



City of Ann Arbor
Voter Eligibility/Preparation and August 3, 2010 Primary Election
Frequently Asked Questions

Voter Eligibility/Preparation

1. What was the deadline to register to vote in the Aug. 3, 2010, election?

The last day to register to vote for the August 3, 2010 Primary Election was Tuesday, July 6, 2010. Please call the City Clerk at 734-794-6140 or visit www.a2gov.org/elections or www.Michigan.gov/vote for more information or to check the status of your voter registration in the City.

2. Who may register to vote?

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old by election day
- A resident of Michigan and the city or township where you are applying to vote

3. 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.

4. How do I check my voter registration status?

City residents can check their voter registration status on the web by accessing the Secretary of State's voter information center at www.Michigan.gov/vote.

5. How do I register to vote?

You can register to vote by appearing in person at one of the below locations:

- Any of the 178 Secretary of State branch offices located throughout the state.
- Your city or township clerk's office.
- Your county clerk's office.
- Any Family Independence Agency office.
- Specified agencies providing services through the FIA, Department of Community Health or Michigan Jobs Commission that offer voter registration services to their clients.

6. May I register to vote by mail?

Yes, however, individuals who register to vote by mail must vote in person in the first election following their registration. To register by mail, fill out the voter registration form, and then mail it to your city or township clerk.

7. What should I do if I have moved within my city or township of residence or changed my name since the last election?

You should immediately notify the clerk of your city or township of your residence. City of Ann Arbor residents should contact the City Clerk's Office at 734-794-6140.

8. What should I do if I move to another city or township within the state?

You must re-register with the clerk in your new city or township of residence.

August 3, 2010 Primary Election

1. Does Ann Arbor need Poll Workers for the Primary Election?

All pollworker positions for the August 3, 2010 Primary Election have been filled. Thank you to all residents who signed up to be a part of this election. To sign up to work the November 2 General Election, or for more information, please email us at recruiters@a2gov.org.

2. Can I request an absentee ballot?

Avoid the lines on Election Day! If you meet one of the below criteria, then you are eligible to apply for an absentee ballot. Call the City Clerk for more information about absentee ballots at 734-794-6140 or visit the city's website at www.a2gov.org and click on elections to download an absentee ballot request form. Return completed forms to the City of Ann Arbor Clerk at 100 N. Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 or fax 734-994-8296. The Michigan voter identification requirement does not apply to absentee voting. Absentee voters do not need to show picture identification to request or return an absentee ballot.

If you are a registered voter, you may vote absentee if:

- You are 60 years of age or more.
- 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 or prison awaiting arraignment or trial.

Your completed absent voter ballot must be received by the City Clerk's office no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day. The Clerk's office is open the Saturday before the election on July 31, 2010 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. to accept absentee applications. Monday, August

2, 2010 is the last day to apply for an absentee ballot, but it must be done in person at the City Clerk's office.

All returned absentee ballot envelopes are sent to the precincts on Election Day for processing and tabulation. Your absentee ballot is counted in your assigned ward and precinct along with all of the in-person votes cast on that day!

3. How do I check my voter registration status?

City residents can check their voter registration status on the web by accessing the Secretary of State's voter information center at www.Michigan.gov/vote.

4. Where do I vote?

City residents vote at their assigned polling place for every election unless notified by mail of an alternate location. Residents can check their polling location information on the web by accessing the Secretary of State's voter information center at www.Michigan.gov/vote or call the City Clerk's Office at 734-794-6140. Beginning with the August 3 Primary Election, all polling locations formerly located in University dormitory buildings have been permanently relocated. Mack School voters have also been permanently relocated to Skyline High School.

Polling location aerial maps are available at http://www.a2gov.org/government/city_administration/City_Clerk/Elections/Pages/VotingDistricts.aspx.

5. What are the new voter ID requirements?

Due to a recent court ruling, every Michigan voter who offers to vote in the polls must comply with the new requirement by showing picture identification or signing an affidavit attesting that he or she is not in possession of picture identification. The new voter identification requirement is effective starting with the November 6, 2007, General Election.

Voters can satisfy the picture identification requirement by showing a Michigan driver's license or a Michigan personal identification card.

Voters who do not possess either document may show any of the following forms of picture identification as long as they are current:

- Driver's license or personal identification card issued by another state
- Federal or state government-issued photo identification
- U.S. passport
- Military identification card with photo
- Student identification with photo from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education, such as a UM M-Card
- Tribal identification card with photo

6. What will be on the City of Ann Arbor Primary Election ballot on August 3, 2010?

Voters will have the opportunity to nominate local candidates for City Council in Wards 1, 4 and 5. Candidates for mayor are on ballots citywide. A complete listing of local candidates can be found at www.a2gov.org/elections. In addition, a number of state and county offices are on the ballot. For more information on these candidates, please visit http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/clerk_register/elections.

7. When are the polls open on election day?

In Michigan, the polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

8. What is the voting procedure?

The procedure involves three steps:

1. You sign an Application to Vote.
2. An election inspector checks your name against the list of registered voters for the precinct and you must show your photo ID.
3. You vote.

The City of Ann Arbor uses an optical scan tabulator to tally votes. Voters mark a paper “fill in the oval” ballot. Poll workers will provide information on voting procedures if you request it before you enter the voting booth. Poll workers are not allowed to tell you how to vote, nor may they attempt to influence your vote in any way.

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

Answer any questions the election inspectors may ask in attempting to confirm your registration. Also contact your city or township clerk to confirm voter registration. All citizens have the right to request to vote a provisional ballot if their name is not on the list of registered voters.

10. May I receive assistance when voting?

Voters with disabilities can now vote privately and independently using the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal. The AutoMARK is a ballot-marking device that voters can use to assist with marking a traditional paper ballot. Voters can use the machine to mark their ballot through the use of large font touch screen, Braille keypad and audio headset, or with the aid of their own personal sip/puff device or foot pedal that can be plugged into a port on the front of the terminal. The AutoMARK touch screen features magnification and contrast features and the audio ballot can be adjusted for speed and volume. The AutoMARK is available for all voters to use in every City polling place.

A sip/puff device with disposable straws and a foot/hand pedal is available for use at City polling places on Election Day for voters in need and/or if a voter's own personal equipment does not work with AutoMARK. The equipment is currently available at the University Townhomes polling place. For arrangements at other polling places, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 734-794-6140 to avoid Election Day delays.

All voters with disabilities are entitled by law to obtain an absentee ballot for any election. (See absentee ballot information above.) To request an application for absentee ballot be mailed to you for all future City elections, please call the City Clerk at 734-794-6140 or send an e-mail to cityclerk@a2gov.org.

11. May I take campaign literature into the polling place?

Yes, as long as the articles are for your personal use and you do not distribute or display them to other voters in the polling place. In addition, you may not leave any materials in the polling place. T-shirts and buttons that support a candidate or issue are considered campaigning and also are not allowed within 100 feet of a polling place. Voters displaying such items will be asked to remove them.

12. Is there a difference between a primary and general election?

Yes, a primary election is held by the political parties to select their nominees for the offices to be elected at the upcoming general election. In a primary, Republicans run against Republicans and Democrats run against other Democrats. In a primary, voters may only vote on one party's ticket. They may not "split" their votes. Minor party candidates are selected through their parties' caucuses.

A general election is between party nominees and any candidates without political party 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.

13. Is campaigning allowed on Election Day?

Yes, as long as it is done at least 100 feet from any door used by voters to enter or exit the building in which the polls are located.