

Michigan Primary Election: August 7, 2018

July 9th Deadline to Register to Vote

Promoting Voter Registration & GOTV



Sadly, only one fifth (17.4%) of all registered voters cast their ballots during the 2014 Michigan primary election. The primary election is where most state and local election winners are decided due to gerrymandering.

The stakes are high in the 2018 election. The people we elect will make decisions on issues such as: racial justice; women's reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, economic justice, health care, immigration reform, environmental/water rights; gun violence; prison reform and a wide range of other issues. Several important proposals will be on the General election ballot this fall.

In 2016, 223,195 Michiganders were not registered to vote. Let's help improve that record. *Any U.S. citizen who resides in Michigan and will be at least 18 on or before August 7th has until Monday July 9th to register to vote in the primary.* Here are things you and your congregation/community organization can do boost the number of people who vote in the primary:



1. Encourage (email or face to face) people in your organization to confirm that they are registered to vote by going to the Secretary of State website: <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/MVIC/>

2. This website will confirm your registration, tell you where to vote and tell you how to cast a vote by absentee if you won't be able to get to your polling place on August 7th. To apply for an absentee ballot go to: www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716_8728-21037--,00.html

**3. If people you know are NOT registered to vote, they can download an application to get registered at:
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf**

Voter registration application forms are available at these places:

- Secretary of State branch;
- Local county, city or township clerk's office;
- Offices of state agencies e.g., Dept. of Health & Human Services;
- Military recruitment centers; or
- Voter registration drives.

This application must be completed and mailed to your local clerk office and be postmarked by July 9th. Clerk addresses are found on the above MIVoterRegistration website.



4. If you have college students in your circles, make sure they are registered and do it in person at the clerk's office so they can get an absentee ballot. This will save them from having to go all the way back home to their residence to vote.

5. To boost voting in the primary, MUUSJN encourages UU's and other activists to participate in the "10-5-1" Get Out the Vote campaign published in the Detroit Free Press. This involves identifying 10 people you think are less likely to vote in the primary and sending them an email or post cards reminding them to vote on August 7th. Do this as a group project so several people in your congregation or organization each communicates with 10 people.

6. By August 1st, have your team of Get Out the Vote (GOTV) activists do face to face conversations with five of your 10 people about why their voting in the primary matters.

7. On August 7th, transport at least one of the 10 people to the polls.

MUUSJN will soon send this network more GOTV strategies that can be used to boost participation in this fall's election. Feel free to call or text me for more information at 248-224-5572 (cell).

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Together, we can do great things,

Randy Block, MSW, Director
Michigan UU Social Justice Network

