

Absentee Ballot Facts

Did You Know! You can vote in every election by absentee ballot if you qualify and are eligible? You must be a registered voter at least 30 days prior to election and you must apply in writing for each election you request to vote absentee and attest to one of the following 6 reasons to vote by absentee ballot: 1) 60 years of age or more 2) unable to vote without assistance 3) expect to be absent from township entire time polls are open 4) in jail waiting arraignment or trial 5) appointed to work as an election inspector in precinct outside of your precinct of residency and 6) unable to attend polls due to religious beliefs.

The Clerk's Office must have a written request on file for every election before an absentee ballot can be issued. Voter may apply by application or send written letter with the following information: name, residential address, reason requesting absentee ballot, where ballot is to be mailed, date of election and signature of voter. You can apply by written request, application from your Clerk's Office, fax, or scanned request transmitted via email. Faxed and emailed requests must show voter's signature or request cannot be honored. Voter can file application up to 75 days prior to date of election.

If you have filed an application to receive absentee ballot with the clerk's office a ballot will automatically be mailed when ballots are received (around 45 days prior to election). If you visit the Clerk's Office to turn in application(s) or obtain ballot please be aware that we can only issue an un-voted ballot to voter requesting ballot. Keep this in mind when planning a trip or kids are off to college in another city or state. Under election law the voter must apply for the absentee ballot by signing his/her name to the application and ballot after voting. Also, under Michigan Election Law a stamp or power of attorney rights are not permissible in regards to voting absentee.

Voters can apply for an absentee ballot through the mail up to the Saturday prior to each election. Absentee ballots can be requested in person at the Clerk's Office until 4p.m. the Monday prior to each election. If voter requests ballot on Monday prior to the election, the voter must vote the ballot in the clerk's office; voter is not permitted to leave the clerk's office with ballot. If voter requests ballot prior to Monday before election voter can leave with ballot and return by Election Day to be counted.

Upon receipt of absentee ballot request the application must be verified. The signature appearing on the application is checked against the signature on applicant's voter registration record and digital signature on file to verify applicant identity. If the signatures on file compared to application request do not match a letter will be sent to voter to request an updated signature and verify the applicant is applying for absentee ballot.

A request for absentee ballots is processed within 24 hours of receiving application, once ballots are received at the clerk's office (approximately 45 days prior to election). Voter's have approximately 6 weeks in which absentee ballots are available for voting during regular business hours of Monday – Friday 8a.m. – 5p.m., up until Monday prior to election. Voters may receive ballot through mail at residence, hospital, nursing home etc. within jurisdiction or at post office box if voter normally receives mail there. Voter can also receive ballot at address out of state or country if provided on application. If absentee voter receives assistance in voting their ballot, the individual who provided assistance must sign certificate that appears on outside of ballot return envelope.

Absentee ballots are returned to the Clerk's Office by mail in envelope provided by Clerk's office or in person. Voter must return ballot by 8p.m. Election Day for ballot to be counted. If ballot is returned in envelope with a household member ballot it cannot be verified with application on file and will be invalidated. Absent Voter Ballots are not counted until Election Day and are kept in secure locked area when returned by voter until Election Day. It is important if voter makes mistake on ballot while voting at home to contact the Clerk's Office in person or by phone to have ballot replaced. Don't place note inside ballot as Township Clerk or staff

do not open or process absentee ballots. Township or county residents are appointed to our Absent Voter Counting Board in which ballots are processed and counted on Election Day.

Election inspectors at precincts and Absent Voter Counting Board are made up of township or county residents and are appointed by the Election Commission of Delta Township. The Election Commission for Delta Township is made up of elected Township Board members and appointed by the Supervisor. The Election Commission for Delta Township is comprised of the following members: Mary Clark, Township Clerk, Howard Pizzo, Township Treasurer and Cara Spagnuolo Township Trustee.