

Everything you need to know about voting in Dearborn in 2026

It's time to vote once again, Dearborn!

The 2026 midterms are only a few short weeks away and ballots are already in the hands of voters around the city. The ballot is chock-full of critical races, the kind that will decide what Michigan looks like for years to come.

Here's everything you need to know about how to vote in person or by mail.

When is Election Day and what are my voting options?

The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Anyone in line by 8 p.m. is eligible to vote.

You can cast your vote prior to election day via absentee ballot or early voting. Absentee ballots are already available and can be returned any time before 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Cities are also required to offer early in-person voting. In Dearborn, the early voting location for all residents is the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center at 15801 Michigan Avenue from Saturday, Oct. 24 through Sunday, Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Who can vote in the midterm elections?

To vote in Dearborn, you need to be 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of the City.

How do I check if I'm registered to vote?

If you're not sure if you're registered, the fastest and most efficient way is to consult the Michigan Voter Information Center at Michigan.gov/Vote. There, you can see if you're registered and put in details to get an Absentee Ballot. You can also call the City Clerk's Office at 313-943-2010 with questions.

How do I register to vote in Michigan?

Registering to vote in Michigan is relatively easy and very quick. If you have a Michigan driver's license, the fastest way to register is online at Michigan.gov/Vote. You'll need to affirm you're a U.S. citizen, a Michigan resident, and at least 17.5 years old. You'll need to authorize the Secretary of State's Office to use your stored signature — usually in the system from when you got your driver's license — for your registration. Those 16 or older can pre-register to vote, which means when they turn 18, they will immediately be eligible to vote.

From there, input your driver's license number. You'll affirm your information as it appears on your license, input the last four digits of your Social Security number, and then answer a few more questions.

You can also register by mail by printing and mailing in the forms from the Michigan Voter Information Center site, which are [available](#) in many languages. Finally, you can register in person by bringing a photo ID to the Dearborn Clerk's Office at 16901 Michigan Avenue.

The deadline to register online or by mail is 15 days before the election — which, for the upcoming general election, is Oct. 19. You are still able to register in-person at the City Clerk's Office as late as Election Day itself.

Where is my polling location?

Visit Michigan.gov/Vote to find your precinct's polling location and a list of your Michigan districts, early voting locations and drop box locations.

What is on my ballot?

This ballot is a long one, so don't be concerned if it takes you a little while to fill it out.

To check specifically what's on your ballot, visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at Michigan.gov/Vote, select "What's on the ballot?" and then enter your jurisdiction (Dearborn). You can also see the ballot on your own voter information page, which you can access by entering your driver's license number or other identifying information at this link. There are also sample ballots available at the City Clerk's office.

Unlike in the primary election, you can vote for multiple parties in the general election. You have a constitutional right to a private ballot in Michigan, and no one will know how you voted.

What should I bring to vote?

If you choose to vote in person, the process will go fastest if you bring a photo ID. That can be a driver's license, a passport, a tribal card with photos, or a student ID — a number of things can work as long as the identification comes from a government institution and has a photo attached.

However, if you don't have one or forget to bring it with you, State law allows you to instead fill out an affidavit confirming your identity. On that form, you'll confirm your name and address. Falsifying any information on the form is considered perjury, which comes with fines or jail time.

How do I vote by mail?

In Michigan, you can choose to vote by mail, for any reason, by requesting an absentee ballot. You can do so [online](#) at Michigan.gov/Vote or FVAP.gov for overseas voters. Voters with disabilities can also request an accessible ballot.

You have the right to be on what is referred to as the permanent ballot list, which means the Dearborn Clerk will automatically send you a ballot for every election. If you're on that list, the Clerk's office began mailing those ballots on Sept. 24.

You can check if you're on the permanent ballot list by putting your information in at Michigan.gov/Vote Look for a box in the top corner labeled "Absentee Ballot." You can check your status by seeing if it says "yes" or "no" under "Permanent Ballot List." If you're not already on the list, you can request to be added to it when you request your absentee ballot.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is 5 p.m. on the Friday before the election, which for this election is Oct. 30. The Clerk's office will mail it promptly to get it to you by Tuesday, Nov. 3, but if it doesn't arrive in time, you can still visit your polling place on Election Day, ask them to spoil the absentee ballot, and vote in person.

In order for your absentee ballot to count, it must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day; postmarks don't count. If you're returning it by mail, most experts recommend putting it in the mail no later than 7-10 days before the election to give it time to make it back to the clerk. If you're running later than that (or want to ensure it arrives in time), it's recommended to use a drop box instead. Dearborn has six drop boxes where voters can return their absentee ballots. You can look up drop box locations in Dearborn by inputting your address at Michigan.gov/Vote

Who can I ask if I have more questions on voting in Michigan?

The Dearborn Clerk's Office at 313-943-2010 or Elections@Dearborn.gov. The staff are extensively trained in election administration, and can answer your questions.