



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

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**Procedure for Handling “Envelope” Ballots  
Returned to Clerk’s Office**

Within 6 days after the election, the city or township clerk must evaluate each “envelope” ballot voted by the jurisdiction’s voters to determine if the ballot can be counted. When making this determination, the city or township clerk is not permitted to open the PROVISIONAL BALLOT SECURITY ENVELOPE holding the ballot.

**I. MISSING REGISTRATION: Determining the validity of an “envelope” ballot issued to an elector whose name did not appear on the precinct’s QVF list**

All of the information needed to determine the validity of an “envelope” ballot issued to such an elector is recorded on the four-step procedure form completed by the precinct board.

**THE “ENVELOPE” BALLOT CAN BE COUNTED IF:**

- A valid voter registration application for the elector is located; the registration application was submitted by the elector on or before the “close of registration” for the election at hand; and the “envelope” ballot voted by the elector was issued in the proper precinct.

OR

- The elector signed the affidavit to affirm that he/she submitted a voter registration application on or before the “close of registration” for the election at hand; the elector identified himself or herself by showing a Michigan Driver License, Michigan Personal Identification Card, other government photo identification card or a photo identification card issued by a Michigan university or college; and the elector confirmed that he or she currently resides in the precinct where the “envelope” ballot was issued by showing 1) one of the above documents OR 2) a current utility bill, current bank statement, current paycheck or government check or any other government document.

Stated in simpler terms, the “envelope” ballot counts if the voter signed the affidavit, confirmed his or her identity with an acceptable form of photo ID AND confirmed his or her residence in the precinct where the “envelope” ballot was issued with the photo ID OR by producing one of the listed alternative documents (current utility bill, current bank statement, current paycheck or government check or any other government document).

**SUBMISSION OF PHOTO ID AND RESIDENCE CONFIRMATION DOCUMENT DURING 6-DAY “ENVELOPE” BALLOT EVALUATION PERIOD PERMITTED:**

- In an instance where the elector was unable to identify himself or herself by showing a Michigan Driver License, Michigan Personal Identification Card, other government photo identification card or a photo identification card issued by a Michigan university or college, the ballot can be counted if the voter is able to produce an acceptable form of photo ID during the 6-day “envelope” ballot evaluation period. The voter can appear in person in the city or township clerk’s office to show the photo ID, fax the photo ID to the clerk or mail a copy of the photo ID to the clerk. The photo ID must reach the city or township clerk no later than the sixth calendar day after the date of the election.
- In an instance where the elector was unable to confirm that he or she currently resides in the precinct where the “envelope” ballot was issued by showing an acceptable form of photo ID or by producing one of the accepted alternative documents (current utility bill, current bank statement, current paycheck or government check or any other government document), the ballot can be counted if the voter is able to produce an acceptable residence confirmation document during the 6-day “envelope” ballot evaluation period. The voter can appear in person in the city or township clerk’s office to show the document, fax the document to the clerk or mail a copy of the document to the clerk. The document must reach the city or township clerk no later than the sixth calendar day after the date of the election.
- In any instance where an “envelope” ballot is counted because the voter was able to produce the required photo ID and/or residence confirmation document during the 6-day “envelope” ballot evaluation period, the clerk must enter an appropriate notation on the Four-Step Procedure form completed when the voter was issued the “envelope” ballot in the polls.

**THE “ENVELOPE” BALLOT CANNOT BE COUNTED IF:**

- The elector was unable to identify himself or herself at the polls or during the 6-day “envelope” ballot evaluation period by showing a Michigan Driver License, Michigan Personal Identification Card, other government photo identification card or a photo identification card issued by a Michigan university or college.

OR

- The elector was unable to confirm when in the polls or during the 6-day “envelope” ballot evaluation period that he or she currently resides in the precinct where the “envelope” ballot was issued by showing one of the above documents or a current utility bill, current bank statement, current paycheck or government check or any other government document.

**IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING ELECTORS WHO VOTED IN WRONG PRECINCT:**

In any situation where an “envelope” ballot has been issued to a voter who 1) appeared to vote in the wrong precinct and 2) declined to travel to his or her proper precinct to vote, you must make every effort to accurately confirm that the voter did, in fact, vote in the wrong precinct before rejecting the “envelope” ballot as invalid. The evaluation must include a check of the QVF street index to verify that the voter was not assigned to the wrong precinct in error. If a check of the

street index reveals that a voter in this situation actually voted in the proper precinct, the “envelope” ballot must be counted.

**II. FEDERAL ID REQUIREMENT: Determining the validity of an “envelope” ballot issued to an elector subject to the federal identification requirement**

- The “envelope” ballot can be counted if the elector provides one of the following forms of identification during the 6-day “envelope” ballot evaluation period: a current and valid photo identification or a copy of a paycheck, government check, utility bill, bank statement or a government document which lists his or her name and address. The voter can appear in person in the city or township clerk’s office to show the required ID, fax the required ID to the clerk or mail a copy of the required ID to the clerk. In an instance where an “envelope” ballot is counted because the voter was able to produce the required ID during the 6-day “envelope” ballot evaluation period, the clerk must enter an appropriate notation on the PROVISIONAL BALLOT SECURITY ENVELOPE.
- The “envelope” ballot cannot be counted if the voter fails to satisfy the federal ID requirement during the 6-day “envelope” ballot evaluation period.

**III. MICHIGAN VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT: Determining the validity of an “envelope” ballot issued to a voter because questions over the voter’s identity remained after an inspection of the picture identification produced by the voter**

- The “envelope” ballot can be counted if the elector appears in person and provides one of the following forms of identification during the 6-day “envelope” ballot evaluation period: A Michigan Driver License; a Michigan Personal Identification Card; driver’s license or personal identification card issued by another state; a federal or state-government issued photo identification; a U.S. passport; a military identification card with photo; a student identification with photo from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education; or a tribal identification with photo. In all cases, the picture identification must be current and must resolve the questions over the voter’s identity which prompted the issuance of an “envelope” ballot to the voter.
- The “envelope” ballot cannot be counted if the voter fails to personally appear in the clerk’s office during the 6-day “envelope” ballot evaluation period and satisfy the Michigan voter identification requirement as described above.

#### **IV. Disposition of valid “envelope” ballots which can be counted**

- If the “envelope” ballot can be counted, remove the ballot from the PROVISIONAL BALLOT SECURITY ENVELOPE and remove the stub from the ballot. If a paper ballot, do not unfold the ballot during this step. If an optical scan ballot, do not remove the ballot from its secrecy sleeve during this step.
- Place the ballot in a ballot container.
- After you have placed all of the valid “envelope” ballots that can be counted in the container, remove the ballots and count the valid votes on the ballots.
- After counting the valid votes on the ballots, complete a PROVISIONAL BALLOT REPORT FORM. After completing the form, submit it to the county canvassing board or local canvassing board as appropriate. The form must be transmitted to the canvassing board no later than the 7<sup>th</sup> day after the election.
- After recording the valid votes on the “envelope” ballots that can be counted, seal the counted “envelope” ballots and PROVISIONAL BALLOT SECURITY ENVELOPES which contained the ballots in a ballot container. Attached a ballot tag to the seal which indicates that the container holds the “envelope” ballots returned after the election which were determined valid and counted. Retain the PROVISIONAL BALLOT SECURITY ENVELOPES which were determined invalid and not opened in a separate secure place in your office.