

Voter Eligibility for Michigan

General Eligibility Requirements

In Michigan, any person is eligible to vote if he or she meets the following criteria:

- A U.S. Citizen.
- At least 18 years of age by Election Day.
- A resident of Michigan and the city or township where applying to vote.
- Not currently serving a prison sentence. *Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.492-492a.*

Felon Eligibility: After a Michigan resident who is serving a sentence in jail or prison is released, he or she is free to participate in elections without restriction.

Residency Requirements

In order to vote in an election in Michigan, a voter must be a resident of the township, city, or village where they intend to vote **for at least 30 days before an election.** *Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.492.*

Residence is defined as the place where a person habitually sleeps, keeps his or her personal belongings and has their regular place of lodging. *Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.11.*

The Michigan Voter Registration Application allows voters to provide a mailing address if they wish to receive their mail (voter registration card) at a different location than their physical address. But in the portion of the form seeking the address of the location where the voter lives, a voter must provide the actual physical address of their residence, including as much information as possible. The form allows a voter to give a description of the location using cross streets and landmarks. It is also important that voters try to give as accurate information as possible about the city or township where they physically live to avoid any delays in processing their registration application.

Voters, however, should still make sure to completely and accurately fill-out their voter registration applications, including checking all required boxes, listing their actual physical address, providing their date of birth, providing an

identification number (driver's license number, personal identification card number or last four digits of social security number) or clearly indicating that the voter does not have such a number; providing as much information as possible about previous address where the voter was registered and providing the required signature. *Mich. Comp. Laws § 168.495.*

This information should be provided as completely and accurately as possible when the application is first submitted because the clerks do not have any obligation to allow a voter to supplement or correct information after the close of the registration deadline. A voter, therefore, who does not provide all the required information before the registration deadline may not be considered registered for the upcoming election.

Address on Voter Registration and Michigan Driver's License

MUST Match: Michigan law requires that the same address is used for voter registration and Michigan driver's license. If the address provided on a voter registration application is different from the address on record for the voter's driver's license (or state identification card), the SOS will automatically change the voter's driver's license (or state identification card) address to match the address provided on the voter registration application. When this change is made, the SOS sends out a notification and a sticker with the updated address to be placed upon the existing driver's license (or state identification card). The SOS will also update a voter's registration information when they updated their driver's license address.

Residency Requirements for College Students

The Michigan Application requires a house number and street address for registration but does allow voters to describe the location of their residence with crossroads and landmarks. College students who live in dorms should ask their school for an official street address if the address is unknown to them. They can also contact their County Clerk's office to determine if a description of their dorm location is sufficient.

This Guide was prepared by FELN staff who are not licensed to practice law in Michigan and FELN intends that the information contained herein is used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed Michigan legal professional.