

Michigan Election Data Guide

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Michigan publishes its election data through the Department of State's Bureau of Elections, including precinct-level results. Precinct-level bulk files cover every November general election from 1998 to 2024. Every other election in the archive—primaries, presidential primaries, specials, and odd-year consolidated elections—has county-level results and turnout files that download as tab-delimited text through the [Michigan Voter Information Center](#) (MVIC). Precinct-level counts for those elections are viewable one contest at a time, but not as a bulk file. Registration and turnout series are published as PDFs, not as machine-readable files. The voter roll itself, the Qualified Voter File, is not published online; it is released only in response to a records request. In the data descriptions, we identify the locations of the data and their dedicated webpages.

The datasets available through the Michigan Department of State website and described in this guide are as follows:

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Election Results

Description

Official results are available for state elections held from August 4, 1998, through the present, reported at the precinct and county levels. All 50 elections in the archive, including primaries, presidential primaries, specials, and odd-year consolidated elections, can be read through the MVIC results interface by choosing an election, a county, a city or township, and an office. Precinct-level bulk files exist only for the 14 November general elections held between 1998 and 2024. Each is a zip archive of five tab-delimited text files: a votes file with one row per candidate per precinct, plus candidate, office, city/township, and county lookup files that join to it on numeric codes. County-level results and turnout files download from the same page for every election in the archive. Results cover federal, state, judicial, and university governing board offices along with statewide ballot proposals; local offices and local proposals are not included.

Dedicated webpage

<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/election-results-and-data> is the index for results, statistics, and reports, and carries a searchable table by year and report type.

The results interface is at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/votehistory/>.

The bulk files are served by

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/VoteHistory/GetPrecinctResultsFile?electionId=699>, which returns 2024GEN.zip for the November 5, 2024 general. The identifier is not the year, but an assigned number: 699 is 2024, 691 is 2022, 683 is 2020, and 41 is 1998. The full list is in the election dropdown's option values.

The county-level files come from the same identifier:

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/VoteHistory/GetElectionResultFile?electionId=699> returns 2024STATE_GENERAL_MI_CENR_BY_COUNTY.txt, and <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/VoteHistory/GetVoterTurnoutFile?electionId=699> returns 2024STATE_GENERAL_MI_CENR_TURNOUT.txt.

Variables

The five precinct files carry no header row, so field names exist only in the readme.txt packaged with each archive. The names below are the readme files, in file order, checked against the November 5, 2024 files on July 14, 2026. The two county-level files do carry a header row, and those names are reproduced exactly as the files spell them.

Candidate names file (2024name.txt)

- + Election Year [Four-digit year]
- + Election Type [PRI=Primary, GEN=General]
- + Office Code [Numeric; 0 carries poll book totals rather than a contest, and the readme's code list omits it. Other codes are described in the offices file]
- + District Code [Text, maximum length 5; import as text to preserve leading zeros]
- + Status Code [0=Regular Term, 1=Non-Incumbent, 2-4=Incumbent Partial Term, 5-7=Non-Incumbent Partial Term, 8=Partial Term, 9-10=New Judgeship]
- + Candidate ID# [Numeric; includes some negative numbers]
- + Candidate Last Name [Text, maximum length 40]
- + Candidate First Name [Text, maximum length 32]
- + Candidate Middle Name [Text, maximum length 32]
- + Candidate Party Name [Text, maximum length 5; added in 2008 and blank in earlier files. The readme lists eleven codes and omits NP, which carries most judicial and university board candidates and is not the same code as NPA]

Offices file (2024offc.txt)

- + Election Year
- + Election Type
- + Office Code
- + District Code [Text; import as text]
- + Status Code
- + Office Description [Text, maximum length 255; the full description of the office, district, status, and number of open positions]

Votes file (2024vote.txt)

- + Election Year

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- + Election Type
- + Office Code
- + District Code [Text; import as text]
- + Status Code
- + Candidate ID#
- + County Code [Numeric; joins to the county file]
- + City/Town Code [Numeric; joins to the cities file. 9999 is the {Statistical Adjustments} pseudo-jurisdiction rather than a place]
- + Ward Number [Numeric; zero-filled where not applicable]
- + Precinct Number [Numeric; 900 and above denotes an absent voter counting board, except 9999, which marks a statistical adjustment row]
- + Precinct Label [Text, maximum length 10; CB denotes an absent voter counting board, though the readme calls it AVCB]
- + Precinct #Votes [Numeric; the poll book total where Office Code is 0, and negative on statistical adjustment rows]

Cities file (2024city.txt)

- + Election Year
- + Election Type
- + County Code
- + City/Township Code
- + City/Township Description [Text, maximum length 50]

County file (county.txt)

- + County Code
- + County Name [Text, maximum length 64]

County results file (2024STATE_GENERAL_MI_CENR_BY_COUNTY.txt)

- + ElectionDate [YYYY-MM-DD]
- + OfficeCode(text)
- + DistrictCode(text)
- + StatusCode
- + CountyCode
- + CountyName

- + OfficeDescription
- + PartyOrder [Numeric ordering of the party on the ballot]
- + PartyDescription [Full party name, e.g. DEMOCRATIC, not the three-letter code used in the precinct files]
- + CandidateID
- + CandidateLastName
- + CandidateFirstName
- + CandidateMiddleName
- + CandidateFormerName
- + CandidateVotes
- + WriteIn(W)/Uncommitted(Z)
- + Recount(*)
- + Nomindated(N)/Elected(E) [Spelled "Nomindated" in the file]

Voter turnout file (2024STATE_GENERAL_MI_CENR_TURNOUT.txt)

- + County Code [Zero-padded to two digits, unlike every other file, which leaves it unpadded]
- + County Name [Suffixed with " COUNTY", unlike every other file]
- + County Voters

Notes for use

- + Bulk precinct files exist only for November general elections. For the other 35 elections in the archive, the download returns HTTP 200 with an empty body rather than an error, so a fetch succeeds and yields nothing. Precinct results for August primaries exist only as multi-part PDFs covering 2008 through 2020, the 2018 general is additionally posted as a seven-part raw data PDF set, and recount results are posted only for the 2022 statewide proposals.
- + The index and the PDF reports on www.michigan.gov scrape normally once a browser user agent is set. The bulk and county files on mvic.sos.state.mi.us sit behind Cloudflare and need a browser session; a user agent alone does not get them.
- + The file layout changes in 2024. Archives for 1998 through 2022 hold the text files at the root of the zip and end every data line with a trailing tab, which yields one more field than the layout documents. The 2024 archive nests its files under a

2024GEN/ directory and drops the trailing tab. A parser written for either era misreads the other.

- + Votes summed without deciding how to treat the {Statistical Adjustments} rows will not reproduce the certified totals, because those rows are negative.
- + Poll book totals in the precinct file do not reconcile with the county turnout file. For November 2024, they differ by 1,480 votes across 18 of the 83 counties. The Bureau's own dashboard documentation notes that counts drawn from voter history will not match tabulator-based results.
- + The first line of the county results file reads "TOTAL VOTER TURNOUT" but carries the sum of every candidate's votes across every contest, which for November 2024 is 17 times actual turnout. Both county-level files also close with a trailer line. Drop both before parsing.
- + County names are not stable across the files. The county file writes GD. TRAVERSE and ST. CLAIR where the county results file writes GRAND TRAVERSE and ST CLAIR, and the turnout file appends COUNTY to both. County Code is consistent and is the only safe join key.
- + The index says historical election data is available through the State of Michigan Archives and links to <https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/archives>, a retired page that redirects readers by notice to <https://www.michigan.gov/archivesofmichigan>. Neither page offers election data. The March 2016 special general is linked to mielections.us, which no longer resolves. Those results are still available from MVIC, filed under the March 8, 2016 presidential primary because the two shared an election date; that election's county results file carries all three state House contests. The retired page is also preserved in the Internet Archive.

Qualified Voter File

Description

The Bureau of Elections maintains the statewide voter roll with more than 1,500 local clerks under Public Act 441 of 1994. It is the source behind the registration counts, the voting dashboard, and voter history. Michigan does not make it available online. Extracts are released only on request to the Bureau of Elections, and the request is handled as a records request rather than a purchase from a price list. A requester chooses one geography per request (entire state, a county, a jurisdiction, a district, or a

single ward or precinct) and may add voter history, either all of it or named primary, general, school, or special elections, plus absent voter ballot information.

Dedicated webpage

<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/admin-info/qvf> is the Qualified Voter File page, though it serves election administrators and offers a reference manual rather than data. The request form is the Qualified Voter File Data Request Form, revised March 2026, at https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/02lehman/FOIA_FORM.pdf. Requests go to MDOS-FOIA@Michigan.gov or to the Bureau of Elections, PO Box 20126, Lansing, MI 48901-0726.

Variables

The fields below are those the request form states each list will include. They were not verified against a delivered file because obtaining one requires making a records request.

- + Complete name
- + Residential address
- + Mailing address [Where available]
- + Year of birth [Month and day are exempt from disclosure]
- + Registration date
- + Voter status [A=Active, CH=Challenged, V=Verify]
- + Voter ID
- + Voter history [Where available and requested]

Requests are also accompanied by an electronic list of jurisdiction codes, school codes, and county codes, and by a file layout documenting the codes used in specific fields.

Notes for use

- + The request form contradicts itself on format. Its first paragraph states that all electronic data will be in CSV file format; the Format line further down the same page states that all electronic data will be Fixed Length ASCII.
- + Delivery is by encrypted flash drive, collected in person or mailed, or by FTP if the requester already has FTP configured with the Bureau. Files are not sent by email. The form gives no price, noting only that cost increases greatly if absent voter data is needed for a specific region, so the fee is quoted per request.

- + Eight categories are exempt from disclosure and will not appear in an extract: the record that a person declined voter registration, the office that received a voter's application, driver's license or state identification card number, month and day of birth, telephone number, email address, digitized signature, and the last four digits of a Social Security number.

Voter Registration Statistics

Description

Two series report registration counts by county. An annual PDF, published each year from 2000 to 2025, gives active and all registered voters for each of the 83 counties at three points in the year: May, August, and November. A live count is published separately on MVIC and updates daily, with a downloadable file of the current registered total for each county and statewide figures for inactive registrations slated for cancellation.

Dedicated webpage

The annual PDFs are listed under report type "Registration totals" on <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/election-results-and-data>.

The 2025 edition is at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/Election-Results-and-Statistics/Registered-Voter-Count/2025-Registered-Voter-Count.pdf>.

The live count is at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/VoterCount/Index>, and its file is at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/VoterCount/DownloadFile>.

Variables

Annual registration totals PDF

- + County
- + May active registered voters
- + May all registered voters
- + August active registered voters
- + August all registered voters

- + November active registered voters
- + November all registered voters

Live count file (VoterCount.txt)

The file has no header row. Its two columns as of July 14, 2026 are:

- + County name [Left-justified, space-padded]
- + Registered voters [Right-justified, ending at column 30; all registrations, not active]

Notes for use

- + The live count file is served with content-type text/csv and named VoterCount.txt, but is fixed-width: 83 lines, every line exactly 30 characters, no delimiter and no header.
- + The live count moves daily and is not archived, so a figure taken from it cannot be reproduced later. The annual PDFs are the citable series, and they are page-formatted tables with no machine-readable equivalent.

Voter Registration and Turnout Statistics

Description

Two statewide series, each a single PDF, giving turnout and registration for every state general election from 1948 to 2024 and every state primary from 1978 to 2024. Both split presidential-cycle years from gubernatorial-cycle years into separate tables. The general election file reports number voting, number registered, number of active registered, voting age population, and turnout. Both were revised in September 2025.

Dedicated webpage

Both are listed under report type "Turnout statistics" on <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/election-results-and-data>. The general election series is at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/Election-Results-and-Statistics/General-Voter-Reg-Turnout-Stats.pdf> and the primary series at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/Election-Results-and-Statistics/Registered-Voter-Count/Primary-Voter-Registration-Turnout-Statistics.pdf>.

Variables

General election series

- + Year
- + Number Voting [The greatest number of votes cast for any single office for 1948 through 1974, and the poll book total from 1976 on]
- + Number Registered
- + Number of Active Registered [Compiled only since 2013; blank for earlier years]
- + Voting Age Population (VAP)
- + Turnout (% of VAP) [Percentage of voting age population, not of registered voters]

Primary series

- + Year
- + Number Voting
- + Number Registered
- + Voting Age Population (VAP)
- + Turnout (% of VAP) [Percentage of voting age population, not of registered voters]

Notes for use

- + The index lists the general election series as covering "2018 - 1948." The file runs to 2024 for presidential years and 2022 for gubernatorial years, so the label understates the coverage by three elections.
- + The turnout definition changed in 1976. Poll book totals were not kept before then, so earlier figures are the greatest number of votes cast for any single office, which is a floor rather than a count of voters. A turnout series spanning 1976 does not measure one quantity.
- + The registration column is not one series either. No statewide figure was compiled before 1956. Totals for 1976 through 1988 count only four-year active files, and 1990 through 1994 rest on the five-year files Public Act 142 of 1989 let clerks keep instead. Roughly 600,000 duplicate records were purged in 1998 when the Qualified Voter File came in, which depresses that year against its

neighbours. The 2020 jump follows the online, automatic, and Election Day registration introduced by Public Act 360 of 2018 and Proposal 2018-3.

Automatic Voter Registration and Preregistration Reports

Description

Monthly PDFs counting registrations added through the automatic voter registration process at driver license, state ID, and change of address transactions, and preregistrations of 16- and 17-year-olds. Each report breaks the month's counts down by age band and by gender, and runs to about nine pages. The series on the index begins in July 2025 and runs to May 2026.

Dedicated webpage

Listed under report type "Preregistration and registration totals" on <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/election-results-and-data>.

The May 2026 report is at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/Election-Results-and-Statistics/AVR-AVP-Counts/2026/Automatic-Voter-Registration-and-Preregistration---May-2026.pdf>.

Variables

The May 2026 report tabulates, for automatic voter preregistration (AVP, ages 16 to 17) and automatic voter registration (AVR, age 17) separately:

- + Total count
- + Female (F) [Count and percentage]
- + Male (M) [Count and percentage]

Notes for use

- + AVR and AVP are separate statutory processes, with automatic registration under MCL 168.493a and MCL 168.492 for residents at least 17.5 years old and preregistration under MCL 168.493a and MCL 168.496a for those at least 16 and under 17.5. The two counts are not additive into a single registration figure.

- + Only eleven months are posted, from July 2025 to May 2026. Earlier months are not on the index, so the series cannot be extended backward from this page.

Michigan Voting Dashboard

Description

A Power BI dashboard reporting absentee, early in-person, and election day voting, plus voter registration, drawn from voter history in the Qualified Voter File. It updates daily beginning 45 days before a statewide election and stops 30 days after Election Day, when the election's data is archived and no longer changes. It carries aggregated totals only and does not publish results.

Dedicated webpage

<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/election-results-and-data/voter-participation-dashboard> describes the dashboard and links the desktop view at <https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoieMTk3MjM4ZWQtMTlkZi00N2QxLTk5ZTk5OEdhYjk3YTVMmzk3IiwidCI6ImQ1ZmI3MDg3LTM3NzctNDJhZC05NjZhLTg5MmVmNDcyMjVkbMSJ9> and a separate mobile view.

Notes for use

- + Any value of ten or fewer is displayed as "Less than 10" rather than as a number, so small cells cannot be recovered from the dashboard.
- + The underlying file is live and revised retroactively. Metrics may change when clerks review, upload, or correct records, or when a voter moves, so a figure read on one day may differ the next for the same past date.
- + Ballot counts here come from voter history entered by clerks, not from tabulators, and the state notes that they will not match official or unofficial results. This is the same gap that separates the poll book totals from the turnout file in the results archive.
- + There is no export and no archive. Data for an election older than 30 days is frozen in the dashboard, and nothing is published as a file, so a series cannot be assembled from it without capturing it as it runs.

Provisional Ballot and Photo ID Affidavit Reports

Description

Two related PDF series report, for each precinct, how provisional ballots were resolved and how many voters signed an affidavit that they did not have photo identification. Provisional ballot reports are posted for November generals from 2004 to 2020; affidavit reports for elections from 2012 to 2020, including some primaries and a 2015 May special. Both are precinct-level and run to well over a hundred pages: the November 2020 provisional report is 188 pages and the affidavit report 161.

Dedicated webpage

Listed under report types "Provisional ballots" and "Not in possession of ID" on <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/election-results-and-data>.

For November 2020 the provisional report is at https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/Election-Results-and-Statistics/Provisional-ballots/Nov_2020_No_ID_Affidavit_Report_1.pdf and the affidavit report at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/Election-Results-and-Statistics/Provisional-ballots/Nov-2020-No-ID-Affidavit-Report.pdf>.

Variables

Provisional ballot report

- + COUNTY
- + JURISDICTION NAME
- + JURISDICTION TYPE [Spelled "JUISDICTION" in the file]
- + PRECINCT NAME
- + A) Affidavit Ballots Tabulated on Election Day
- + B) Envelope Ballots (Reviewed and Counted After Election)
- + C) Envelope Ballots (Rejected / Not Counted)
- + Total Provisional Ballots Issued on Election Day

Photo ID affidavit report

- + COUNTY

- + JURISDICTION NAME
- + JURISDICTION TYPE
- + PRECINCT NAME
- + # OF VOTERS WHO SIGNED THE AFFIDAVIT ON ELECTION DAY

Notes for use

- + The file named Nov_2020_No_ID_Affidavit_Report_1.pdf is not an affidavit report. It contains the November 2020 provisional ballot totals, and is titled as such on its first page. The link text on the index is correct where the filename is not; do not select these files by name.
- + County totals are interleaved with precinct rows rather than kept in a separate table. Each county's total sits in the first row of that county's first page, and the statewide total in the first row of page one. Summing a parsed column without dropping those rows double-counts.
- + Neither series continues past November 2020, and provisional reports skip 2012 and 2014 while affidavit reports skip 2004 through 2010. The two overlap only between 2012 and 2020.

Candidate Listings

Description

The official listing of candidates certified for each election, covering elections from 1998 to 2026 including primaries, generals, presidential primaries, and specials. Each listing is one HTML page that groups candidates by race and reports the candidate's party, name, home address, filing date, and filing method. The 2024 general listing carries 624 candidates and records when it was last updated.

Dedicated webpage

Listed under report type "Candidate listing" on <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/election-results-and-data>. The 2024 general listing is at https://mi-boe.entellitrak.com/candlist/2024GEN_CANDLIST.html.

Variables

Each race's table carries, per candidate:

- + Party [Three-letter code concatenated with the full party name, e.g. DEMDemocratic]
- + Name [Last, First format]
- + Address [The candidate's home address as filed]
- + Filed On [Filing date, MM/DD/YYYY]
- + Method [How the candidate qualified, e.g. Convention, Filing Fee, Petition]

Notes for use

- + URLs follow three incompatible patterns and change mid-2016. Listings from 1998 to 2016 sit in a per-election folder, lowercase for older years and uppercase for newer ones (/candlist/98gen/98gen_cl.htm, /candlist/16PRI/16PRI_CL.HTM). Listings from 2016 to 2024 are flat files (/candlist/2024GEN_CANDLIST.html). The August 2026 listing is served by a different application at /etk-mi-boe-prod/page.request.do with electionType and electionYear parameters. The 2016 general and the 2016 primary use different patterns.
- + There is no export, and the column headers sit in ordinary table cells rather than header cells, so a parser cannot key on them.
- + The listings carry filing details and address the results files lack, but no vote totals and no candidate identifier that joins to the results archive.
- + Presidential candidates without party affiliation are matched to their running mate by the Filed On date, which the listing notes because it does not otherwise pair them.

Biennial Precinct Report

Description

A report published after each even-year cycle, from 2006 to 2024, that lists the voting equipment in use in every city and township, along with its precinct count and registration. It is organized in three parts: a statewide summary by equipment make, a county summary, and a jurisdiction-level table. The 2024 edition was published in June

2025, runs to 53 pages, and records 4,340 precincts statewide across Dominion, Hart, and ES&S systems.

Dedicated webpage

Listed under report type "Precinct summary" on

<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/election-results-and-data>. The 2024 edition is at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/Election-Results-and-Statistics/Biennial-Precinct-Report/2024-Biennial-Precinct-Report.pdf>.

Variables

The jurisdiction-level table carries:

- + County
- + City or Township
- + Voting Equipment / Voter Assist Equipment [Make and model, abbreviated here and given in full in the statewide summary, e.g. Dominion ICP/ICX for Dominion Democracy Suite ICP/ICX]
- + Precincts
- + Registered Voters
- + Active Voters

The statewide and county summaries carry the same columns, aggregated and keyed on Voting & Voting Assist Equipment and County, respectively.

Notes for use

- + The registration figures are a snapshot taken when the report was compiled, not on Election Day, and the 2024 edition was published in June 2025. They do not match the November 2024 figures in the turnout statistics.
- + A jurisdiction that spans two counties appears under both, sometimes with zero precincts in one and non-zero registration in the other, as the city of Midland does under Bay County. Summing the jurisdiction table by name rather than by county and name will merge them.

Voting Precinct Boundaries

Description

Precinct polygons for the 2024 election cycle, published as a feature layer on the state's GIS open data portal. The layer carries 4,340 precincts, matching the Biennial Precinct Report, and attaches each precinct's jurisdiction, tabulator model, registration, and Census VTD code to its geometry. The Bureau of Elections assembles it from local election officials and county GIS authorities and states that most, but not all, jurisdictions completed validation. It describes 2024 only; earlier cycles are separate layers.

Dedicated webpage

<https://gis-michigan.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Michigan::2024-voting-precincts> offers the layer as a shapefile, GeoJSON, CSV, and file geodatabase. The service behind it is at <https://gisagocss.state.mi.us/arcgis/rest/services/OpenData/boundaries/MapServer/9>, which accepts ArcGIS REST queries directly.

Variables

The layer's fields as of July 14, 2026 are:

- + OBJECTID
- + PRECINCTID [Composite identifier, e.g. WP-001-01040-00001]
- + ELECTIONYE [Election year; the name is truncated at ten characters by the shapefile format]
- + COUNTYFIPS [Three-digit county FIPS code]
- + MCDFIPS [Five-digit minor civil division FIPS code]
- + WARD [Two-character ward number, zero-filled]
- + PRECINCT [Three-character precinct number]
- + NAME [Concatenated county, MCD, ward, and precinct codes]
- + VTDST [Six-character Census voting district code]
- + Precinct_Long_Name [e.g. Alcona Township, Precinct 1]
- + Precinct_Short_Name [e.g. Alcona Twp 1]
- + Tabulator_Voter_Assist [Equipment make and model]

- + Jurisdiction_Name [Aliased "Jurisdiction" in the service]
- + Registered_Voters
- + Active_Voters
- + Shape
- + Shape.STArea()
- + Shape.STLength()

Notes for use

- + The layer does not join cleanly to the results archive. It keys on FIPS and Census VTD codes while the results files key on the Bureau's own county and city/town codes, and no crosswalk between the two is published alongside either.
- + The service caps a query at 1,000 features, so pulling all 4,340 precincts through the REST endpoint requires paging. The portal download avoids this.
- + Registered_Voters and Active_Voters sum to figures matching neither the Biennial Precinct Report nor the turnout statistics for 2024. The precinct count matches the Biennial Precinct Report exactly, so the geography is the same universe and only the counts are drawn at a different moment.