

# BE A REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE VOTER.



**TRUST BLACK WOMEN TO MAKE PERSONAL DECISIONS  
THAT ARE BEST FOR US AND OUR FAMILIES.**

**VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 5.**

**I AM A  
REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE  
VOTER**

[f](#) [@](#) [t](#) BLACKWOMENSJRJ  
[BLACKWOMEN.VOTE](#)

# BLACK WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE ISSUES

**COST OF LIVING:** The cost of living is a top concern for Black women voters in Michigan, with 88% of respondents indicating that lowering the cost of living and inflation is extremely or very important when thinking about getting out to vote. The economic challenges posed by rising prices for housing, healthcare, and essential goods significantly impact their ability to maintain financial stability and provide for their families. These economic pressures are closely tied to reproductive justice, which asserts that all individuals should have the right to have children, or not to have children, and raise the children they have in safe and supportive environments. When the cost of living becomes burdensome, it restricts the resources available to Black women, making it harder to exercise these rights freely. Ensuring that Black women in Michigan have access to affordable living conditions is essential not only for economic security, but also for the full realization of reproductive justice. (Source: IOOV 2024 Survey)

**RACISM / RACIAL JUSTICE:** Racism and racial justice are critical issues for Black women voters in Michigan, with 55% of respondents reporting that they have experienced racial and gender bias within the healthcare system. This discrimination not only affects their access to quality healthcare, but it also undermines their overall well-being and the safety of their families. Reproductive justice is deeply intertwined with racial justice, as it advocates for the right to live in a society free from discrimination, where Black women can make autonomous decisions about their bodies and their families. Addressing systemic racism is crucial for ensuring that Black women in Michigan can exercise their reproductive rights without fear of bias or discrimination, making racial justice a fundamental aspect of reproductive justice. (Source: IOOV 2024 Survey)

**HEALTHCARE:** Healthcare is a major concern for Black women voters in Michigan, with 85% of respondents emphasizing the importance of increasing access to mental healthcare as a critical issue when thinking about getting out to vote. Additionally, 55% of Black women have reported experiencing racial and gender bias within the healthcare system, which further complicates their ability to receive equitable care. These healthcare concerns are directly linked to reproductive justice, which advocates for the right to health and bodily autonomy, free from discrimination and bias. Without access to quality, unbiased healthcare, including mental health services, Black women are hindered in their ability to make informed and empowered decisions about their reproductive lives. Ensuring that healthcare is accessible, affordable, and free from bias is not just a health issue, but it's also a fundamental component of advancing reproductive justice for Black women in Michigan. (Source: IOOV 2024 Survey)

## QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to prompt candidates to address the key concerns of Black women voters in Michigan while emphasizing the importance of reproductive justice in their policy platforms.

- How will you address the rising cost of living in Michigan to ensure that Black women and their families can afford stable housing and essential services, recognizing that economic security is crucial for making informed reproductive choices?
- What specific policies will you implement to combat racial and gender bias in Michigan's healthcare system, ensuring that Black women receive equitable and quality care that is essential for their reproductive health and overall well-being?
- How do you plan to expand access to affordable healthcare, including mental health services, for Black women in Michigan, ensuring that they can make empowered decisions about their reproductive lives without facing barriers due to cost or discrimination?
- What actions will you take to promote racial justice in Michigan, understanding that addressing systemic racism is critical to ensuring that Black women can live in safe, supportive environments and make reproductive choices free from discrimination?
- Given the challenges Black women face in Michigan's healthcare system, how will you ensure that all women have the right to make decisions about their bodies and their reproductive health without interference or bias?

## YOUR RIGHTS

It's illegal to intimidate voters and a federal crime to "intimidate, threaten, [or] coerce ... any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of [that] other person to vote or to vote as she may choose."

What to do if you experience voter intimidation:

- Report intimidation to the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA [en Español].
- Report intimidation to your local election officials. Their offices will be open on Election Day.
- You can also report the issue to the ACLU of Michigan: Email [votingrights@aclumich.org](mailto:votingrights@aclumich.org) or call (313) 578-6800.

# MICHIGAN 2024 VOTING GUIDELINES

This Voter Guide is intended to be used solely for educational purposes and is not meant to support or oppose any candidate or political party. Any use of this Voter Guide should be for 501(c)(3)-compliant purposes only. This Voter Guide shall not be used for any partisan, political, or electioneering activities by any organization or individual.

## Your Plan to Vote should include answers to the following questions:

### AM I REGISTERED TO VOTE?

**CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION STATUS** at <https://vote.civiction.org/register/iamarjvoter/> to ensure that you have not been purged from the voter roll in your state.

#### Voter Registration Deadlines:

- > **Online registration deadline:** Monday, October 21, 2024
- > **Register by mail deadline:** Must be received by Monday, October 21, 2024
- > **In-person registration deadline:** Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. EST

### HOW WILL I VOTE?

#### Early Voting:

Early voting in Michigan begins Saturday, October 26.

Early voting in Michigan ends Sunday, November 3.

You will have at least 9 days—and up to 29 days, depending on where you live—to vote in person before all statewide and federal elections. You can cast your ballot from Saturday, October 26, through Sunday, November 3, at an early voting site. Check the Michigan Department of State website for more information on where to vote.

You also can vote early and in person by going to your city's or township clerk's office and filling out an absentee ballot.

#### Absentee/Mail-in Voting:

Any registered voter can request a no-excuse absentee ballot. The last day to request an absentee ballot is Friday, November 1, by 5 p.m. by mail (received) and online, and Monday, November 4, by 4 p.m. in person. You can apply for an absentee ballot:

- > **Online:** Fill out an absentee ballot application on the Michigan Secretary of State's website.
- > **By mail:** Download, print, and complete an application from the state's voter information portal. Send it to your city or township clerk's office or call your clerk's office to request an application be mailed.
- > **In person:** Visit your city's or township clerk's office to complete an application. If you are registered at your current address, you can request an absentee ballot in person at your city or township clerk's office.

Or you can use an absentee ballot tool to prepare your application.

**In-Person Voting on Election Day:** If you are voting in person on November 5, make a plan that allows time for longer lines than usual. Stay in line until you vote, no matter what time it is, and no matter what anyone tells you. If you are in line when the polls close, you are still entitled to vote.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters who are in line at their polling location by 8 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, will be able to vote.

- > Use the state's voter information portal to find your polling place.
- > Sample ballots will be available on the Secretary of State's website.

Find your local polling location, map out your route to get there, including parking, and (whenever possible) go vote with other members of your community. Wear comfortable shoes and bring snacks and water. If you need more information about your polling location, contact your state's voter information portal.

### HOW IS MY COMMUNITY VOTING?

**Share Your Plan to Vote** with your family, friends, and community. Help them develop a Plan to Vote. Support each other and vote together, no matter how you vote. Send in your ballots on the same day, vote early together, or plan on getting in line as a community on November 5.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- > Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2024.
- > The deadline to request a ballot by mail for absentee voting is Friday, November 1, by 5 p.m. by mail (received) and online, and Monday, November 4, by 4 p.m. in person.
- > The early voting period runs from Saturday, October 26, through Sunday, November 3.

Michigan requires at least 9 days of early voting for statewide and federal elections. Vote early and in person by going to your city's or township clerk's office and filling out an absentee ballot.

See <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections> for additional information.

## HOW TO VOTE IN MICHIGAN

### TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN MICHIGAN, AN INDIVIDUAL MUST:

- > Be a Michigan resident
- > Be a United States citizen
- > Be 17.5 years of age and 18 by Election Day to vote (eligible 16- and 17-year-olds can pre-register to vote)

## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO VOTE IN MICHIGAN?

### In-Person Voter ID Requirements

Every Michigan voter who votes in person during early voting or on Election Day must comply with the requirement by showing photo identification or signing an affidavit attesting that they are not in possession of photo identification.

### Voters with photo ID:

Voters can satisfy the ID requirement by showing a Michigan driver's license or a Michigan personal identification card. Voters who do not possess either document may show any of the following forms of photo ID as long as it is current:

- > Driver's license or personal ID card issued by another state; federal, state, or local government-issued photo ID; U.S. passport; Military photo ID card; student photo ID card from an educational institution; Tribal photo ID card

You can vote in person on Election Day from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. at your assigned polling place. If you are in line by 8 p.m., you have the right to vote.

### Voters Without ID or Not Found in Registry on Polling Day:

Voters without photo ID: Michigan election law anticipates that not all voters will have photo ID. Voters who do not have an acceptable photo ID or forgot to bring an acceptable photo ID to the polls can vote like any other voter by signing an affidavit. Questions regarding the voter identification requirement can be directed to your local city's or township clerk's office. For more election-related information, visit [www.Michigan.gov/Vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/Vote).

State of Michigan Provisional Ballot Form

*COVID protections: Most voting locations will be equipped with PPE and social distancing guidelines. Check with your County Clerk for more information.*

*Polling locations and times may vary during Early Vote and Election Day.*

*Check with your County Clerk and Secretary of State for information, including locations and times.*

## RECENT VOTING CHANGES IN MICHIGAN

Laws passed in 2023 made several changes to state election law. Among them:

- > Allowing at least 9 days of early voting for statewide and federal elections
- > Eliminating a prohibition on hiring transportation to bring voters to polling places
- > Providing state funding for drop boxes and prepaid return envelopes for absentee ballots
- > Expanding the list of acceptable photo IDs

In March, a federal court approved a new map that altered the boundaries of 15 Detroit-area state House legislative districts. A 2021 map had been ruled unconstitutional.



### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Michigan Secretary of State:  
<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections>