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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2018 Gubernatorial Election Update

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL CLERKS OFFICE

Following thorough proofing and extensive testing of ballots and programming for the November General Gubernatorial election, the absentee ballots are now ready for distribution. Local Calhoun County Clerks have been working diligently to place absent voter ballots in the mail this week. Voters who have requested an absent voter ballot should watch for their ballot to arrive in the mail soon!

Absent voter ballots are available to registered voters for all elections, and are a convenient method for casting a ballot when a voter is unable to attend the polls on Election Day.

A registered voter may request an Absent Voter ballot by submitting an application, letter or postcard to their local clerk. Applications are [available on-line](#) or from your local [City](#) or [Township](#) clerk's office. The request must be in writing, and include one of these six statutory reasons, along with the voter's signature.

A registered voter may obtain an absent voter ballot if they are:

- * age 60 years old or older
- * physically unable to attend the polls without assistance
- * expecting to be out of town on Election Day
- * unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons
- * appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.
- * in jail awaiting arraignment or trial

The voter, or an immediate family member, should mail, email, fax or personally deliver their signed application to their local clerk no later than 2:00 pm Saturday, November 3rd. The applicant may select any registered voter to return the application; however, this person must sign the certificate at the bottom of the application. Once the applicants request is received by the local clerk, their registration and signature will be verified; a ballot will be issued and mailed to the voter.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the local clerk by Election Day, November 6, 2018. Only the registered voter, a family member or person residing in the same household as the registered voter, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver the signed absent voter ballot to the local clerk's office.

The voters signature on the sealed absent voter ballot envelope will be verified to their signature on file. If the registered voter received assistance voting the ballot, then the signature of the person who helped must also be on the return envelope.

Please be assured, on Election Day election inspectors will process and tabulate all absent voter ballots, being cautious to protect the secrecy of the votes cast.

Additional absent voter information is available at michigan.gov/vote, co.calhoun.mi.us, or contact your local clerk.

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