

Voting 101: Getting Started



Your right to vote is sacred. We administer elections in strict accordance with the law to ensure that Kent County's elections are **secure, transparent, fair, and accurate**. Whether you cast your ballot by voting absentee, early, or at the polls on Election Day, your vote will be counted.

1

Register to vote

Your first step is to make sure you're registered. Head to KentCountyVotes.com and find out if you're registered, or how you can get registered.

2

Decide how to vote

Next, make a plan about how you'll be voting. Check this pamphlet for the upcoming election dates in 2024, and make a decision whether you are going to vote absentee, early, or on Election Day.

3

Vote!

Once you know how you'd like to vote, you're on your way. Follow the voting instructions in this pamphlet.

Learn more at
KentCountyVotes.com

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[@KentCountyClerk](https://twitter.com/KentCountyClerk)



Lisa Posthumus Lyons
County Clerk/
Register of Deeds

County Administration Building
300 Monroe Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2288

Monday-Friday
8:00am - 4:45pm

clerk-register@kentcountymi.gov
(616) 632-7650



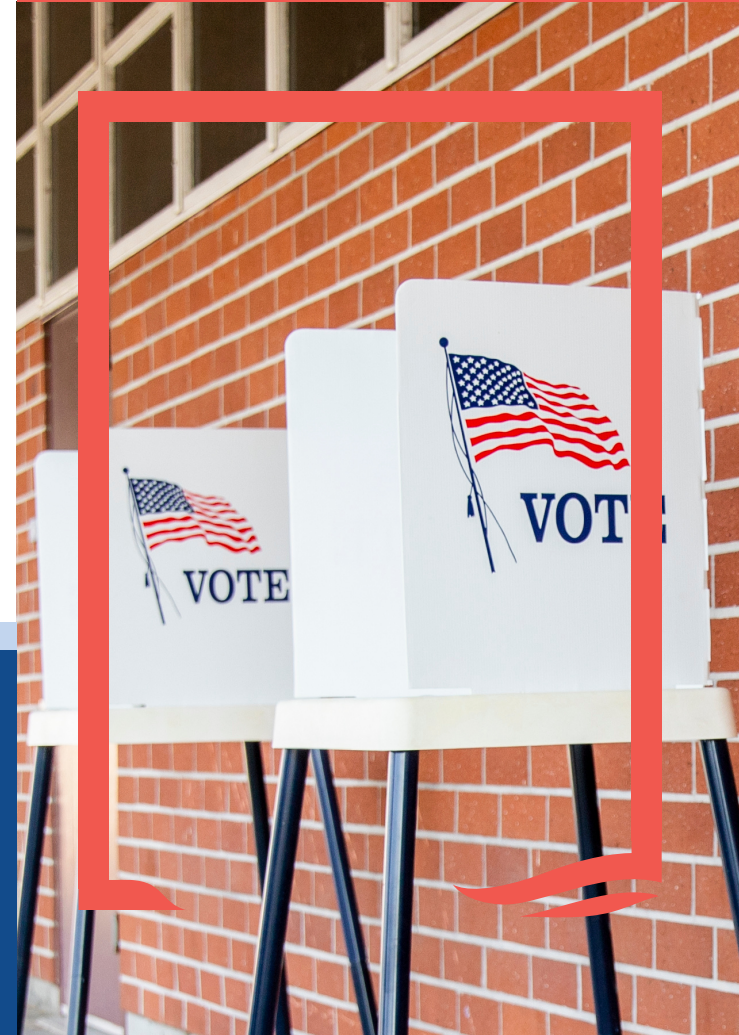
KentCountyVotes.com

Scan this QR code and head online to learn more about voting in Kent County!

2024 Kent County Voters Guide



Lisa Posthumus Lyons
County Clerk/Register of Deeds
Secure. Transparent. Fair. Accurate.



Upcoming Elections

Tuesday, February 27
Presidential Primary

Tuesday, May 7
Local Elections (in some precincts)

Tuesday, August 6
State Primary

Tuesday, November 5
General Election

Voter Registration

The first step to voting is to make sure you're registered! You do not have to re-register for each election unless you have moved and/or changed your name.

You can vote in the upcoming election if:

- You are a citizen of the U.S.
- You are at least 18 years of age on or before the next regularly scheduled election
- You have been a resident of the State of Michigan for at least 30 days prior to the election
- You registered 15 days prior to the election or registered in-person with your local city or township clerk in the final 14 days prior to Election Day

If you aren't sure about your voter registration, you can check online at [KentCountyVotes.com](https://www.kentcountyvotes.com)!

Do I need an ID?

During early voting or on the Election Day, you will be asked to show photo identification. If you have a photo ID, state law requires you to show it to vote. Otherwise, you'll sign an affidavit saying you are not in possession of a photo ID at the time you vote. Acceptable current photo IDs include the following:

- Michigan driver's license or State photo ID card
- Out-of-state driver's license
- Passport
- CPL permit
- Educational institution (e.g. college, university, trade school, etc.)



Three Ways To Vote

Let's cover the options to vote:
Absentee, Early, and on Election Day

Absentee Voting

How Do I Vote Absentee?

There are four easy steps to vote absentee:

1. Complete the application from your local clerk's office or online at [KentCountyVotes.com](https://www.kentcountyvotes.com). If you are on the permanent absentee ballot list you do not need to complete an application, as a ballot will automatically be mailed to you each election.
2. You will receive the ballot in the mail.
3. Vote. Voters must sign the back of their absentee ballot envelope so it can be verified with your signature on file.
4. Return your absentee ballot by placing it in one of your township or city drop boxes, mailing it (postage prepaid), or dropping it off in person at your local clerk's office.

You can apply for an absentee voter ballot by mailing or emailing a signed letter, post card, or absentee ballot application; in person at your local clerk's office; or if you are eligible, with a Federal Postcard Application.

Important Dates for Absentee Voting

- Absentee ballot applications are available 75 days prior to Election Day
- Absentee ballots can be obtained 45 days prior to Election Day
- To receive your absentee ballot in the mail, you must return a completed application to your local clerk's office by 5pm the Friday before Election Day
- You may also apply and pick up the absentee ballot in person at your local clerk's office by 4pm the day before Election Day
- Absentee ballots are due by 8pm on Election Day

Early Voting

Early voting occurs for State and Federal elections or if your township or city chooses to offer it for a local election.

There are 9 days of early voting ahead of the Presidential Primary, State Primary, and November General elections. This begins the second Saturday before and ends the first Sunday before Election Day. Early voting procedures are just like Election Day - show up, complete a voter application, mark your ballot, and place it into the tabulator. Visit [KentCountyVotes.com](https://www.kentcountyvotes.com) or contact your local clerk's office for your early voting site and schedule.

Election Day Voting

Polling locations are open 7am to 8pm. When you arrive at your polling location, an election inspector will ask you to fill out an Application to Vote to verify your name and address which appears on the list of registered voters assigned to that precinct. You will also be asked to show photo identification.

If you are in the incorrect precinct, you will be directed to the correct polling location to vote. You can verify your polling location and view a sample ballot by going to [KentCountyVotes.com](https://www.kentcountyvotes.com).