



## Timeline of Important Dates for Michigan's 2022 November Election

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### Voting by Mail

- **[Saturday, September 24](#)** - Counties must begin sending absentee ballots to military and overseas (UOCAVA) voters with accepted applications.
- **[Thursday, September 29](#)** - Counties must begin sending absentee ballots to voters (other than military and overseas voters) with accepted applications and voters on a permanent absentee voter list.
- **[Friday, November 4](#)** - Clerks may not mail a voter an absentee ballot after 5 p.m. on this date. The same deadline applies for voters who have returned their absentee ballot to go to their clerk's office and request to spoil the ballot and vote a new absentee ballot in the clerk's office.<sup>1</sup>
- **[Monday, November 7](#)** - Voters who have not already returned an absentee ballot may request an absentee ballot in person at their clerk's office until 4 p.m.<sup>2</sup>
- **[Tuesday, November 8](#) - Election Day**
  - Absentee ballots must be *received* by the appropriate clerk (via mail/delivery service or in-person return to the clerk's office or authorized drop box) by 8 p.m. to be eligible for counting.

### In-Person Voting (Early & Election Day)

- **[Thursday, September 29](#)** - Voters may begin applying for an absentee ballot and casting the ballot in person at their clerk's office.
- **[Monday, October 24](#)** - Voter registration deadline for mail and online applications. Mail applications must be *postmarked* by this date for the applicant to be eligible to vote in the November election. Voters may apply for registration in person at the clerk's office through Election Day.
- **[Tuesday, November 8](#) - Election Day.**

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<sup>1</sup> The deadline to spoil a returned absentee ballot was moved from the day before Election Day to the Friday before Election Day by HB 4491, signed by Governor Whitmer on October 7, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> This deadline to request an absentee ballot in person applies to: 1) voters who did not previously request an absentee ballot; 2) voters who requested an absentee ballot but did not receive one; 3) voters who requested absentee ballots, but the ballots have been lost or damaged; and 4) voters who requested and received an absentee ballot, but wish to spoil the ballot in their possession and cast a new one.

- **7 a.m.** - Polling locations open.
- **While polls are open** - Voters may register in person at the clerk's office and subsequently apply for and cast an absentee ballot.
- **8 p.m.** - Polling locations close. All voters still in line must be allowed to vote. Voters returning absentee ballots to their clerk's office or an authorized drop box must do so by this time.

## Counting, Canvassing, & Certification

- **Sunday, November 6** - Clerks in cities or townships with population of at least 10,000 may begin pre-processing<sup>3</sup> absentee ballots. Pre-processing may be conducted between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. on the two days preceding Election Day.
- **Tuesday, November 8 - Election Day.**
  - **7 a.m.** - Election officials in all jurisdictions may begin processing and tabulating absentee ballots.
  - **After polls close** - Immediately after polls close, the board of inspectors in each precinct will count the precinct's votes. After the count is complete, the board will prepare two statements of returns: one for the county board of canvassers and one for the county clerk.
- **Thursday, November 10** - Each board of county canvassers must begin meeting to conduct the county canvass.<sup>4</sup> The board may adjourn as necessary to await additional results.
- **Tuesday, November 22** - Each board of county canvassers must complete the county canvass and certify the county's results by this date. If any county board fails to certify its results by this date, the board must send the county's records to the board of state canvassers for completion of certification.<sup>5</sup>
- **Monday, November 28** - The state board of canvassers must begin meeting to conduct the state canvass. The board may adjourn as necessary to await additional results.
- **Friday, December 2** - Deadline for the state board of canvassers to complete any county canvass referred to it after a failure of the county board of canvassers to certify.
- **Sunday, December 18** - Deadline for the state board of canvassers to complete the state canvass and certify results.

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<sup>3</sup> Pre-processing of absentee ballots for the 2022 and future elections was authorized by HB 4491, signed by Governor Whitmer on October 7, 2022. The bill defines "pre-processing" to include opening ballot return envelopes, removing secrecy envelopes containing ballots, and verifying that the ballot number on the ballot stub matches the ballot number on the ballot return envelope label. Ballots may not be tabulated until Election Day.

<sup>4</sup> "Canvassing" is the process by which the appropriate authority checks the results from each voting location and ballot counting location for accuracy and compliance with statutory procedures. After these checks, the results from each location are compiled to create results for each race on the ballot. In Michigan, the county canvass is conducted by the board of county canvassers, which consists of two appointees from each of the two major political parties (four total members). The state canvass is conducted by the board of state canvassers, which is also composed of two appointees from each of the two major political parties.

<sup>5</sup> "Certification" is the process by which winners in elections are officially declared following the completion of the canvass. For local races that can be determined following the county canvass, certification will occur after the county canvass. For federal, state, and multicounty races that must be determined by the state canvass, certification will generally occur immediately following the completion of the state canvass. In Michigan, the bodies responsible for the canvass at the county and state level also certify the results.

## Recounts

- **Monday, November 28 (or six days after completion of the county canvass)** - Deadline for candidates to file a petition seeking a recount of a race determined by the county canvass.<sup>6</sup>
- **Wednesday, November 30 (or 48 hours after the filing of an initial petition seeking a recount)** - Deadline for candidates to file a counter petition opposing a recount of a race determined by the county canvass.
- **Tuesday, December 20 (or 2 days after completion of the state canvass)** - Deadline for candidates to file a petition seeking a recount of a race determined by the state canvass. An automatic statewide recount will be conducted when a statewide primary or general election is certified with a vote differential of 2000 votes or fewer.
- **Tuesday, December 27 (or 7 days after the filing of an initial petition seeking a recount)** - Deadline for candidates to file a counter petition opposing a recount of a race determined by the state canvass.
- **Friday, December 30 (or 30 days after the deadline for filing counter petitions)** - Deadline for completion of a recount requested by a candidate following the county canvass.
- **Thursday, January 26, 2023 (or 30 days after the deadline for filing counter petitions)** - Deadline for completion of a recount requested by a candidate following the state canvass.

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<sup>6</sup> For ballot question elections, any registered voter eligible to vote on the question may request a recount.