

# VOTING & DISABILITY INCLUSION

## STEPS TO REGISTER TO VOTE

### CIVIC DUTY: REGISTERING TO VOTE



#### WHAT IS VOTING?

Voting is a way for people to make decisions together. On Election Day, we choose leaders and decide on important issues. In the United States, each person gets one vote to show what they want. Voting is an important way for people to share their ideas and help make choices for their community.

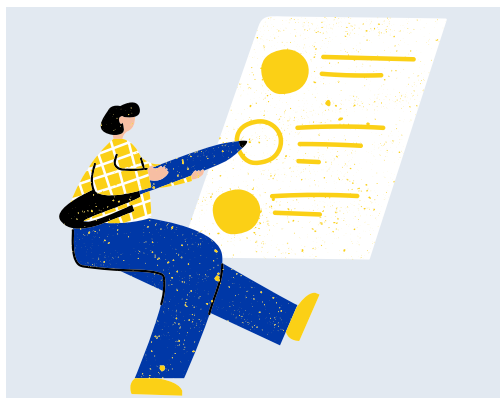


#### AM I ALLOWED TO VOTE?

To be eligible to vote in the U.S., you need to:

1. Be a U.S. citizen
2. Be at least 18 years old (or turning 18 on Election Day)
3. Live in the state or U.S. territory where you plan to vote

Some people think people with disabilities are not able to vote.... THIS IS WRONG! The truth is people with disabilities can and do vote, but some people with guardians might face restrictions depending on where they live. [Check your state's rules online here.](#)



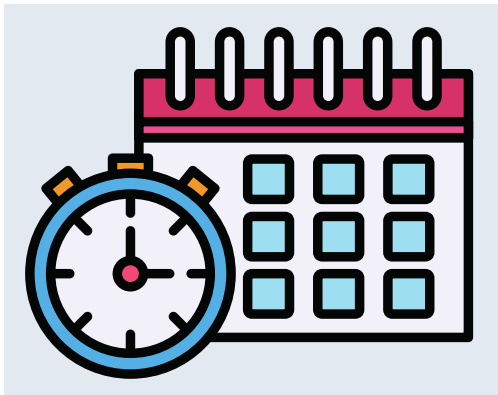
#### WHY DO I NEED TO REGISTER?

The first step to voting is signing up. Registering to vote means you're officially signing up to vote in elections. Once you sign up, you can vote in local, state, or national elections. Follow this easy guide to help you sign up and make sure your voice is heard!

# VOTING & DISABILITY INCLUSION

## STEPS TO REGISTER TO VOTE

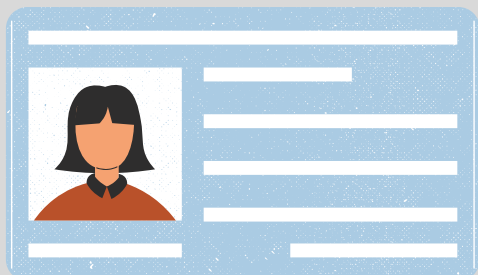
### STEPS TO REGISTERING



#### CHECK THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Each state has a different last day to sign up to vote. This is called a "deadline." Make sure you know the deadline for your state so you don't miss it!

[CLICK HERE to find your deadline.](#)

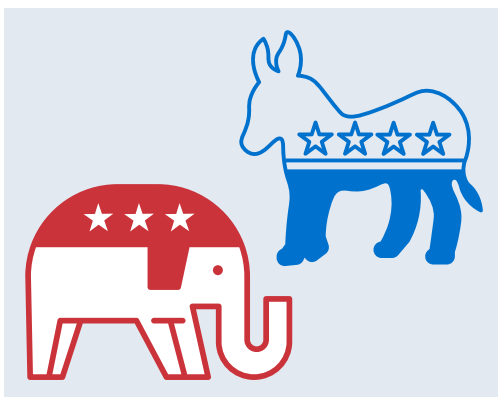


#### GET YOUR DOCUMENTS READY

Every state needs you to show proof that you're a citizen, but the kind of proof can be different. You might need things like a driver's license, a state ID, or your Social Security card.

[CLICK HERE to see the requirements for your state.](#)

Use the following "Register to Vote: Planning Guide"



#### PICK A POLITICAL PARTY

When you register to vote, some states ask you to choose a political party. A political party is a group of people who share ideas on how to run the country. The two main parties in the U.S. are the Democrats and Republicans. There are also smaller parties and the Independent party, which mixes ideas from both. Note: Even if you pick a party, you can vote for anyone on election day. Always choose the person who matches your beliefs!

# VOTING & DISABILITY INCLUSION

## STEPS TO REGISTER TO VOTE

### STEPS TO REGISTERING, CONT.



#### CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO VOTE

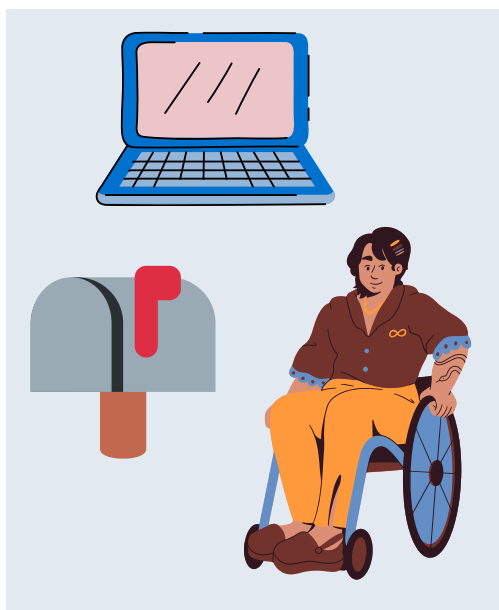
You can vote in different ways; absentee or in-person.

Some states let you vote by mail, before Election Day, or in person. You can also drop off your ballot or mail it in. When you register, you will need to let them know how you want to vote.



#### CHOOSE HOW YOU WILL REGISTER

Now that you have your information ready, it's time to decide how and where you will register. There are three main ways to register to vote in most states – online, by mail, or in person.



#### ONLINE REGISTRATION

Many states offer online voter registration, allowing for greater accessibility. Ensure the website used is secure and official, like [VOTE.GOV](https://www.vote.gov)

#### IN-PERSON REGISTRATION

You can opt to register in person at your local election office or in some states the Department of Motor Vehicles or Secretary of State office. [FIND YOURS HERE](#)

#### MAIL-IN REGISTRATION

Most states allow you to download and mail a registration form. Once you filled it out, mail it back to the appropriate election office. This form is available in multiple languages, and you can have someone assist you to complete the form. [ACCESS THE FORM HERE](#)

# VOTING & DISABILITY INCLUSION

## STEPS TO REGISTER TO VOTE

### STEPS TO REGISTERING, CONT.



#### LAST STEP:

#### CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION STATUS

After you register, you can make sure everything worked so you are prepared on voting day. Check your registration online or call/visit your local election office if needed.

NOTE: Voting can feel confusing because each state has its own rules and deadlines. Make sure you check the rules for your state. When you vote, YOU get to decide, so it's important to learn about the candidates and think about what matters to you. Your community counts on you to do this! For more info on voting with a disability, [VISIT THIS WEBSITE](#).

# REGISTERING TO VOTE: PLANNING GUIDE

The State or U.S. Territory I live in is: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(this is the state where you should register to vote)*

DONE

The County I live in is: \_\_\_\_\_

My State Deadline to Register to Vote is: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(list date and time)*

I plan to VOTE:

*In person*    *By mail*

DONE

I plan to REGISTER to vote:

Online

In person at (address) : \_\_\_\_\_

By mail (send to address): \_\_\_\_\_

I can show that I am a U.S. citizen and resident of the State of or U.S. Territory where I am registering to vote.

DONE

Social Security Card

Driver's License

State Identification Card

Real ID

Other:

The political party I want to pick is:

DONE

Democratic

Republican

Libertarian

Green

Independent (not party affiliated)

Other:

## REGISTERING TO VOTE: PLANNING GUIDE, CONT.

If I need help to complete this process I will ask:

DONE

---

I completed my registration on (date):

DONE

---

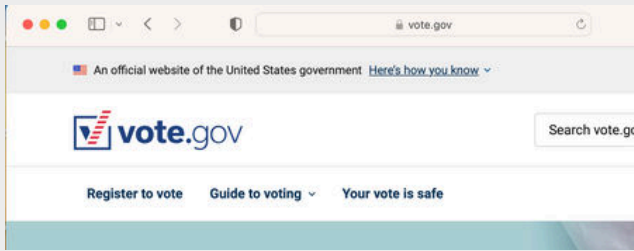
I will check my voter registration status on:

*(list date and select which method)*

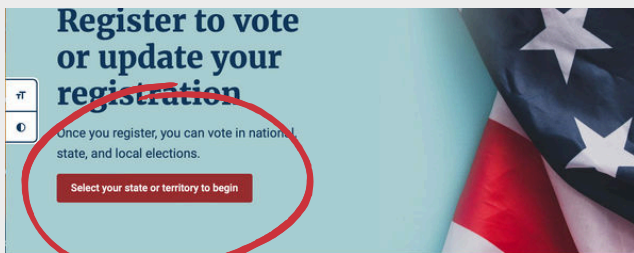
DONE

Online    In person    By phone

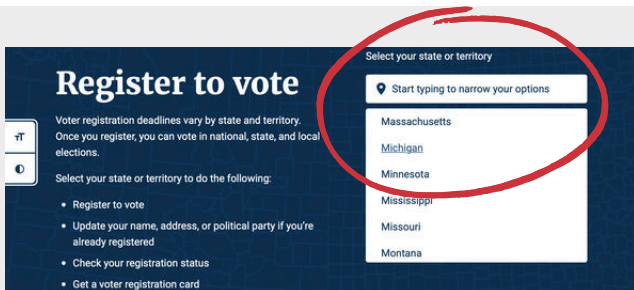
# REGISTERING TO VOTE ONLINE: VISUAL GUIDE



1. Visit [VOTE.GOV](https://vote.gov) by clicking the link or typing “vote.gov” into your web browser. Or, visit your state’s voter registration website directly.

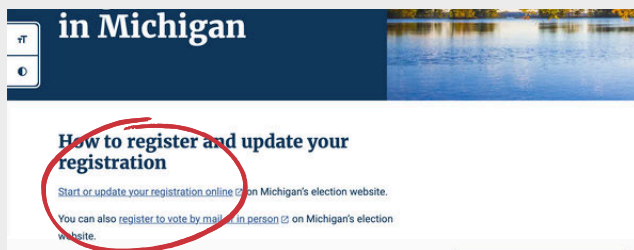


2. Click on the **RED BUTTON** that says “Select your state or territory to begin.”



3. Scroll the list of states and territories and click on the one where you live and plan to vote.

*Note: for this example we selected Michigan. Each state will have its own slightly different registration process.*



4. This page provides important information, including registration deadlines and names of candidates appearing on your ballot. To proceed with your registration, click the “Start or update your voter registration” link.

# REGISTERING TO VOTE ONLINE: VISUAL GUIDE, CONT.

**Welcome to the Michigan Online Voter Registration System**

You can use this program to preregister or register to vote and update your voter registration address in Michigan. To use this website, you need to have a valid Michigan driver's license or state ID. If you don't have one, find out how to preregister or register to vote by going to [Registering To Vote](#).

Before we get started, let's make sure you can use this website for voter registration.

Required fields are marked with an asterisk.\*

- \* Driver's license address**  
Have you updated your driver's license or state ID address with the Secretary of State within the last 28 days?  Yes  No
- \* Duplicate driver's license**  
Have you applied for a duplicate driver's license or state ID today?  Yes  No
- \* Address confidentiality program participant**  
Are you currently participating in the Address Confidentiality Program? (You are still able to register if you answer yes.)  Yes  No

[Continue](#)

5. Carefully read each question. Ask someone for help if needed. Once completed, click "Continue".

*If you don't have the necessary documentation, you may not be able to complete the registration online. In that case, visit your local city clerk's office for assistance.*

*Keep in mind that if you're not registering in Michigan, identification requirements may differ, so be sure to check your state's specific application.*

**\* Citizenship**  
I am a United States citizen.  Yes  No

**\* Age**  
**Preregistration:** I am at least 16 years old but less than 17.5 years old and will vote only after I turn 18.  Yes  No  
**Registration:** I am at least 17.5 years old and will vote only after I turn 18.

**\* Residency**  
I am a Michigan resident and will vote only after I have lived in my city or township for at least 30 days.  Yes  No

**\* Previous registration**  
I authorize the cancellation of any previous preregistration or registration.  Yes  No

**\* Signature**  
I authorize the Secretary of State to use my stored digital signature for voter preregistration or registration.  Yes  No

[Back](#) [Continue](#)

6. The next step involves questions to confirm your eligibility to vote. Carefully read and answer each question. Ask someone for assistance if needed. Once completed, click "Continue."

*If you meet all the necessary requirements to vote, you'll proceed to the next step.*

**Personal information**

The personal information you use to preregister or register to vote must match the personal information on your Michigan driver's license or state ID.

Required fields are marked with an asterisk.\*

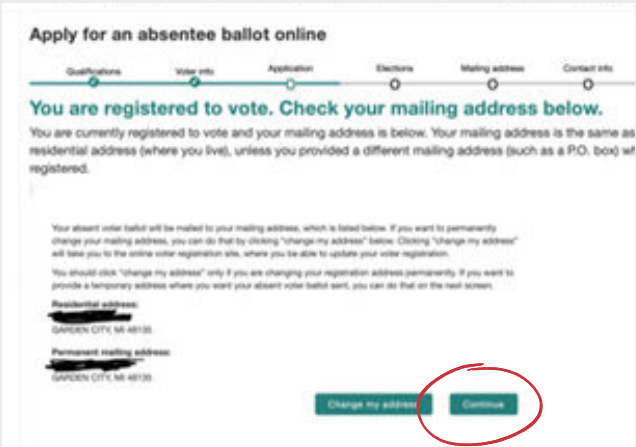
- \* Full name (Exactly as printed on your Michigan driver's license or state ID)**  
Jane Elizabeth Doe
- \* Michigan driver's license or state ID number (A12345678901)**  
000045284943
- \* Birthdate (mm/dd/yyyy)**  
10/10/2004
- \* Eye color (As printed on your license or state ID)**  
Brown-BFO
- \* Social security number (last four digits)**  
XXX-XX- 0000

[Back](#) [Continue](#)

7. Next, you'll be asked to enter your personal information. It's helpful to have your Driver's License or State ID card, as well as your Social Security card (if you don't have the number memorized), on hand. After filling in each field, click "Continue."



# REGISTERING TO VOTE ONLINE: VISUAL GUIDE, CONT.

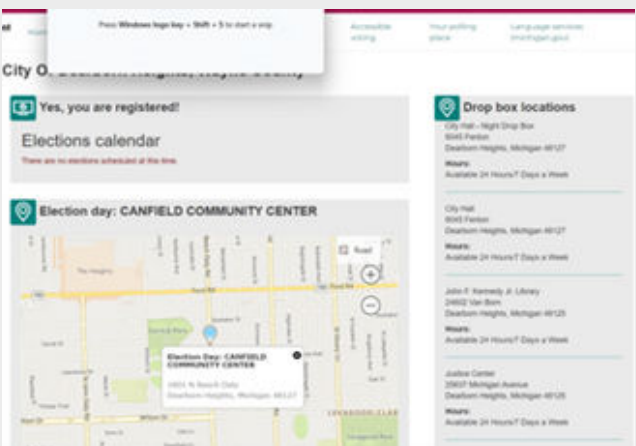


8. It's time to verify your address. Make sure the address on the screen matches where you live and where you plan on voting. After confirming, click "Continue."



9. Now you can request an absentee ballot. If you prefer to vote by mail, select 'Yes.'

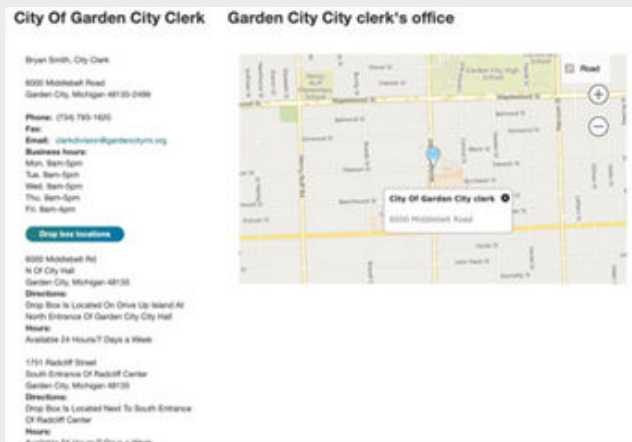
*Some states offer the option to register for permanent absentee voting. Be sure to check your state's specific policies.*



10. Once your registration is complete, you'll receive a confirmation notice that says **YOU ARE REGISTERED. Congratulations, you're registered to vote!**

*The order of the questions, and types of questions asked will vary depending on your state. Your verification page might look slightly different than the one shown here, but it should also provide information on your polling location and contact details for your local city clerk. If any issues arise, this is where you can report them.*

## REGISTERING TO VOTE IN PERSON: VISUAL GUIDE



If you'd prefer to register in person, [VOTE.GOV](https://vote.gov) will direct you to your state's voter registration website. From there, you can 'Lookup your clerk's office' to find the appropriate location. Be sure to plan your visit during office hours, and bring the following items with you:

1. Driver's License or State Identification
2. Social Security Card (if you don't have your number memorized)

You may also need a piece of mail to verify your address. If you're unsure about any requirements, it's a good idea to call the clerk's office before you go.

## WHAT'S NEXT

Once you've successfully registered to vote, it's time to start learning about the candidates and the issues that are on your ballot, decide what you care about and how you are going to vote, and practice filling out a ballot.

➤➤➤ [You can take all of those actions online here.](#)

# VOTING & DISABILITY INCLUSION

## STEPS TO REGISTER TO VOTE

### IF/THEN SCENARIOS

**IF I have a guardian and I am interested in voting:**

THEN you can check your state's laws on guardianship [ONLINE HERE](#). In many states adults with guardians have the right to vote.

**IF I'm not sure that I'm registered to vote:**

THEN you can check your voter registration status by state and county [ONLINE HERE](#) or contact your local election official.

**IF I moved to a new state:**

THEN you should register to vote in the new state where you currently live. You can do this at [VOTE.GOV](#).

**IF I need help registering:**

THEN you can ask a trusted individual such as a Direct Support Professional, case worker, or family member for assistance. You can also reach out to The Arc for support via email at [info@thearc.org](mailto:info@thearc.org) or phone at 1-800-433-5255.

**IF I successfully registered to vote:**

THEN it's time to start learning about the candidates and the issues that are on your ballot, decide what you care about and how you are going to vote, and practice filling out a ballot. [You can take all of those actions online here.](#)

**IF I want to get involved in politics:**

THEN you can get engaged through your local political party or check out this [list of ways to take action.](#)