



Secretary of State

Michigan.gov/SOS

Michigan Elections

Secure and fair, accurate and accessible

2023

One of the Nation's Strongest Election Systems

Secure

- Decentralization prevents systemic attack
- Home grown technology thwarts hacking
- Paper ballots and tallies available for reference
- Security checks throughout the system prevent fraud

Fair

- Republican, Democratic and independent clerks ensure integrity
- Bipartisan boards of canvassers certify results
- Transparency throughout the system

One of the Nation's Strongest Election Systems

Accurate

- **Tabulator accuracy confirmed before and after elections**
- **Post election audits identify best practices to ensure continuous improvement**
- **Officials prioritize accuracy over speed when reporting results**

Accessible

- **Record setting turnout in 2020 and 2022**
- **Online and automatic voter registration**
- **Vote by mail, early in person with an absentee ballot, early, or at polls**

Attacks on Democracy

Election Misinformation

- **Inundates voters with lies and false conspiracy theories about elections**
- **Seeks to undermine well-placed faith in elections and their outcomes**
- **Prompts threats and harassment of election officials and workers**
- **Leads to violence, including the Jan. 6 attack on the United States Capitol**

Protect the People who Protect Democracy

- **Explicitly ban and penalize threats, harassment and doxing of election officials and workers**
- **Prohibit intentionally sharing false information about elections or a person's right to vote**
- **Provide funds to ensure the security of our elections, election workers and voters**

Proposal 2022-2: Changes to Election Process

- **Permanent absent voter (mail ballot) list**
- **Early in-person voting**
- **Prepaid return postage for absent voter applications and ballots**
- **Absent voter ballot drop boxes**

Proposal 2022-2: Permanent Absent Voter (Mail Ballot) List

- **All voters have right to complete a single application and be mailed an absent voter ballot for all future elections**
- **Permanent absent voter (mail ballot) status moves with voter when voter updates registration address within state, including across jurisdictions**
- **Voters are taken off list if: upon request; cancellation of registration; reliable information that the voter has moved from registration address; not voting for 6 years**
- **Required for all elections**

Permanent List: Implementation Key Steps

- **Updating all absent voter ballot applications to allow option to join list**
- **Updating Qualified Voter File to collect and track permanent status**
- **Overlap with other absent voter status considerations (military/overseas; accessible; multiple addresses on file)**
- **Distinguish from preexisting permanent absent voter application list (automatic application list)**
- **Clerk training**
- **Public education and outreach**

Proposal 2022-2: Early In-Person Voting

- **All voters have right to 9+ days of early in-person voting (at minimum, second Saturday before election through Sunday before election)**
- **Early in-person voting is polling-place style voting (voters put ballots through tabulator), not in-person absentee voting**
- **Ballots are tabulated but tabulator reports are not run/results generated until election night**
- **Municipalities within a county may share early voting sites hosted by municipality or county**

Early In-Person Voting: Implementation Key Steps

- **Programming of voting equipment**
- **Clerk and poll worker training, including retention and management of voted ballots at combined precinct sites**
- **Early voting electronic poll book/voter check-in tool**
- **Logistics and resources to support and staff appropriate and accessible early voting sites for 9+ days**
- **Public education and outreach including language access**

Proposal 2022-2: Prepaid Postage and Ballot Tracking

- **All voters have right to state-funded prepaid return postage on absent voter applications and ballots**
- **All voters have right to state-funded system that tracks submitted absent voter applications and ballots, including electronic notifications regarding deficiencies in application/ballot and need to cure**

Prepaid Postage/Ballot Tracking Implementation Key Steps

- **Both prepaid postage and ballot tracking likely require design changes to applications and ballot envelopes for optimal implementation**
- **Jurisdiction mailing practices vary widely (manual mail delivery/mail service providers and vendors)**
- **United States Postal Service and application/envelope print vendor approval and design process can take many months**
- **Changes needed to programming of Qualified Voter File and Michigan.gov/Vote (Michigan Voter Information Center) to facilitate tracking information and interaction with vendor products**

Proposal 2022-2: Absent Voter Ballot Drop Boxes

- **All voters have right to state-funded absent voter ballot drop boxes**
- **Each municipality must have at least one drop box, and one for every 15,000 registered voters**
- **Drop boxes must accept absent voter applications and ballots, be available 24/7, and be distributed equitably**
- **Required for all elections**

Absent Voter Ballot Drop Box Implementation Key Steps

- **Statewide purchase or reimbursement of drop boxes represents a substantial procurement effort; vendor capability to produce at scale and timeline TBD**
- **Up to 2,000 drop boxes may be needed**
- **Statutory requirements for drop boxes represent financial and logistical challenges for many jurisdictions**

Legislation to Build on the Success of the System

Tier 1 – Implement Proposal 2

- **Election officials need statutory guidance on the details of implementing parts of Proposal 2, including:**
 - **How voters will be checked in on electronic poll books for early voting**
 - **How clerks should retain and store ballots from multiple precincts when the same voting machine is used**
 - **How postmarked ballots that arrive after election day will be processed by municipal clerks and shared with county canvassing boards**

Legislation to Build on the Success of the System

Tier 2 – Align current laws with Constitutional amendments

- **Early voting requires early tabulation – but not reporting – of ballots. To ensure alignment, absentee ballots should be tabulated during this time as well**
- **Automatic voter registration is required by our constitution, but not all young have the opportunity to benefit before their 21st birthday. The law should ensure all young citizens can be automatically registered by age 18.**
- **To ensure Constitutionality of the law enabling military voters deployed overseas to return their ballots electronically, it must be expanded to include their spouses and dependents also deployed**

Legislation to Build on the Success of the System

Tier 3 – Put clerks in position to succeed under the new election paradigm

- **Standardize and align laws across the elections system to ensure its smooth operation and support clerks under the new provisions in the Constitution. For example:**
 - **Standardize election dates to two elections per year**
 - **Provide more flexibility for polling places and standardize precinct size**
 - **Harmonize or eliminate out-of-date provisions, such as unnecessarily complicated or conflicting deadlines and paperwork requirements**

Fully Fund Elections

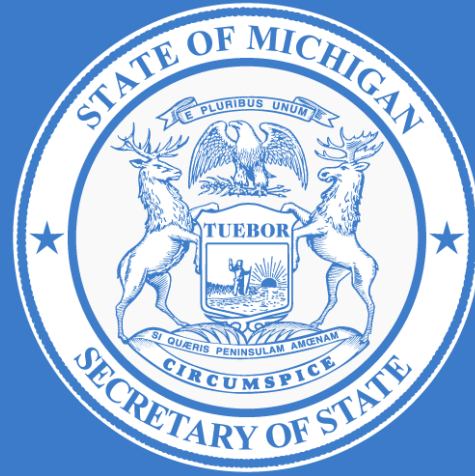
Funding:

- **The state Legislature should work with clerks to predictably, sustainably and efficiently fund elections**
- **Clerks should be involved in determining specific cost breakdowns, as they will vary by jurisdiction**
- **But as examples, we already know that clerks will need new funds for:**
 - **9 days of early voting, including at least 3 staff for 72 hours, plus equipment and rental space**
 - **Staffing for absentee ballot processing dependent on time provided before Election Day and clerk's preferred structure for process and tabulation**

Fully Fund Elections

Funding:

- **Currently elections cost clerks and their jurisdictions \$100 million annually (about \$20,000 per precinct)**
- **Estimates for implementing new constitutional amendments are an additional \$30-50 million annually**
 - **This includes \$20-30M for local jurisdictions**
 - **And \$20M for the state:**
 - **\$3M for postage**
 - **\$12M for secure drop boxes**
 - **\$5M technology upgrades**



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