

STAY INFORMED

STAY UP TO DATE IN DETROIT



I MATTER, YOU MATTER, WE MATTER



THE POWER IS IN US

www.michiganvoices.org



WHATS AT STAKE

WWW.MIREPRODUCTIVEFREEDOM.ORG

DETROIT CHANGE INITIATIVE



Register to Vote or Update Your Voter Registration



THE POWER IS IN OUR HANDS

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

UPDATE YOUR VOTER

REGISTRATION TODAY

STAY ENGAGED, STAY ACTIVE: LOCAL ELECTIONS MATTER

We can make our voices heard by demanding that candidates stand with us and our families on the issues that we care about, such as immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship, affordable and quality healthcare for all, public schools getting the resources that they need, ending police brutality, climate justice, and so much more. You will have three options to vote leading up to election day: **vote on November 8th, you can vote early in person, or by mail-in ballot.**

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR ALL

What's At Stake?

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, and as a result, a 1931 Michigan law could go back into effect, making abortion illegal and threatening doctors who provide abortion services with prison for up to 15 years. This amendment would ensure no one goes to prison for providing safe medical care and access to a broad range of reproductive health care, including abortion.

In Michigan, we trust women. The decision of whether to become pregnant or a parent is too important to leave up to politicians. This proposal will affirm that every Michigander has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, which involves the right to make and carry out decisions without political interference about all matters relating to pregnancy, including birth control, abortion, prenatal care, and childbirth.

Protecting reproductive freedom in the Michigan Constitution will preserve this right for all Michiganders in our state, no matter what happens in Washington, D.C. Together, Michigan voters can protect reproductive freedom – for ourselves, our families, and our future.

What would this measure do?

This proposal will affirm that every person has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, which involves the right to make and carry out decisions without political interference about all matters relating to pregnancy, including birth control, abortion, prenatal care, and childbirth.

Specifically, this measure will ensure that all Michiganders have the right to safe and respectful care during birthing, everyone has the right to use temporary or permanent birth control, everyone has the right to continue or end a pregnancy pre-viability, and no one can be punished for having a miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion.

Why is this measure needed?

Important medical decisions should be guided by a patient's health and wellbeing, not by a politician's beliefs. But for far too long, politicians across the country have been fighting to restrict reproductive health care, and now they are gaining ground.

Now that the US Supreme Court has overturned Roe v. Wade, a 1931 Michigan law could go back into effect that would make abortion illegal and threaten doctors with prison for up to fifteen years for providing an abortion. In addition to ensuring access to a broad range of reproductive health care, this amendment would make sure no one goes to prison for providing safe medical care. Protecting reproductive freedom in the Michigan Constitution will preserve this right for all Michiganders in our state, no matter what happens in Washington, DC

When people can make decisions about their reproductive health care, including whether and when to have children, they have more control over their health and their economic security.

BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR ARE ALREADY FAILED BY OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS. RESTRICTIONS ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE MAKE THAT WORSE. THIS MEASURE WILL ENSURE EVERYONE CAN GET THE CARE THEY NEED.

FOR MORE INFO

WWW.MIREPROFFREEDOM.ORG

THE POWER IS IN US

Michigan Voices is a backbone organization that seeks to help build civic engagement capacity in progressive nonprofit groups that are led by and engage BIPOC people.

Our table partners consist of grass-seed, grassroots, and grass-top organizations looking to build progressive power for BIPOC people in the State of Michigan. They range in age, race, and financial capacity, but they are aligned around a specific set of values.

PURPOSE

Our purpose IS to provide resources to help nonprofit organizations that are led by and engage BIPOC people to become self-sustaining in their mission to bring social justice to their communities.

Investing in grass-seed, grassroots, and grass-tops organizations, while moving forward to build an equitable community among our table partners. They are not doing this alone.

With our growing staff, who are all experts in their field, the Michigan Voices team will continue to help support, train, and work with our table partners to build capacity, membership, and POWER.



MICHIGANVOICES.ORG
@MICHIGANVOICES

MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

- GET REGISTERED
- FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

- REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT
- FIND A SECURE DROP BOX OR VISIT YOUR LOCAL CLERK'S OFFICE TO SUBMIT YOUR BALLOT

IMPORTANT DATES

REGISTER TO VOTE BY MAIL OR ONLINE BY **OCTOBER 24TH** FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION

REGISTER IN-PERSON AT YOUR CITY OR TOWNSHIP CLERK UP TO **AND ON ELECTION DAY** WITH PROOF OF RESIDENCY

APPLY FOR YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT ONLINE OR BY MAIL BEFORE **5PM ON NOVEMBER 4**

RETURN YOUR SIGNED ABSENTEE BALLOT BY **8PM** ON ELECTION DAY

ELECTION DAY: **NOVEMBER 8**

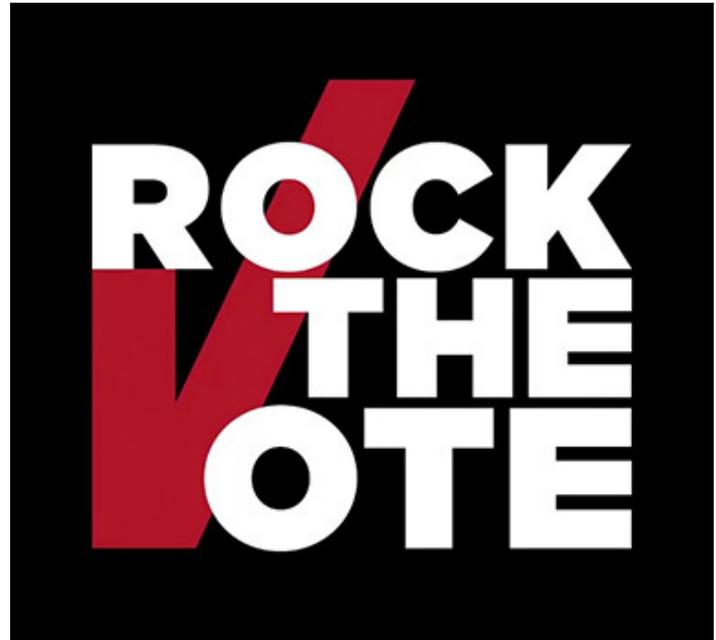
POLLS OPEN FROM **7AM - 8PM**

HAVE A PLAN

EVERY VOTE MATTERS - LET'S KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM

We are excited that we are officially partnering with ROCK THE VOTE and the Secretary of State of Michigan on voter registration. This year, you can register to vote and update your voter registration with our QR code or at our secure link: <http://bit.ly/dcimovementvotes>

Michigan's primary election is on August 2, 2022. The Michigan General election is on November 8, 2022. Both elections will have major implications for the state of Michigan in the city of Detroit for the next four years. We encourage everyone to participate in the political process by voting and becoming an Election Day poll worker. Detroit has 503 voting precincts and 134 absentee counting boards. Citizens who are 18 years of age or older must be registered voters of the State. They cannot be a challenger, candidate, or member of a local Board of Canvassers. Anyone convicted of a felony or an election crime may not serve. Citizens who are 16 and up can also apply and work as precinct inspectors. Go to www.detroit.gov/elections to complete the City Clerk election inspector application.



ROCK THE VOTE



QR code TO REGISTER TO VOTE

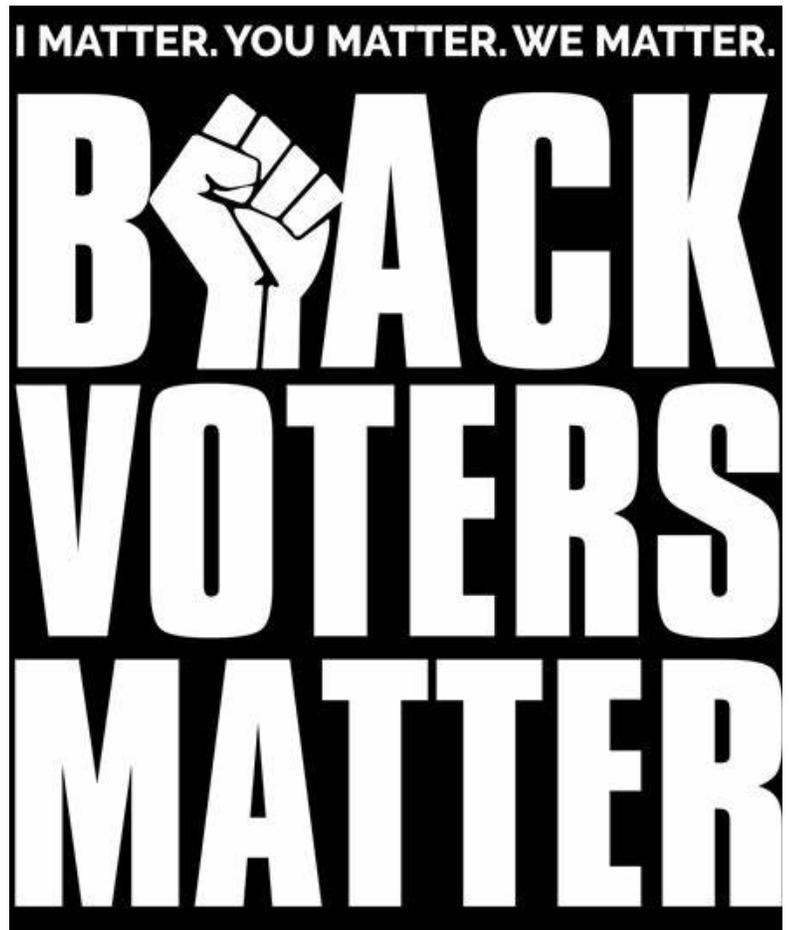
PURPOSE AND CORE VALUES

Black Voters Matter's goal is to increase power in marginalized, predominantly Black communities. Effective voting allows a community to determine its destiny. We agree with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he said, "Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love."

IT ABOUT US

We seek to achieve our goals with the following 5 core beliefs in mind:

- Understanding, respecting, and supporting local infrastructure is key to effective civic engagement and community power.
- Black Voters Matter not only on election day but on the 364 days between election days as well. This means we must support individuals and organizations that are striving to obtain social justice throughout the year.
- Black Voters Matter *everywhere*, including rural counties and smaller cities/towns that are often ignored by candidates, elected officials, political parties, and the media.
- For Black voters to matter, we must utilize authentic messaging which speaks to our issues, connects with our hopes, and affirms our humanity.
- The leadership, talent, and commitment demonstrated by Black women, in particular, must receive recognition and, more importantly, *investment* to flourish and multiply.



www.blackvotersmatterfund.org

POWER

At BVM, we often explain to friends and stakeholders that we are NOT an electoral organization. We are first and foremost, a power-building organization, and while we firmly believe that voting and electoral organizing is one way to build power, it is by no means the only way. Within the space of electoral organizing, we do not measure our success on electoral “wins”. We take this position not only because of our status as a 501c4 organization but because philosophically we strongly believe that to truly build power, we must begin to redefine what a “win” is. The traditional approach of defining wins based on whether a particular person has won a certain office is far too limited given our communities' obstacles. Instead, we believe in centering a community-defined agenda and the process by which a community seeks to implement that agenda. With this in mind, we seek to increase the capacity of community-based organizations working on a wide range of issues: from mass incarceration to gentrification, from health care to education, and more.

The intersection of Political and Economic Power

We believe that independent political power requires independent economic power, and we are sensitive to the many forms of economic coercion which often discourage community members from fully participating in civic life. We also believe that political victories lacking a strong economic base are not sustainable. As we explore the intersection of political and economic power, we strive to uplift economic models and policies which support the equitable distribution of wealth rather than deepening economic disparities.

Filling out a Michigan absent voter ballot for the 2022 General Election

Once you receive your absent voter ballot in the mail, it simply needs to be filled out following the written instructions attached and returned before the deadline.

It's important to be cautious and follow directions precisely when filling out a Michigan absent voter ballot to ensure it is counted on Election Day.

Making a mistake on your absent voter ballot would require you to obtain a new one and start over -- which can pose issues the closer it gets to Election Day.

Inside of your official Michigan absent, voter ballot envelope is a brightly-colored "secrecy sleeve" containing your



Caption

ballot. Directions for filling out the ballot are included on the front of the sleeve.

Important Directions to Follow

Here are the directions for filling out your Michigan absent voter ballot for the General Election, as listed on the secrecy sleeve:

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TO VOTE: Completely darken the oval opposite each choice as shown.

IMPORTANT: To mark your ballot, use only a black or blue ink pen. Do not use any other ink color.

PARTISAN SECTION: There may be multiple party sections on the ballot. Select the party section of your choice. Note: You can “split” your ticket when voting in the November General Election. A voter participating in a November General Election who wishes to cast a “split” ticket can vote for individual candidates of his or her choice under any party.

DO NOT vote for more candidates than indicated under each office title.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES: To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on the ballot, write or place the name of that candidate in the blank space provided and completely darken the voting target area. Do not cast a write-in vote for a candidate whose name is already printed on the ballot for that office.

CHECK BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT: The ballot may have two sides. Be certain to check the reverse side of the ballot.

WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED VOTING: Place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve so that votes cannot be seen and the numbered stub is visible.

NOTE: If you make a mistake, return your ballot to the election official and obtain a new ballot. Do not attempt to erase or correct any marks made in error.

A stub is located at the top of the ballot containing numerical information needed by the clerk’s office to identify your ballot. If the stub detaches from your absent voter ballot while you are filling it out, you must include the stub with your ballot when it is returned.

Returning your completed Michigan absent voter ballot

Completed absent voter ballots for the 2022 General Election must be received by your local clerk's office by 8 p.m. on November 8.

Packaging your absent voter ballot once it's completed

Once you've filled out your Michigan absent voter ballot for the 2022 General Election, place it inside of the brightly-colored secrecy sleeve that it was initially presented in. This sleeve protects your votes from being read by others.

Next, be sure to sign and date the return envelope that was provided with your absent voter ballot. **All Michigan voters are required to sign the back of the envelope or the ballot will be rejected and the vote will not be counted.**

Return your absent voter ballot by mail

You can return your completed absent voter ballot by mailing it to your local clerk's office.

To ensure your ballot is received by the 8 p.m. deadline on November 8, we recommend mailing out your completed ballot at least two weeks before the deadline -- which would be October 24.

Recent [delays and funding shortages with the U.S. Postal Service](#) have raised concerns over whether or not mail-in ballots will be returned to clerks' offices on time for the November election. For this reason, we are recommending mailing in your completed absent voter ballot as soon as possible ahead of Election Day.

You may begin receiving your absent voter ballot as soon as September 24.

Postage will be required to return your Michigan absent voter ballot by mail.

Return your absent voter ballot in person, or at dropbox

You can also return your completed absent voter ballot by delivering it to your local clerk's office before the 8 p.m. deadline on November 3.

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MICHIGAN VOTERS' RIGHTS

**PRIMARY ELECTION
AUGUST 2**
POLLS OPEN: 7 AM - 8PM

REGISTER TO VOTE
Any Michigan resident with U.S. Citizenship, who will be 18 years old or older by Election day may register to vote regardless of felonies, warrants and homelessness.
People in jail awaiting trial can register & vote.

WHERE DO I VOTE?
Scan this code to find your Election Day polling place and your local clerk. You can register at your clerk's office up to Election Day and vote absentee while you're there.
Find out about local drop-boxes where you can securely turn in your absentee ballot.

VOTE FROM HOME
Anyone can vote absentee for any reason in Michigan. Request an absentee ballot via this link. Check in with your local clerk's website or request one at the link to the left.
MI.GOV/VOTE

WHAT TO BRING
You don't need photo I.D. in Michigan to vote. If you have one, great! Use a driver's license, military, tribal or state-issued I.D.
If you don't have any of these, just affirm your identity by signing an affidavit. This matches your signature to the one on file and allows you to vote a regular ballot.

ACCESSIBILITY
Polling places must accommodate voters with disabilities or bring ballots outside to them. Voters may bring an assistant inside to help them.
AUDIO ASSISTANCE DEVICE
Voters may have ballots read to them for any reason (literacy, language, impairment)

NEED HELP?
Call 866-OUR-VOTE for non-partisan assistance on Election Day and to report incidents to attorney volunteers.
SIGN UP AS A POLL WORKER
A paid position if your clerk still needs assistance administering the election. follow this link:

SCAN FOR TRANSLATIONS
Applications & info in 10 languages

**GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 8**
POLLS OPEN: 7AM - 8PM

MI.GOV/VOTE

Caption

Some offices are even offering **ballot “drop boxes” to make returning your ballot easier.**

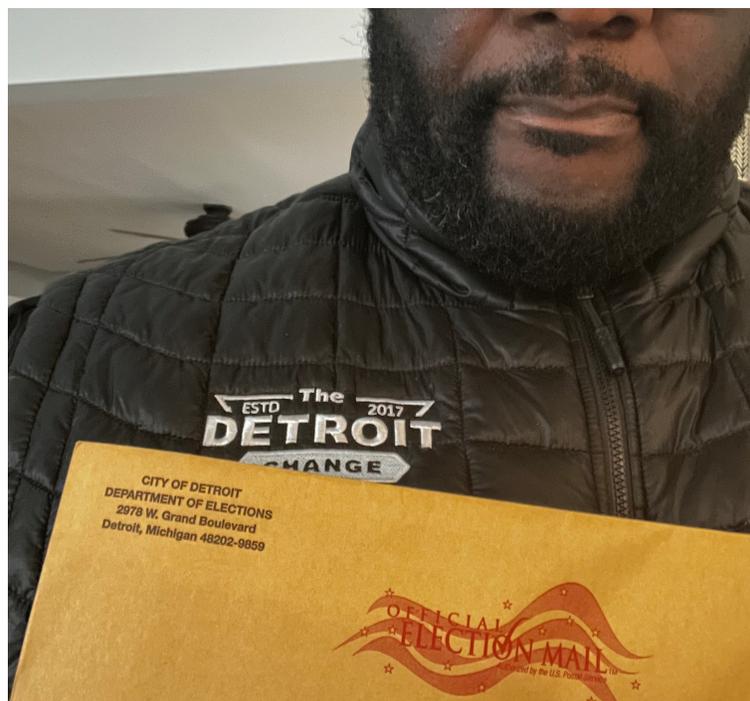
- You’re encouraged to contact your clerk’s office directly to determine if a drop box option is available.

Officials are encouraging voters to hand deliver their completed ballot, as voters can guarantee that their ballot will be received on time and their vote will be counted in the election.

No postage is required to return your Michigan absent voter ballot in person.

Remember: The back of the envelope containing the completed absent voter ballot must be signed by the voter or it will not be counted.

Ballots can be tracked online [here](#) after they’ve been dropped off or returned by mail. Michigan absent voter ballots can be cast beginning 40 days before Election Day. By law, Michigan clerks must begin mailing requested ballots to voters at least 40 days before the election -- which would be September 24.



Caption

How to make sure your absent voter ballot is not rejected in Michigan

As more people choose to vote by mail in the 2022 General Election, it is important to make sure that ballots are filled out properly so that they are not rejected during the counting process.

In the 2022 Michigan Primary Election on August 2, **about 10,000 mail-in ballots were rejected** primarily due to signature verification issues or late arrival. Other reasons ballots were rejected include the wrong address, wrong signature (signature didn't match), empty envelope, or unconfirmed ID.

Here are a few things to remember to ensure your Michigan absent voter ballot is not rejected in the 2022 General Election:

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Carefully follow the instructions provided when filling out the ballot at home. Making a mistake will either cause the ballot to be rejected, or force you to obtain a new ballot and start again.

Make sure the completed ballot is located inside of the envelope before returning it. (This seems obvious, but just trust us! Double check.)

Be sure to sign the back of the envelope that contains your absent voter ballot. This signature is expected to match your state-documented signature.

Ensure you're completed absent voter ballot arrives at your local clerk before the 8 p.m. deadline on November 8. If you aren't confident that your ballot will reach your local clerk in time through mail, you can hand deliver it before the election.