

Voter Registration FAQ for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

1. How can I register to vote without a permanent residential address? Can I list a shelter or other location for my address?

- a. You do not need a permanent residential address to vote. You can list a shelter, park, advocacy/outreach organization, or any other place where you usually stay as your address. You can also use the intersection of two cross-streets to describe your location.
- b. If you register to vote within 14 days of the election, you must do so in person at your clerk's office and bring proof of residency such as a letter from a church, shelter, or public assistance agency listing the your name and address.

2. Do I need an ID to register/vote? What else can I use as identification to register/vote?

- a. You do not need an ID to register to vote or to cast your ballot.
- b. Registering online at Michigan.gov/Vote requires a driver's license or ID number and SSN.
- c. Registering by mail or in person is possible without an ID, but you may have to submit a copy of a paycheck stub, utility bill, bank statement, or a government document that lists your name and address or sign an affidavit.
- d. You are automatically registered to vote when getting an ID (you may opt-out).
- e. Voters who don't have their ID when at the polls are able to sign an affidavit in order to still vote. The ballot will be counted as normal.

3. What do I do if someone tells me I can't register to vote or cannot vote?

- a. If someone tells you that you can't register to vote or you can't vote, you can contact the Department of State at 888-SOS-MICH, or the ACLU at 313-578-6800 to report it.

4. I am worried about voting in person due to COVID-19. How do I go about voting safely?

- a. You are able to vote early, starting September 24, at your local clerk's office by filing out an absentee ballot and turning it in. This may provide opportunities to vote with shorter lines.
- b. You can also obtain an absentee ballot to vote by mail or turn it in yourself.
- c. Voting on Election Day is still available in every jurisdiction. Social distancing and safety protocols will be in place to ensure the safety of voters and election workers.

5. How do I access an absentee ballot? Can I list a shelter or family member for my mailing address?

- a. To obtain an absentee ballot, submit a request for an absentee ballot either by mail or online at: Michigan.gov/vote.
- b. You can list any place you are able to receive mail, including a shelter, advocacy/outreach organization, family member, or any person willing to accept mail on your behalf in order to receive your absentee ballot.

6. Is it safe to vote absentee/by mail? Why should I do that this year?

- a. Voting before Election Day with an absentee or mail-in ballot is a safe way to vote and protect your health, and the process is secure and accurate
- b. If you choose to mail your ballot, send it in as soon as possible, preferably before October 20.

7. How can I submit my absentee ballot if I can't mail it? Can I give my absentee ballot to my case manager or someone else I work with to deliver to my clerk's office?

- a. If you are unable to mail in your absentee ballot, you can turn it in to your city or township's clerk's office or a designated drop box (To find your drop box location, go to Michigan.gov/Vote and choose "Who is my clerk?").
- b. You or an immediate family member are the only persons who can physically turn in your absentee ballot.

8. Why should I vote?

- a. Your individual voice matters. Exercising your right to vote ensures that the policies and issues you care about are heard. Change only happens when action is made.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness at:

- Laurel Burchfield, Manager of Marketing, Growth, and Development: lburchfield@mihomeless.org
- Haley Allgeyer, Senior Public Policy Intern, hallgeyer@mihomeless.org
- Cate Novak, Public Policy Intern, cnovak@mihomeless.org