

## VOTING FAQs



### Q: What's the difference between an absentee ballot and an emergency absentee ballot?

A: An **absentee ballot** can be requested online via the SOS website or by mail until Friday, Oct. 30, at 5 p.m. Ballots must be returned to the clerk by 8 p.m. on election day, Tuesday, Nov. 3. Signed ballots can be submitted to secure drop boxes, the local clerk's office (based on the patient's address), or by mail.

A voter may make an **"emergency" request for an absentee ballot** if he/she cannot attend the polls because of: personal disablement or a family death or illness (including COVID-19) which will require the voter to leave the community for the entire time the polls are open on Election Day.

### Q: How does voting by emergency absentee ballot work?

A: Emergency requests can only be made between 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, and 4 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3. This information is important for patients admitted during this timeframe and are not able to make it to the polls safely on election day. Local clerks can be found on the SOS Website based on an individual's registered voting address.

If an individual is requesting an emergency absentee voter ballot, the voter must authorize in writing (with signature) the person delivering the application to pick up and deliver the ballot.

### Q: What if the patient cannot sign their ballot?

A: Absentee ballots always require the signature of the voter on the back to be valid (as well as anyone assisting with the ballot):

**Signature changed?** The signature must match the signature the SOS has on file with the voter's file and/or driver's license. If their signature has changed, the voter must contact their clerk and update the signature on their voting record with a new voter signature. A voter's local clerk can be found at [mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Clerk](http://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Clerk).

**Unable to sign?** Voters unable to sign may use a signature stamp if the signature matches the one on file with the SOS.

### Q: Can a Beaumont employee help me vote?

A: **No.** Beaumont employees can inform you of your voting options and point you to the correct information, but they cannot act as your agent or help you vote.

### Q: Will Beaumont collect absentee ballots from patients?

A: **No.** If patients are still in the hospital immediately prior to Election Day, city or township clerks – or other authorized election officials – may come to Beaumont to provide or collect absentee voter applications or ballots. If a patient has requested an absentee ballot and it must be hand delivered because of time constraints (*it is recommended that ballots be mailed by Oct. 27 to arrive in time*), the clerk or authorized election official should be allowed access to the patient.

Note: Pursuant to HIPAA, facilities may disclose limited directory information regarding patient who are asked for by name. Census lists, however, may not be disclosed.



### Questions?

For specific questions or more information, please contact your local city or township clerk's office.

# HOW TO VOTE *if you are in the hospital*

## State Law Michigan MCL Sec. 168.759b

If a voter becomes physically disabled or is absent from the polling location due to sickness or death in the family after the absentee request deadline, the voter can request an emergency absentee ballot up until 4 p.m. on Election Day.

[mvic.sos.state.mi.us](http://mvic.sos.state.mi.us)



## DEADLINES

FRIDAY 5 P.M.  
**OCT. 30**

### EMERGENCY ABSENTEE BALLOT START

Patients may start voting in hospitals.

TUESDAY 4 P.M.  
**NOV. 3**

### *ELECTION DAY* - WRITTEN REQUEST DUE

A written request for the emergency absentee ballot to your city or township clerk's office before 4 p.m. on election day.

TUESDAY 8 P.M.  
**NOV. 3**

### *ELECTION DAY* - EMERGENCY BALLOT DEADLINE

Emergency ballots must be returned to the clerk's office by 8 p.m. on election day. Clerks info at [mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Clerk](http://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Clerk).

1. The patient and/or his/her designee (typically a family member or friend) contacts their local city or township clerk's office requesting an emergency absentee ballot and process including how to identify their designee.
2. Patient completes their ballot and it is returned by their designee as directed by the clerk's office by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3.



### Questions?

For specific questions or more information, please contact your local city or township clerk's office.