

FACTS ABOUT VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING

REGISTERING TO VOTE IN BIG RAPIDS

Persons who are living in the City of Big Rapids and wish to change their voter registration to Big Rapids, which allows them to vote in any election held in the City, may do so as follows:

- Register at the Secretary of State Office. The address on your Michigan driver's license is also your voter registration address. These two addresses must agree. Therefore, if you register to vote in the City, you also have to change your driver's license address to within the City.
- Register at the Big Rapids City Clerk's Office, if living within the City limits.
- By completing and mailing a Mail-In-Voter Registration Application (*see note on back page).
- Register through other designated agencies.

[If your residency is in one of the area townships, you will be registered to vote in that township].

If you register to vote in Big Rapids, your registration elsewhere will be canceled.

DUE DATE TO REGISTER FOR ANY ELECTION

Persons wishing to vote in an election must be registered thirty days prior to that election.

QUALIFICATIONS TO REGISTER TO VOTE

To register to vote, State Law requires you must be:

- A U.S. citizen. • A Michigan resident
- Age 18 by Election Day.

WHERE TO VOTE:

The City of Big Rapids consists of five voting precincts. State Law requires that registered voters vote at the polling place established for the precinct in which they live and are registered. City voting precincts are as follows:

- Precinct 1: Community Library
428 S. Michigan Avenue
- Precinct 2 : Big Rapids City Hall
226 N. Michigan Avenue
- Precinct 3 : B.R. Public Safety Bldg.
435 N. Michigan Avenue
- Precinct 4: MOISD Career Center
15830 190th Ave.
(S. Bronson Avenue)
- Precinct 5: Riverview School
509 Willow Ave.

If you live in and are registered in one of the area townships, you must report to the township polling place on Election Day to vote. Contact your Township Clerk for specific information.

WHAT IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE A REGISTERED VOTER OF BIG RAPIDS

If you are a registered voter elsewhere (City or State), you may wish to remain registered there. Even though you may be absent from your community on Election Day, you may still vote through the mail by obtaining an Absentee Voter's Ballot. To do so, you must make a written request for an Absentee Voter's Ballot to your hometown Clerk. An Application for an Absentee Voter's Ballot may be obtained for this purpose (*see note on back page). Once you have made the request, and your hometown Clerk has received it, your Clerk will mail you an Absentee Voter's Ballot. You must vote your Absentee Voter's Ballot and return it to your hometown Clerk by Election Day.

Remember to make your request in a sufficient amount of time before the election date to allow for the time necessary for mailing of the ballot and return of the ballot through the postal system. The last date that you may request an Absentee Voter's Ballot be mailed to you is by 2:00 p.m. on the Saturday preceding the election.

IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION

Thirty days prior an election - Last day to register to vote for the next election.

Saturday before an election -Requests for mailing Absentee Voter Ballots must be received at your local City Clerk's Office by 2:00 p.m.

ELECTION DAY - Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Absentee Ballots must be back in your local Clerk's office.

IMPORTANT 2012 ELECTION DATES:

February 28, 2012 – Presidential Primary

August 7, 2012 - Primary

November 6, 2012 – General Election

* **NOTE** -- Mail-in-Voter Registration and Requests for Absentee Ballot forms may be obtained through the Michigan Secretary of State Website as follows:

www.michigan.gov/sos - "Elections in Michigan" – "Publications and Forms" – "Absent Balloting Forms & Instructions" - "Absentee Voter Ballot Request".

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions pertaining to your voter registration or the election process, please feel free to contact the Big Rapids City Clerk's Office at 592-4000. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

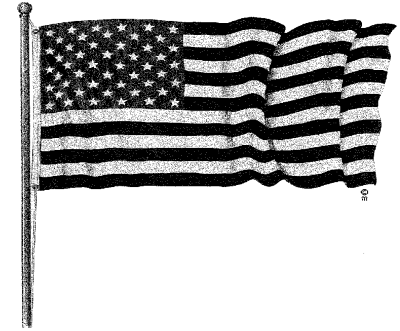
LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE DATES:

January 30, 2012 – Presidential Primary

July 9, 2012 – August Primary

October 9, 2012 – General Election

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A simple guide to help Ferris State University students and residents with their questions about voter registration and voting in the City of Big Rapids.

Big Rapids City Clerk's Office
231-592-4000