant a unique voter ID number.)
- Indication of United States citizenship
- Indication that applicant is 18 years old or will be by the next election
- Indication that applicant has met or will meet the 30 day state residency requirement by the next election
- Indication that the applicant has met the 30-day township, city, or village residency requirement
- The location of the applicant's last place of registration, if any.
- Applicant's signature verifying under penalty of perjury that the information is true.

Michigan voters must use the same residential address for voter registration and driver's license purposes. Consequently, if a registered voter submits a driver's license address change, it will be applied to the voter's registration. Similarly, if the voter submits a voter registration address change, it is applied to the voter's driver's license.

## WHAT ARE THE STATE RULES GOVERNING VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES?

**A. Are there restrictions on copying completed voter registration applications prior to submitting them to the registrar?**

There is no restriction against copying voter registration applications in Michigan's 2007 election code.

**B. Are voter registration groups subject to time limits for submitting the voter registration applications they have collected?**



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There is no deadline that is unique to persons or organizing voter registration guides. Such individuals or groups should submit completed registrations before the close of registration 30 days before the next election, to make certain that eligible applicants will be able to vote in that election.

**C. Are voter registration groups prohibited from putting identifying marks on completed voter registration applications?**

There is no requirement that voter registration groups put identifying marks on completed applications or that they refrain from doing so.

**D. Are there special rules requiring a third party to sign her name to the completed voter registration application?**  
No.

**E. Does the state require voter registration organizations to register or file other information detailing its voter registration activities?**  
No.

**F. Does the state require any training in order to conduct voter registration drives?**  
No.

**G. Are there restrictions on who may help others register to vote?**  
There are no restrictions in the Michigan election code relating to who may assist others to register to vote.

**H. Can corrections or additions be made to the registration application after the voter gives the completed application to the voter registration group?**  
There is no provision that prohibits this practice. Of course, no such changes to the application should be made without the express consent of the applicant.

### WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR CORRECTING INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS?

**A. If a voter registration application is incomplete, may the voter registration drive write the missing information on the application with the consent of the applicant?**  
There is nothing in the Michigan election code that either permits or prohibits this practice.

### WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR CORRECTING INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS?

If the clerk determines the person is not qualified for any reason, including an incomplete application, the clerk is required to immediately send notice to the applicant at the address stated in the application stating the clerk's determination and the reasons the application was rejected. A person shall be permitted to vote if he presents at the polls a validated voter registration application receipt and the clerk determines the person is qualified.

**For Michigan voter registration forms: [www.michigan.gov/documents/MIvoterRegistration\\_97046\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIvoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf)**

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