Voter Identification In Michigan



Does Michigan have a Voter ID law?

Yes. Michigan's voter ID law requires registered voters with an acceptable photo ID to show it when appearing to vote in person. It also includes a secure alternative for those voters without photo ID. Registered voters who do not have an acceptable photo ID, or who do not have one with them when they go to vote, can verify their identity by taking an oath and signing a legal form called an affidavit. This secure alternative ensures that no Michigan voter is denied their constitutional right to vote. Michigan has had this voter ID law since 1996, and voters enshrined this law into our state constitution when they overwhelmingly voted to approve Proposal 2 of 2022.

Why don't some registered voters have a photo ID when they go to vote?

There are many reasons why a registered voter may not have a photo ID when they go to vote. Some may have forgotten their photo ID at home. Others may have had their photo ID stolen shortly before the election. Still others, such as younger voters, homeless voters, and those who don't drive, may not have photo ID at all.

I need to show my photo ID for so many things, such as getting a library card or buying alcohol. Shouldn't everyone be required to show a photo ID before voting?

You don't have a constitutional right to get a library card or buy alcohol. You do have a constitutional right to vote. This is why Michigan's voter ID law must contain a secure alternative for those who may not have a photo ID when they go to vote. No registered voter should be denied their constitutional right to vote simply because they don't have a photo ID or they didn't bring their photo ID with them to vote.

How many voters verify their identity by signing the affidavit?

The vast majority of registered voters in Michigan verify their identity by showing their photo ID. We don't yet have final numbers for the November 2024 General Election, but in November 2020 more than 5.5 million registered voters voted in the election, and only 0.2% of those voters verified their identity by signing the affidavit.



