



500 West Big Beaver  
Troy, MI 48084  
troymi.gov

P-02b

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date: April 25, 2019  
To: Mark F. Miller, City Manager  
From: M. Aileen Dickson, City Clerk  
Subject: Troy's Implementation of Changes to Election Law

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After voters passed Michigan Proposal 18-3 in November, 2018, the Bureau of Elections began releasing their guidelines for municipal clerks to implement the new laws. While these guidelines continue to evolve, we have established procedures in the City Clerk's Office that comply with the new laws and guidelines, but can be updated as needed.

Proposal 18-3, commonly known as Promote the Vote, contained a hefty list of changes to Michigan's Constitution, as was detailed in the proposal itself:

- Qualified citizens in Michigan are automatically registered to vote when applying for, updating or renewing a driver's license or state-issued personal identification card, unless the citizen declines
- Qualified citizens can register to vote with proof of residency and obtain a ballot during the 2-week period prior to an election, up to and including Election Day
- Voters can obtain an absent voter ballot without a reason
- Partisan General Election ballots must contain a straight-ticket option

The first and fourth amendment listed are pretty self-explanatory and don't require Troy's procedures to change (aside from some education before the next partisan General election). Our focus is, essentially, on the second and third amendments.

Up to the 15<sup>th</sup> day before any Election Day, qualified citizens (18+ age, US citizen, resident of Michigan for 30 days) can register to vote by mail or in person at the City Clerk's Office or any SOS branch office. That part of the timeline is straight-forward. The next part could get confusing, which is one area that we are going to focus our voter education effort. From the 14<sup>th</sup> day through Election Day (until 8:00 PM when the polls close), qualified citizens can register to vote in-person (not by mail) at the City Clerk's Office (not the SOS branch office) and be eligible to vote in that election. They can also obtain an absent voter (AV) ballot at the time of registration, until 8:00 PM on Election Day. If anyone mails in their registration applications, we are required to contact them by mail (and encouraged to contact them by phone/email) to let them know they will not be eligible to vote in the upcoming election unless they register in-person at the City Clerk's Office. Similarly, the SOS branch offices will turn away people attempting to register to vote there within that 14-day window and send them to their home clerks' offices.



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Troy's Clerk's Office has always made every attempt to contact voters regarding election issues by mail, email and phone, especially in the weeks leading up to an election. We already have forms and procedures in place to incorporate the new 14-day requirements for voter registrations.

Anyone who has voted absentee will remember that voters were required to check one of 6 reasons as to why they needed to vote absentee. Promote the Vote enacted no-reason absentee voting and now, anyone can vote absentee at any election. We expect that our absentee ballot numbers will increase significantly, and that our list of permanent absentee voters will grow much longer. About 75 days before each election, the Clerk's Office will mail absentee ballot applications to all the voters on the Permanent AV List. Voters will still need to sign and return their applications before each election before we can send ballots to them. We begin mailing absentee ballots out at around 30-40 days before the election. Military and overseas voters' ballots are handled separately, so they are emailed/mailed ballots beginning at 45 days before each election.

This summer, we are planning on sending postcards to all voters in Troy, who are not already on the PAV List, to promote and educate about the revisions to absentee voting.

With the help of the I.T. Department, we developed an online registry where voters can enroll on the PAV List. That URL is [https://troymi.gov/departments/city\\_clerk/index.php](https://troymi.gov/departments/city_clerk/index.php).

We also updated the City Clerk's webpage, the Elections webpage, and the New Voting Information webpage with lots of information about changes to Election Law. On the Elections webpage, there is a one-page document (attached) that highlights changes to voter registration, absentee voting, and provides information on working as an Election Inspector. Links to these pages can all be found on the City Clerk's page [https://troymi.gov/departments/city\\_clerk/index.php](https://troymi.gov/departments/city_clerk/index.php).

Through our program REV-Up Troy, the City Clerk's Office continues to work with Troy high schools to host voter registration drives and educate students on elections and voting.

Finally, in collaboration with the Troy Public Library, we are now hosting a Pop-Up Clerk's Office where voters and residents can conduct Clerk's Office business during non-City Hall hours. The first Pop-Up Clerk's Office will be held on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm in the Library. Residents can register to vote, enroll on the PAV List or the Do Not Knock Registry, submit applications for vital records, and conduct most other business regularly done at the Clerk's Office during regular City Hall hours. The schedule for future Pop-Up's will be determined at a later date.

# Voting in Troy

**Register . Vote . Work**  
Let's get involved in government!

## New!

- » Pop-Up Clerk's Office – Saturday, June 15th, 11am-1pm, Troy Public Library

## Register

- » By mail until the 15th day prior to each Election Day
- » In-person from the 14th day prior through Election Day at the City Clerk's Office
- » Requirements to register: US Citizen, 18 years old by the next Election Day

## Vote Absentee

- » Anyone can apply for an Absentee Ballot ("No-Reason AV")
- » Register for the Permanent Absentee Voter List (PAV) to get the absentee application automatically mailed to you 75 days before each election
- » City Clerk's Office hours the weekend prior to each Election Day:  
Friday until 5pm; Saturday 8am-4pm

## Work as an Election Inspector

- » \$12 per hour plus paid training, and bonus for Chairpersons
- » Work with voters in voting precincts or in the Absentee Counting Board in City Hall
- » Any registered voter in Michigan can work as an Election Inspector
- » Students can work if they are 16 or 17, and a US Citizen

For more information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at  
248.524.3316 or email [clerk@troymi.gov](mailto:clerk@troymi.gov)