

# LWV-AAA Lunch & Learn

## Voting During the Pandemic

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MAY 29, 2020



# Agenda

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- Expanded Voting Rights Review – Proposal 18-3 and other measures
- Lessons for the rest of 2020 learned during the May, 2020 Special Elections
- Absent Voter Ballots (“Voting by Mail”)
- Health & Safety in Polling Locations and Absent Voter Count Boards
- Federal Funds for Election Administration
- Election Inspector Recruitment & Training
- Election Security
- Outreach Initiatives
- Q & A

# Our Expanded Voting Rights

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Proposal 18-3 constitutionally guaranteed:

- Automatic Voter Registration (with SOS Driver License/State ID transaction)
- Voter registration up to and on Election Day at City or Township Clerk's office
- No reason absentee voting
- The right to a secret ballot
- 45 day ballot delivery to military or overseas voters
- Straight-party voting
- Post-election audits

Plus:

- Online voter registration
- 1<sup>st</sup> time voters can receive an absentee ballot even if they register by mail/registration drive

# Voter Registration

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Register up to and on ***Election Day***

- Deadline to register to vote online, by mail, registration drive, at the SOS, public services agency or at the county is 15<sup>th</sup> day prior to election
- Deadline to register to vote in-person at City/Township Clerk is 8:00 pm on Election Day.

Voters who register in-person within 14 days can vote an absentee ballot or at polling location

Voters can register online at **Michigan.gov/VoterRegistration**

- Must have a MI Driver License/State ID & know the last 4 digits of Social Security Number

# Gleanings from May, 2020 Elections

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50 elections in 33 counties and 200 municipalities

High turnout (25%) relative to the type of elections occurring

Voters overwhelmingly chose to vote by Absent Voter Ballot

Voters still had the ability to vote at a polling location (at least 1 in every city/township)

PPE provided to poll workers

**Clerks and poll workers are up to the task in August & November**

# Absentee Voting

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Safe, convenient & secure

What reason? No reason! Vote “early” / “by mail”

Registered voters submit SIGNED application by mail, email, fax, in-person to City/Township Clerk

Deadlines

Must submit an application for each election voter wants an absentee ballot (military/overseas civilians exempted)

- Dual Applications for August & November

Voters who register to vote on Election Day may receive Absent Voter Ballot

Ballot must be received by City/Township Clerk by 8:00pm on Election Day

**Every City/Township Clerk is open for voters during the weekend prior to Election Day – always!**

# Absent Voter Ballot Applications

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All registered voters will receive an *application* in the mail soon

Dual application for August and November ballots

Voter can decide whether they want to submit the application

## Permanent Absent Voter List

- Available to voters in all Washtenaw County (and in most of the state)
- Voter will receive an *application* for an Absentee Ballot prior to every election.
- Make request to City/Twp Clerk by:
  - Phone, email, text, mail
  - Checking the box on an Absentee Ballot Application
  - Submit request online at **Washtenaw.org/Voters** or at **a2gov.org (Ann Arbor City voters only)**

# Absent Voter Ballot Process

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Registered voter makes a signed request for Absent Voter Ballot

City/Township Clerk receives app, processes it immediately

- Compares signature on app to voter registration record, issues a ballot with a unique number

Clerk sends ballot by mail or hands it to voter in-person

- No one other than the voter can pickup an absentee ballot

Voter marks ballot, places it in return envelope, and signs envelope

Ballot must be delivered to City/Township Clerk by 8:00 PM on Election Day

- Only the voter, a family member or person residing in voter's household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver

Clerk receives ballot and again verifies signature

Clerk delivers ballot to Precinct or Absent Voter Count Board to be tabulated on Election Day.



# Accuracy, not Speed

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Results may take longer to report in August & November given Absent Voter Ballot volume.



# Pending Legislation

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Poll Workers in shifts in Absent Voter Counting Board (SB 0756 of 2020)

Opening Absent Voter Ballot Envelopes the day before election (SB0757 of 2020)

Centralizing Absent Voter Count Boards for multiple cities/townships (HB 5141 of 2019)

Allow certain military voters to return Absent Voter Ballot electronically (SBs 0297 & 0117 of 2019)

# Health & Safety of Voters & Poll Workers

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Secretary of State will provide guidelines

Social distancing measures will be followed

PPE to be provided:

- Masks, sneeze guards, single-use peripherals, hand sanitizer & other sanitizing solutions, floor markings
- Secretary of State to provide with CARES funds
- City/Township Clerks providing themselves
- County exploring where to bridge any gaps

# Federal Funds for Election Administration

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Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

- State & Local governments (500,000+ in population)

Secretary of State using to provide:

- PPE, grants for additional ballot tabulators, other supplies

# Poll Workers Needed!

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Opportunities throughout the county, particularly in more populated areas

Existing Poll Workers in 'high risk' groups may refrain from serving this year

Remote training options

Any registered voter can serve as well as individuals 16-17 years old.

Great way to learn about democratic process firsthand, make a difference & earn a paycheck

Recruiting methods

- City/Township newsletters, social media, word of mouth, SOS initiatives (Democracy MVP)
- **[Washtenaw.org/PollWorker](https://Washtenaw.org/PollWorker)**

# Election Security

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Paper ballots

Logic and Accuracy Testing of every voting device

- Public Accuracy test process

Voting device security features

Bi-partisan boards of Election Inspectors, County & State Canvassers

Thorough County systems protection, testing & contingency plans for results reporting and other potential Election Day problems

Post-election audits

- Performance audits
- Risk-Limiting Audits

# Outreach Initiatives

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Trainings for Clerks & Election Inspectors

Social Media Outreach for Permanent Absent Voter List, Poll Worker recruitment

County & Local Partnerships with Michigan Secretary of State, committee participation

- County/State of MI - Election Cyber Security Partnership

Registration Drives - Washtenaw County partnership w/LWV-AAA

Media engagement

City and Township outreach to voters via email, newsletters, social media

City of Ann Arbor – winner of a Federal Election Assistance Commission Award

# “How to Vote in Michigan” – Video Series

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4-part, factual, nonpartisan, FUN video series designed for 1<sup>st</sup> time voters but useful for all!

- [How to Register to Vote](#)
- [How to Prepare to Vote](#)
- [How to Vote Early by Absentee Ballot](#)
- [How to Vote on Election Day](#)

Available at:

- [Washtenaw.org/elections](http://Washtenaw.org/elections)
- [YouTube \(Search for “Washtenaw County Government”\)](#)
- [Facebook.com/ClerkRegister](https://www.facebook.com/ClerkRegister)





# One-Stop Shop for Voting Info

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## Mi.gov/vote

- Verify if & where you are registered
- Find your polling location
- View a sample ballot
- Track absentee ballot application and ballot
- Obtain an absentee ballot application
- ***Register to vote!***

# Questions?

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# Thank you!

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Let's be in touch:

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