



State Representative  
**CHUCK MOSS**

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Dear Friend,

Voting is not only the right of every citizen, it's also a responsibility. However, certain aspects of the election procedure can be challenging and confusing. Within this publication, I have presented answers to some of the most frequently asked questions concerning elections in Michigan. I would like to thank the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections for providing the information for this newsletter.

I welcome and encourage you to review this information; it will help you better exercise your voting privileges.

Sincerely,

Chuck Moss

State Representative | 40th District

## VOTING PROCEDURE

**Where do I vote?** If you do not know the location of your polling place, check with your city or township clerk. You may also visit the Secretary of State Voter Information Center online at [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos).

**When do I vote?** On Election Day, Michigan's polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### How do I vote?

The procedure involves four steps:

1. You sign an application to vote.
2. You show a picture ID or sign an affidavit attesting that you do not have one with you.
3. An election inspector makes sure your name is on the list of registered voters for the precinct.
4. You vote.

### What should I do if my name does not appear on the list of registered voters at my polling place?

Cooperate with the election inspectors by telling them your name, address, and where and when you registered to vote. If they are unable to confirm your registration, contact your city or township clerk.

### May I take campaign literature into the polling place?

**YES.** Campaign literature may be brought into the polling place for your personal use only. You must not distribute or display it to other voters, and you must not leave any materials in the polling place.

**May I receive assistance when voting? YES.** Without stating a reason, any voter may request voting assistance from the precinct board. In such case, two inspectors –

one from each political party – will render assistance. If you are unable to read or write, you may ask anyone (except your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your union) to assist you.

**Is there a difference between a primary and a general election? YES.** A primary election is held by the political parties to select their nominee for the offices to be elected at the upcoming general election. In a primary, Republicans run against Republicans and Democrats run against Democrats. And, of course, if other parties qualify to appear on the primary ballot, their candidates run against each other as well. In a primary, you can vote on only one party's ticket.

A general election is a race between party nominees and any candidates without political affiliation. The general election determines which candidates will occupy the offices that are up for election. Statewide ballot proposals also appear on the general election ballot.

### Is campaigning allowed on Election Day? YES.

Campaigning is allowed as long as it is done at least 100 feet away from any door used by voters to enter or exit.

**Procedures vary based on the type of equipment used in your city or township. Upon request, poll workers will provide you with information on voting procedures before you enter the voting station. Poll workers are not permitted to tell you how to vote, and they may not attempt to influence your decision in any way.**

State Representative

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# MICHIGAN '08 VOTER GUIDE



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### Who may register to vote?

To register, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen.
- At least 18 years old by Election Day.
- A resident of Michigan for six months and a resident of the city or township where you are applying to vote for 30 days prior to the election.

### When may I register to vote?

You must be registered at least 30 days before an election in order to vote in it. This gives the clerk time to process forms and mail voter ID cards.

### Do I have to register for each election?

NO. Registration is permanent as long as you continue to live in the city or township where you are registered. If you move, you must register again. You may register by appearing in person at:

- Any of the Secretary of State branch offices located throughout Michigan.
- Your city or township clerk's office.
- Your county clerk's office.
- Any Department of Human Services (DHS) office.
- Specified agencies providing service through the DHS, Department of Community Health, or Michigan Jobs Commission that offer voter registration services to their clients.

### May I register to vote by mail?

YES. However, individuals who register by mail to vote must vote in person in the first election following their registration. A voter who has never voted in Michigan who chooses to register by mail must meet an identification requirement. To comply with the identification requirement, the voter must:

1. Accurately enter his or her state-issued driver's license number or personal ID number where requested on the mail-in voter registration form; or
2. Send one of the following forms of identification when mailing the mail-in voter registration form to his or her county or local clerk: a copy of any current and valid photo identification (such as a driver's license or personal ID card) or a copy of a paycheck, government check, utility bill, bank statement, or a government document that lists his or her name and address.

### What should I do if I have moved since the last election?

Michigan law requires that your driver's license or personal ID card address match the address on your voter registration card. You may submit a change-of-address form either at a Secretary of State branch office or by mail. If you are submitting a change-of-address form at a branch office, make sure to bring your driver's license or personal ID card. You will be given a sticker with your new address for the back of your driver's license or personal ID card. There is no fee for this service. If you choose to re-register by mail, you can print a form by visiting [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos).

### What should I do if I have changed my name since the last election?

If you need to change your name on your driver's license or personal ID card, you must go to a Secretary of State branch office to process the correction. Present your valid driver's license or personal ID card and proof of the name change. Proof of your name change may be established by certified marriage license, divorce decree, or a legal name-change document. A fee will be charged to correct your name, and a new photograph will be taken. If your driver's license is due to expire, you may choose to renew your driver's license early.

## ELECTION DATES

## ELECTION DATES & OFFICES

Dates for the statewide elections are as follows:

- State Primary Election:**  
*Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2008*
- State General Election:**  
*Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008*

### Which offices will be up for election?

- U.S. President*
- U.S. Senators (one)*
- U.S. Representatives (All districts)*
- State Representatives (All districts)*
- Justice of the Supreme Court*
- Judge of the Court of Appeals*
- Judge of the Circuit Court*
- Judge of the District Court*
- Various county, township and city offices throughout the state*

## ABSENTEE VOTING

### Can I vote by absentee ballot?

YES. If you are a registered voter, you may vote absentee if any of the following apply:

- You are 60 years of age or older.
- You expect to be absent from the community in which you are registered to vote for the entire time the polls are open on Election Day.
- You are unable to go to the polls and vote without the assistance of another person.
  - You cannot attend the polls because of your religious beliefs.
- You have been appointed as an election inspector in a precinct other than the one in which you reside.
  - You are confined in jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

### How do I receive an absentee ballot?

You can obtain an absentee ballot by writing to the clerk of the city or township in which you are registered to vote. Ballots cannot be supplied via telephone requests. *Your written request must include:*

- Your name.
- The date of the election.
- The address where you are registered to vote.
- The reason why you are requesting an absentee ballot.
- The address where you wish to receive your ballot. (This must be your registration address, an address outside of your jurisdiction of registration, a hospital, or some other type of residential institution.)
- Your signature and the date of your request.
- Blank absentee ballot applications can be obtained through your city or township clerk's office. Members of the armed forces and the Merchant Marines, as well as their spouses and dependents, may use a Federal Post Card Application to get an absentee ballot. U.S. citizens temporarily living or traveling outside the territorial limits of the United States may use a Federal Post Card Application as well, but it must be signed under oath. Your completed absentee ballot must be received by your city or township clerk no later than 8 p.m. on the day of the election.

### When is the application deadline for the August state primary?

If you wish to receive an absentee ballot by mail for the Aug. 5, 2008, state primary, your written application must be received by your city or township clerk by 2 p.m., Aug. 1, 2008. If you qualify to receive an absentee ballot for the August primary election, you also have the option of voting in your city or township clerk's office any time up to 8 p.m., Aug. 5, 2008 (the day of the election).

### When is the application deadline for the November general election?

If you wish to receive an absentee ballot by mail for the Nov. 4, 2008, general election, your written application must be received by your city or township clerk by 2 p.m., Nov. 1, 2008. If you qualify to receive an absentee ballot for the November general election, you also have the option of voting in your city or township clerk's office anytime up to 4 p.m., Nov. 3, 2008 (the day before the election).