Nursing Home Ombudsperson Voting Training FAQs 2026

1. Questions About Who Can Vote

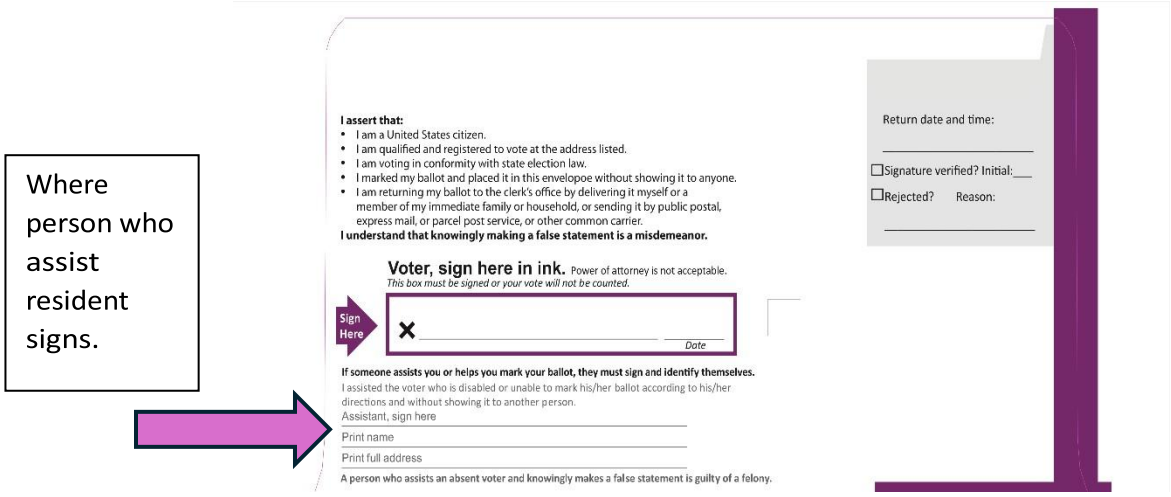
Please clarify that Michiganders who live in LTC settings do not check their rights to vote at the nursing home door.
That is correct. Everyone who meets the criteria to vote in our state is permitted to do so.
Are individuals with I/DD or dementia related conditions permitted to vote? Yes.

Are individuals under guardianship allowed to vote? Yes.

2. Questions About Voter Registration

If a resident under guardianship is interested in voting, who is responsible for registering them to vote?

Ultimately, the resident themselves. However, you can assist them by navigating online, or to register by mail. You can also take them to their local clerk's office and help them register there, also.



If a resident has a home in the community, but is temporarily at a nursing home for rehab, where do they vote? Can they have an absentee ballot mailed to this temporary address?

They will vote for candidates within their permanent home's jurisdiction (school board, mayor/supervisor, etc.). However, their absentee ballot can be mailed to their temporary

address. When requesting an absentee ballot, make sure you indicate the ”temporary” address.

With a voter who has a guardian, what address is to be used for the ballot? For example, if the resident's wife is his guardian, should the absentee ballot be sent to her home address or to the ward's permanent address at the nursing home? The Ballot should be sent to the voter's address—not to their guardian's address. If the guardian wants to ASSIST the resident in completing their ballot, then they must sign on the outside of the ballot that they have done so.

Also, is the guardian able to then provide the ballot to the ward, assist him with completing the ballot and then submit the ballot? The Clerk will send the ballot to the resident directly. The guardian can ASSIST the voter in completing the ballot. They cannot make the choices FOR the voter. The guardian can also bring the resident to a drop box or help the resident place their ballot into the mailbox.

What is the best way for a resident in a nursing home to determine if he is registered to vote and his polling location? If the resident is comfortable with the internet, then they can go to **Michigan.gov/vote** and determine their registration status and polling location. If not, you can contact your local clerk's office to ensure that you are register and to determine your local polling location and/or early voting locations.

3. Questions About Ballot Completion/Voter Signature/ID Requirements

Signature: If a resident cannot sign a ballot, who can assist him with his signature on the ballot? What if the resident who cannot sign is under a guardianship? The voter cannot be assisted with their signature. If they can even write an “x” or whatever marking on the signature line, that would be fine. On the “assisted” line, is where the guardian or person that assist the resident in completing their ballot must sign.

Signature: What happens if a voter's signature is not legible or has changed since the last voting time of the resident? A person's signature naturally may change from age 50 to 80 for example. The Clerk will check the signature on the ballot envelope against the AV ballot application. They are checking to see if the signatures are sufficiently similar to conclude that the same person requested and completed the ballot.
If clerk cannot do so, then they are required to contact the voter—either by phone, email, or text. Make sure the updated information is on file with the clerk's office. The clerk can check the signature against a voter registration application or an absent voter application—which may be closer to the voter's current signature.

Do residents need to present a valid photo ID to cast a vote? No. If they have one on them when they go to vote, then they must show it. If they appear at the precinct or

early voting location and do not have a photo ID, then they must sign an affidavit of identity.

4. **Questions About How to Vote by Absentee Ballot/In Person**

Can a nursing home staff member assist a resident with completing his ballot? Yes, but they must sign the ballot. However, they cannot handle the ballot AFTER the resident has completed their choices, unless they have been deputized by the local clerk's office.

Who can assist a resident in completing his ballot? For example, who can assist a voter with a disability like ALS? Or a voter who is blind? The voter may request an accessible absentee ballots for residents who may use assistive devices to complete their ballot. If they do not have a computer or otherwise use a non-accessible ballot, then anyone that the resident chooses can assist them.

Is it problematic if the same person, i.e. an activities director at a nursing home, ends up helping a number of residents in the same home to complete a ballot? It is each voter's choice on who assists them to vote.

Is it problematic, if the person at the nursing home who is assisting residents to complete ballots, is a member of a union? So long as the person assisting the resident is not a member of the VOTER's union, then it is ok. The person assisting cannot be a member of the voter's union or the voter's employer.

How are absentee ballots to be submitted? For example, can facility staff drop them off? Michigan law only allows certain people to handle a completed ballot: a person that lives with the voter, a voter's immediate family member, a person deputized by the local clerk's office, or a person in their normal course of business handles the mail (i.e. mail carrier).

Into what box should ballots be dropped - either postal box or a ballot collection box at local city hall? Either is fine. If placing it into a ballot drop box, make sure that it is for the correct jurisdiction. Just because the ballot comes to the facility, does not mean that the person is voting within that jurisdiction. (i.e. the facility may be in Ann Arbor, but the voter's home is in Jackson. The ballot needs to be placed in a drop box for the city of Jackson).

Can a nursing home have its own ballot drop box? You would need to consult your local clerk's office.

Can state staff come out and collect ballots from nursing home residents – either directly or by picking up from a special ballot box on site? State staff, no—unless they were deputized by the local clerk. Your local clerk's office can.

What are the restrictions for nursing home staff, or Ombudsman, in handling a completed ballot? (Any chain of custody concerns?) Do not handle a completed ballot, unless you have been deputized by the local clerk's office.

Can a nursing home do ballot completing as a group activity or should ballots be completed in privacy. No. They must be done in privacy.

What should a resident do if he is being blocked from voting? Is there an emergency number for assistance? Please call the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 800-292-5973 and/or 866 OUR VOTE

What about residents who would prefer to vote in person? What obligations exist re to transportation of these residents to the polls? Michigan law *allows* persons to be driven to the polls to vote. The restriction that was in place prior to 2024 was removed by the State Legislature.

Is early voting an option for nursing home residents? Yes! Any Michigander can vote early! Early Voting begins Oct. 24 and ends on Sunday, November 1. Depending on where the resident's home jurisdiction, they can go to any early voting station that serves that jurisdiction. Contact your county or local clerk's office for where and when the early voting locations are open for the November general election.