Michigan Elections
Secure and fair, accurate and accessible

2023
One of the Nation’s Strongest Election Systems

Secure

- Decentralization prevents systemic attack
- 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
Proposal 2022-2: Changes to Election Process

• Permanent “absent” voter list

• Early in-person voting

• Prepaid return postage for applications and ballots

• Ballot drop boxes
Proposal 2022-2: Permanent “Absent” Voter List

- All voters have right to complete a single application and be mailed an absent voter ballot for all future elections

- This status moves with voter when voter moves within Michigan

- Voters can be removed from list
  - upon request
  - upon cancellation of registration
  - reliable information provided that the voter is no longer eligible
  - not voting for 6 years

- Ballot mailed for every election
Proposal 2022-2: Early In-Person Voting

• All voters have right to 9+ days of early in-person voting

• Early in-person voting is polling-place style voting (voters put ballots through tabulator), not in-person absentee voting (dropping off a ballot)

• Ballots are tabulated upon receipt

• Tabulator reports of results only run after polls close

• Municipalities within a county may share early voting sites (hosted by municipality or county)
Proposal 2022-2: Prepaid Postage and Ballot Tracking

• All voters have right to state-funded prepaid return postage on ballot request forms and ballots themselves

• All voters have right to state-funded system that tracks submitted absent voter applications and ballots
  • including notice of deficiencies in application/ballot and need to cure
Proposal 2022-2: Absent Voter Ballot Drop Boxes

• All voters have right to access state-funded absent voter ballot drop boxes within their jurisdiction

• Each municipality must have at least one drop box, and one for every 15,000 registered voters

• Drop boxes must accept both ballot request forms and ballots themselves, be available 24/7, and be distributed equitably

• Required to be available in every election
Legislation Needed to Ensure Robust Implementation

Align election laws to match constitutional requirements:

- Allow absentee ballots to be processed and tabulated during the same period as early voted ballots
- Ensure automatic registration of young citizens by age 18 (pre-registration through driver’s license with right to opt-out, or completing a form)
- Provide more flexibility – e.g., for polling places and precinct size
- Provide resources to support and staff accessible early voting sites in every jurisdiction for 9 days prior to election day
Legislation Needed to Ensure Robust Implementation

Funding:
• Needed: Predictable, sustainable and efficient funding for all elections.
  • Involve clerks and MDOS to determine specific costs and enable flexibility

• New funding will be needed in FY2024 to ensure:
  • 9 days of early voting (including staff, equipment and rental space)
  • Staffing for absentee ballot processing and tabulation
  • Full and secure placement of drop boxes throughout the state (2000+)
  • Pre-paid postage for ballot request forms and ballots
  • Other costs to enable technical upgrades (ballot tracking, etc)
Funding Estimates

• Prior to 2022 enacted constitutional changes, escalating cost of elections cost clerks and their jurisdictions $100 million annually (about $20,000 per precinct)

• With new 2022 enacted constitutional requirements: additional $30-45M
  • $15-20M annually for MDOS/BOE
    • $3-4M for postage (for 3M voters)
    • $5-7M for drop box security, monitoring and maintenance
    • $3-5M for staffing and technical support

• $15-25M direct to local jurisdictions
  • $5-10M for drop box security, staffing
  • $10-15M for early voting staffing, space and other resources
Attacks on Democracy

Election Misinformation

• Voters are inundated with lies and false conspiracy theories about elections

• Intent and effect: to undermine voters’ faith in elections and distrust accuracy of outcomes

• These lies lead to threats and harassment of election officials and workers

• They also lead 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