

## ABSENTEE VOTING PROCESS



Absentee voting is the ability to vote before Election Day.

To vote absentee, you need to be a registered voter in Michigan and have a valid Michigan driver's license or state ID.

Absentee voting applications are available 75 days prior to each election. A signed application must be submitted to the Clerk's Office to receive a ballot.

Ballots are available 45 days prior to each election. A ballot will be issued to you once your application has been processed.

You can review the candidates and proposals and mark your vote(s) at your convenience.

When you have completed voting:

- Place your folded ballot in the secrecy sleeve.
- Place the secrecy sleeve in the return envelope.
- Sign and seal the return envelope.
- The ballot envelope must be signed by the voter.

Voters can return ballots in person at City Hall or via mail. The United States Postal Service recommends mailing ballots at least 7 days in advance of the election.

The City Clerk's Office has a ballot drop box outside the entrance of City Hall, 226 N. Michigan Avenue. This ballot box is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Ballots may also be hand delivered to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall.

**Voters MUST return ballots no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.**

## PERMANENT BALLOTS

With the passing of Proposal 2 in 2022, voters can receive a ballot automatically for each election.

Individuals on the permanent absentee voter list automatically receive an absentee application to sign and return for a ballot. You may now ✓ the box stating you want to vote absentee in all future elections and a ballot will be automatically sent to you.

All absentee voter applications will have this option.

To obtain an absentee voter application: [www.michigan.gov/sos/Elections](http://www.michigan.gov/sos/Elections)  
Recent and Upcoming elections/Vote Absentee

## IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES IN 2023 and 2024

- ★ **May 2, 2023**  
School Election
- ★ **November 7, 2023**  
City Municipal Election
- ★ **February 13, 2024**  
Presidential Primary Election
- ★ **May 7, 2024**  
School Election
- ★ **August 6, 2024**  
Primary Election
- ★ **November 5, 2024**  
Presidential Election

## QUESTIONS?

If you have questions regarding voter registration or the election process, please contact:

City of Big Rapids  
Office of the City Clerk  
231-592-4020  
Office hours are Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.