



## **Frequently asked questions: Electronic delivery and return of military and overseas (MOVE) ballots**

### **1. Why is electronic return of voted ballots allowed and when does it start?**

[Public Act 197 of 2022](#) and [Public Act 193 of 2023](#) require the Michigan Department of State to promulgate rules and establish policies and procedures for the electronic return of voted ballots by eligible military members. Beginning September 1, 2025, electronic return of voted ballots will be available to eligible military members through the Electronic Delivery and Return Portal (portal). Additionally, the portal will be used to transmit ballots to all military and overseas voters who request electronic ballot delivery. Military and overseas voters are defined by the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE) and the Uniformed and Overseas Civilians Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).

### **2. What is the Electronic Delivery and Return Portal (EDARP)?**

EDARP is a secure portal through which clerks can send ballots electronically to MOVE voters (also known as UOCAVA voters). All voters receiving their ballots through the portal can vote their ballot inside the portal. Military voters can return their ballots electronically through the portal. Other overseas voters will print their voted ballot and mail it back to their clerk.

### **3. Who will use electronic delivery?**

There is no change to who can use electronic delivery. All military and overseas voters who submit a valid Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) or an absent voter ballot application and include an email address are eligible for electronic delivery. The difference is MOVE voters will now receive their ballot through EDARP instead of in their email.

### **4. Who will use electronic return? Who is an "eligible member?"**

Electronic return is available to "eligible members" only, defined as members of a uniformed service on active duty or members of the merchant marine. [MCL 168.759a\(17\)](#). Eligible members are required to verify their identity using a United States Department of Defense verified electronic signature, which is defined as "the certificate-based digital identification code issued to qualified personnel by the United States Department of Defense as part of the Common Access Card, or its successor." [MCL 168.18a](#); [MCL 168.759a\(17\)](#).



## **5. Are military and overseas voters required to use electronic delivery and return?**

No. Electronic delivery of ballots and electronic return of voted ballots is optional to MOVE voters. Military and overseas voters who prefer to use traditional mail may continue to select mail as their ballot delivery preference. Additionally, eligible members may elect to receive a ballot electronically but still print their ballot and mail it back to their clerk instead of electronically returning their ballot.

## **6. How do I sign up for electronic delivery and electronic return?**

Military and overseas voters request electronic delivery on their absent voter ballot application by providing their email address, and if applying using the FPCA, indicating a preference to receive a link to the ballot portal by email.

Eligible members who are authorized to return their voted ballots electronically must request electronic delivery on their absent voter ballot application, and must use the paper [Michigan Absent Voter Ballot Application](#) or the [Federal Post Card Application](#) because eligible members must also include their Common Access Card (CAC) signature on the application to qualify for electronic return. (The online absent voter application does not allow inclusion of the Common Access Card signature).

## **7. What is the difference between the process for “eligible members” and all other military and overseas voters?**

**All military and overseas voters** who have selected to *receive* their ballot electronically will receive their ballot through the portal, and will have the option to either print a blank ballot to mark it by hand or mark their ballot in the portal and then print it, and will then mail their completed ballot back to their clerk.

**All “eligible members”** who have selected electronic delivery and return will similarly receive their ballot through the portal, will mark their ballot in the portal, and will have the additional option to return their ballot electronically using the portal. Eligible members will be required to use their Common Access Card signature to electronically return their voted ballot.

## **8. How do military and overseas voters access the portal to receive their ballots?**



Military and overseas voters will log in to the portal using a username and password. Where possible, voters will use their MiLogin for Citizen account to validate their identity and gain access to the portal. The email address used to sign in to the portal through MiLogin must be the same email provided on the absent voter ballot application. Access to the portal will not be granted if the MiLogin email does not match the absent voter ballot application email.

If your MiLogin email address is different than the address you provided on your FPCA or absent voter ballot application, and you would like your ballot delivered to your MiLogin email address, [contact your local clerk](#) by email (a verbal request alone will not be accepted) to update your ballot delivery email address.

If your MiLogin email address is different than the address you provided on your absent voter ballot application, and you would like your ballot delivered to the email address you provided on your absent voter ballot application, contact the BOE help desk to update your MiLogin email address. The BOE help desk is available at 800-292-5973 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Alternatively, you may email [Elections@Michigan.gov](mailto:Elections@Michigan.gov), with the subject line "MOVE Assistance Needed." Within the body of the email, describe your issue, the best way to reach you (phone or email), and the best time to reach you, including the time zone.

Voters in regions where MiLogin cannot be accessed will receive an email with personalized access instructions.

## **9. What if I cannot create a MiLogin for Citizen account?**

MiLogin cannot be used in certain geographic areas. Only voters located in the following areas will access the portal using MiLogin: Canada; France; Germany; India; Ireland; Israel; Netherlands; Singapore; United Kingdom; and the United States. Additionally, voters who are located on a U.S. military base using a U.S. virtual private network (VPN) will be able to access MiLogin. Voters who are not using a U.S.-based VPN and are outside the listed geographic areas will access the portal using Voter Attribute, a different identity verification tool that does not require or allow the voter to create an account ahead of time.

## **10. How does the portal protect the security of the ballots?**

The portal utilizes state-of-the-art security technology and practice to guarantee that all ballots are private and correct. Each ballot is encrypted in private on the voter's device before transmission and is transmitted back to the elections office



using an encrypted connection. The cryptography used by the portal provides assurance that the selections made by the voter are received by the election official with integrity, and the encryption of the ballot before and during transit ensures that no one can see the ballot's contents as it travels from the voter's computer to the elections office.

Enhanced Voting, the vendor that the department works with to maintain the portal, conducts annual third-party penetration tests, routine internal security audits and scans, and has received both SOC 2 Type II and RABET-V verifications for the security of its products. Additionally, the portal supports CAC authentication for its users eligible for electronic return. This allows voters to easily log in using identity verification technology developed by the U.S. Department of Defense, one of the highest standards of digital identity to date.