

# IMPORTANT

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ABSENT VOTERS

- Step 1. Enclosed you will find voting instructions as to the method of voting. Read these carefully and then vote the ballot.
- Step 2. After voting a ballot, place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve (if any). If a secrecy sleeve is not provided, refold the ballot to conceal your votes.
- Step 3. Place the ballot or ballots in the return envelope and securely seal the envelope.
- Step 4. Sign and date the return envelope in the place designated. Your signature must appear on the return envelope or the ballot will not be counted. If you are disabled or otherwise unable to mark the ballot and require assistance in voting your absent voter ballot, have the person who assisted you complete the section on the return envelope entitled **"TO BE COMPLETED ONLY IF VOTER IS ASSISTED IN VOTING BY ANOTHER PERSON"**.
- Step 5. Deliver the return envelope by 1 of the following methods:
- Place the necessary postage upon the return envelope and deposit it in the United States mail or with another public postal service, express mail service, parcel post service, or common carrier.
  - Deliver the envelope personally to the office of the clerk, to the clerk, or to an authorized assistant of the clerk.
  - In either (a) or (b), a member of the immediate family of the voter including a father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, or grandchild or a person residing in the voter's household may mail or deliver a ballot to the clerk for the voter.
  - You may request by telephone that the clerk who issued the ballot provide assistance in returning the ballot. The clerk is required to provide assistance if you are unable to return your absent voter ballot as specified in (a), (b), or (c) above, if it is before 5 p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election, and if you are asking the clerk to pick up the absent voter ballot within the jurisdictional limits of the city, township, or village in which you are registered. Your absent voter ballot will then be picked up by the clerk or an election assistant sent by the clerk. All persons authorized to pick up absent voter ballots are required to carry credentials issued by the clerk. If using this absent voter ballot return method, do not give your ballot to anyone until you have checked their credentials.
- Step 6. The ballot must reach the clerk or an authorized assistant of the clerk before the close of the polls on election day. An absent voter ballot received by the clerk or assistant of the clerk after the close of the polls on election day will not be counted.

### Warning

All of the following actions are violations of the Michigan election law and are illegal in this state:

- To vote an absent voter ballot at a meeting or gathering at which other people are voting absent voter ballots.
- For a person who is assisting an absent voter in marking the ballot to suggest or in any manner attempt to influence the absent voter on how he or she should vote.
- For a person who is present and knows that a person is voting an absent voter ballot to suggest or in any manner attempt to influence the absent voter on how he or she should vote.
- For a person other than those listed in these instructions to return, offer to return, agree to return, or solicit to return an absent voter ballot to the clerk.
- For a person other than the absent voter; a person listed in these instructions; or a person whose job it is to handle mail before, during, or after being transported by a public postal service, express mail service, parcel post service, or common carrier, but only during the normal course of his or her employment to be in possession of a voted or unvoted absent voter ballot.

## VOTING INSTRUCTIONS – GENERAL ELECTION

**TO VOTE:** Completely darken the oval opposite each choice as shown.

**IMPORTANT:** To mark your ballot, use only a black or blue ink pen. **DO NOT USE ANY OTHER INK COLOR!**

**PARTISAN SECTION:** To vote the partisan section of the ballot, you may cast a "straight ticket," a "split ticket," or a "mixed ticket."

**Straight Ticket:** Vote the party of your choice. Nothing further needs to be done in the partisan section.

**Split Ticket:** You may vote a straight ticket AND vote for individual candidates of your choice.

**Mixed Ticket:** Vote for the individual candidates of your choice in each office.

**NONPARTISAN and PROPOSAL SECTIONS of the ballot, (if any) must be voted separately.**

**DO NOT** vote for more candidates than indicated under each office title.

**WRITE-IN CANDIDATES:** To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on the ballot, write or place the name of that candidate in the blank space provided and completely darken the oval. This must be done even if you cast a straight party vote. Do not cast a write-in vote for a candidate whose name is already printed on the ballot for that office.

**CHECK BOTH SIDES OF THE BALLOT:** This ballot has two sides. Be certain to check the reverse side of the ballot.

**WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED VOTING:** Place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve so that votes cannot be seen and the numbered stub is visible. Return the ballot to the election official stationed at the tabulator. (If voting by absentee ballot, follow the instructions provided by the clerk for returning the ballot.)

**NOTE:** If you make a mistake, return your ballot to the election official and obtain a new ballot. Do not attempt to erase or correct any marks made in error.