



2026 Voter Guide:

Everything you need to know about participating in elections in Detroit

If you have suggestions for election coverage, reach out: info@bridgedetroit.com | (313) 284-6407

BridgeDetroit will never tell you who to vote for. But we do want you to feel informed and empowered to vote. Use this nonpartisan voter guide to help you prepare. Detroit Votes partnered with BridgeDetroit in the creation of this guide.

Key Dates:

Thursday, June 25: First day for absentee ballot voting in the Primary election.

Monday, July 20: Last day to register to vote online for the Aug. 4, 2026 Primary election.

Saturday, July 25: First day of early in-person voting in Detroit for the Primary election.

Tuesday, Aug. 4: Michigan statewide Primary election — voters will decide major party nominees for governor, the state Legislature, Congress and more

Thursday, Sept. 24: First day for absentee ballot voting in the General election

Monday, Oct. 19: Last day to register to vote online for the Nov. 3, 2026 General election.

Saturday, Oct. 24: First day of early in-person voting in Detroit for the General election.

Tuesday, Nov. 3: Michigan statewide General election — voters will decide the state's next governor, attorney general, secretary of state, state legislators, members of Congress and more

Key Contacts:

Election Protection Hotline: 866-687-8683

Office of Detroit City Clerk Janice Winfrey: 313-224-3270

Office of Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett: 313-224-5525

Check your registration

First, verify if you are already registered by putting your information into <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index> and it will tell you.

You need the following qualifications to vote:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be at least 17.5 years old and turn 18 before Election Day
- Have lived in Detroit for at least 30 days



Scan here to check your voter registration status

Registering to vote

Are you ready to register to vote? What you need to do depends on how close to the election it is.

If you aren't already registered and it's more than 14 days before the election, you have three options:

1. You can register to vote at the Detroit City Clerk's office (2 Woodward Ave. #200 Detroit, MI 48226) or the Department of Elections (2978 W. Grand Blvd. Detroit, MI 48226) Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You need to prove that you live at your address, so you must bring a printed record of one of the following:
 - Your Michigan driver's license or state ID card
 - A utility bill, bank statement, pay check, government check or any other government document with your name and Detroit address on it.
2. You can register to vote online if you have a valid Michigan driver's license or state ID. If you don't have one of those, you need to register in person at the City Clerk's office.
 - July 20 is the last day you can register to vote online for the Aug. 4, 2026 Primary election.
 - Oct. 19 is the last day you can register to vote online for the Nov. 3, 2026 General election.



Register to vote today.
Scan here to get started.

3. You can mail a completed voter registration application to the Detroit City Clerk (even if you don't have a Michigan driver's license, state ID, or Social Security number). Your application must be postmarked 14 days before Election Day or sooner. Fill out your application; put your completed application in an envelope addressed to Detroit City Clerk, 2 Woodward Ave. #200, Detroit, MI 48226; stamp your envelope and put it in the mail.

- Your registration application must be postmarked on or before July 20 for the Aug. 4, 2026 Primary election and on or before Oct. 19 for the Nov. 3, 2026 General election.



Download a voter registration application here.

If it is 14 days or fewer before the election, you must register to vote in person at a Detroit Early Vote Center or the Detroit City Clerk's office.

- Starting on July 21, you'll need to register in person at the Detroit City Clerk's office with proof of residency for the Aug. 4, 2026 Primary election.
- Starting on Oct. 20, you'll need to register in person with the Detroit City Clerk's office with proof of residency for the Nov. 3, 2026 General election.

Early voting

Want to vote before Election Day? You can vote in person at the Detroit City Clerk's office or at an Early Voting Site starting nine days before Election Day.

- You can vote using an absentee ballot at the Detroit City Clerk's office located at 2 Woodward Ave. #200, Detroit, MI 48226 starting 40 days before Election Day until 4 p.m. the Monday before Election Day.
- For the Aug. 4, 2026 Primary Election, you can vote early in person with an absentee ballot at the Detroit City Clerk's office starting on June 25. If you are registered to vote at your current address, you can vote at the Clerk's office until Aug. 3 at 4 p.m.
- For the Nov. 3, 2026 General Election, you can vote early in person with an absentee ballot at the Detroit City Clerk's office starting on Sept. 24. If you are registered to vote at your current address, you can vote at the Clerk's office until Nov. 2 at 4 p.m.

- You can vote in person at a Detroit Early Voting Site. When you vote at an Early Voting Site, your voting experience will be similar to that of voting at a polling place on Election Day. You will complete your ballot, place it in a secrecy sleeve and then deposit it into the voting tabulator.

Early in-person voting centers with dropboxes:

- City Clerk's Office, 2 Woodward Ave. Ste 106 48226
- WCCCD Northwest Campus, 8200 W. Outer Dr. 48219
- Northwest Activities Center, 18100 Meyers Rd. 48235
- Farwell Recreation Center, 2711 E. Outer Dr. 48234
- WCCCD Eastern Campus, 5901 Conner St. 48213
- Department of Elections, 2978 W. Grand Blvd. 48202
- Clark Park, 1130 Clark St. 48209
- Adams Butzel Recreation Complex, 10500 Lyndon St. 48238

Drop box only locations:

District 1:

- Crowell Community Center, 16630 Lahser Rd. 48219
- Rouge Park Golf Course, 11701 Burt Rd. 48228
- North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale St. 48223
- Greater Grace Temple, 23500 W. Seven Mile Rd. 48219

District 2:

- Liberty Temple Baptist Church, 17188 Greenfield Rd. 48235
- Greater Emmanuel Institutional COGIC, 19190 Schaefer Hwy. 48235
- Tindal Recreation Center, 10301 W. Seven Mile Rd. 48221
- Palmer Park Community Center, 1121 Merrill Plaisance St. 48203

District 3:

- Perfecting Church, 7616 E. Nevada St. 48234
- Faith Temple, 19000 Conant St. 48234
- Greater St. Paul, 15325 Gratiot Ave. 48205
- Heilmann Recreation Center, 19601 Crusade St. 48205

District 4:

- Balduck Park, 5271 Canyon St. 48236

District 5:

- Considine Center, 8904 Woodward Ave. 48202
- Greater Christ Baptist Church, 3544 Iroquois Ave. 48214
- Horatio Williams Foundation, 1010 Antietam Ave. 48207
- Renaissance Baptist Church, 1045 E. Grand Blvd. 48207
- Butzel Family Center, 7737 Kercheval Ave. 48214

District 6:

- Detroit Pistons Performance Center, 690 Amsterdam St. 48202
- WCCCD Downtown Campus, 1001 W. Fort St. 48226
- Unity Baptist Church, 7500 Tireman Ave. 48204
- Kemeny Recreation Center, 2260 S. Fort St. 48217

District 7:

- Davison Service Yard, 8221 W. Davison 48238
- William S. Ford Memorial Church, 16400 W. Warren Ave. 48228
- Edison Library, 18400 Joy Rd. 48228
- Christ Temple Baptist Church, 10628 Plymouth Rd. 48204

Note: Some drop box locations are at the buildings listed. Some are located elsewhere in the parks or campuses. The addresses will take you to the correct locations.

Vote early from home

Prefer to vote from home? Get your absentee ballot as soon as possible. Make sure you select the option to sign up for the "permanent mail ballot list" to receive an absentee ballot in the mail before every election.

Call the Detroit City Clerk's office at 313-224-3270 and request an application for a ballot be mailed to you. Once you receive your application, mail it to the Detroit City Clerk's office.



Request your ballot online here.

Download a ballot application form and mail it to the Detroit City Clerk's office: Detroit City Clerk, 2 Woodward Ave. #200, Detroit, MI 48226



Download your ballot application here.

Detroit Votes recommends you request your absentee ballot for the Aug. 4, 2026 Primary election by July 14 and for the Nov. 3, 2026 General election by Oct. 13.

Once you receive your absentee ballot, you need to:

1. Fill out your ballot
2. Place your ballot in the provided envelope
3. Sign the outside of the envelope with your official signature that matches your voter registration

Finally, return your absentee ballot by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Your ballot must be received by the Detroit City Clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Detroit Votes recommends getting your ballot in the mail at least 2 weeks before Election Day. For the Aug. 4, 2026 Primary election, that means mailing it in by July 21. For the Nov. 3, 2026 General election, that means mailing it by Oct. 20.

Alternatively, you could drop your ballot off at the Detroit City Clerk's office, at an Early Voting Site, or in a secure drop box. You can also have an immediate family member or someone who lives with you drop your ballot off at the Detroit City Clerk's office.

Call the Detroit City Clerk at 313-224-3270 before 5 p.m. on the last Friday before Election Day to request that your ballot be picked up.



You can track the status of your absentee ballot here.

Voting on Election Day

If you are registered to vote, you must vote at your assigned polling place. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you are in line by 8 p.m. at your polling place, you will be able to vote.

You can find your polling place online at the **Michigan Voter Information Center** (mivic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index) or by calling the Detroit City Clerk at (313) 224-3270.

Your polling place will likely be near the address you registered to vote with. But it may have changed from last year, so verify before you show up to the polling place.

If you are not registered to vote, you can also register to vote on Election Day and vote at the same time, but you will have to go to the right location.

This option is only available at the Detroit City Clerk's office (2 Woodward Ave. #200, Detroit, MI 48226) or the Department of Elections (2978 W. Grand Blvd. Detroit, MI 48226). Make sure you bring one type (paper or electronic copy) of "proof of residency" with you. These include:

- Your Michigan driver's license or state ID card
- A utility bill, bank statement, pay check, government check or any other government document with your name and Detroit address on it.

A note about photo ID

You do not need a photo ID to register to vote. If you register to vote in person, you will be asked to show your photo ID. If you don't have your ID, you can sign a form provided by a poll worker and then complete your voter registration. Bring "proof of residency" with you if you are registering to vote within 14 days of Election Day.

Combatting misinformation

If you encounter what you believe to be misinformation, you can report it to the state by emailing misinformation@michigan.gov. Read more about how to be an informed voter and detect misinformation.



Don't let misinformation influence your vote. Learn how to spot it.

Voting with a disability

Voters with a disability who require assistance in completing their absentee ballot application may receive assistance from another person, provided that the person assisting the voter is not the voter's employer, agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a union to which the voter belongs. The individual who provided the assistance must input their information in the provided space on the absentee ballot application.

Voters with disabilities can also request an accessible absentee ballot by submitting an accessible absentee ballot application online at Michigan.gov/Vote. When requesting an accessible absentee ballot, the voter will be emailed an electronic ballot and can mark the ballot on an electronic device, using their own assistive technology, and print and mail or otherwise return the ballot to their local clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Voters can also download an accessible application to vote absentee and submit it to their local clerk's office by mail, email, or in person. Or they may visit their local clerk's office to request an absentee ballot in person.

Check out more frequently asked questions about voting at bridgedetroit.com/2026-michigan-voter-guide-what-to-know

Who We Are

BridgeDetroit launched in 2020 as a daily news and engagement organization. The purpose: To build deep connections with Detroiters and provide critical journalism that helps residents better understand and participate in their civic lives.

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