

Do I have to submit an application for each election?

No. With the passage of Proposal 2 of 2022, a voter may apply one time for all future elections. A voter may still choose to apply every election if they do want to be placed on the permanent ballot list. If a voter is going to be away from their residence (outside of Grand Rapids) within 45 days of an election, please contact our office to let us know the mailing address because ballots are not forwarded.

If it is difficult for me to sign my name, may someone sign for me (family, friend, Power of Attorney)?

No. The application for the ballot and the return ballot envelope must be signed by the voter only. You are permitted to make a mark that can serve as your new signature or use a signature stamp if you have a difficult time signing your name. There is an accessible application [online](#).

Can I still opt to vote at the precinct?

Yes. If you have already received your absent voter ballot in the mail, but have since decided that you rather vote in person, you may

1. Bring your absent voter ballot to the precinct or early voting site and place it in the tabulator, or
2. Surrender your absent voter ballot to an election inspector and be issued a new one, or
3. If you no longer have your absent voter ballot and have not already returned it to the Clerk's Office for processing, you can sign an affidavit and receive a new ballot.

How do I know my vote is secure?

Voted absentee ballots remain sealed and are kept in a secure location accessible only to Clerk's Office staff. All absent voter ballots are delivered to the Absent Voter Processing Board, which is a group of election workers, who then open and tabulate the ballots. The vote totals from the Absent Voter Processing Board for each race or proposal are added to the precinct totals. All absent voter ballots received no later than 8:00 pm on Election Day are tabulated.

Can I track my Absent Voter Ballot?

Yes, you can go to the [State of Michigan Website](#) to see when your ballot was issued and when we received it back.

How and when do the absent voter ballots get counted?

All absent voter ballots are delivered to the Absent Voter Processing Board, which is a group of election workers, who then open and tabulate the ballots. Absentee Ballot tabulation may start two Mondays before the election. The vote totals from the Absent Voter Processing Board for each race or proposal are added to the precinct totals. All absent voter ballots received no later than 8:00 pm on Election Day are tabulated.

I already voted and returned my absentee ballot, but I may have made an error or changed my mind about how I voted. Can I change my vote?

You may request and vote a replacement ballot. To do this, you need to submit your request in writing with a signature to the City Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. the Friday before the election Email your request to clerk@bangormi.org or you can drop off your request at City Hall in person.

The Clerk's Office is in City Hall, 257 W Monroe St. It is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Clerk's office is open the Saturday before the election from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The City Clerk will void your original ballot and issue you a new ballot. All absentee ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day.