

MICHIGAN 2026 LAW ENFORCEMENT QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

This pocket reference guide contains key penal provisions found within Chapter 168 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and other relevant sections.*

- Intimidating an election official to interfere with or prevent them from performing their duties is a misdemeanor.
- Attempting to deter or interrupt a person from voting is a felony.
- Causing a disturbance at an election is a misdemeanor.

* Some provisions have been abridged due to space limitations in this guide

VOTING HOURS

7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

2026 ELECTION DATES

Primary Election: August 4
General Election: November 3
For more information:
michigan.gov/sos/-/media/Project/Websites/sos/Election-Administrators/Election-Dates.pdf

REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR TO

Your local election official:
mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index/#yourclerk

Michigan Secretary of State:
800-292-5973 | elections@michigan.gov
michigan.gov/sos/elections



Prohibition on intimidation of or interference with election workers.

MCL § 168.931b

- (1) An individual who intimidates an election official because of the election official's status as an election official, with the specific intent of interfering with the performance of that election official's election-related duties, is guilty of a crime as provided under subsection (3).
- (2) An individual who prevents an election official from performing the election official's duties in conducting an election is guilty of a crime as provided under subsection (3).
- (3) An individual who violates subsection (1) or (2) is guilty of a crime as follows:
 - (a) For a first offense, the individual is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 93 days or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.
 - (b) For a second offense, the individual is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both.
 - (c) For a third or subsequent offense, the individual is guilty of a felony.
- (4) This section does not apply to constitutionally protected activity, including, but not limited to, engaging in reporting, news gathering, protesting, lobbying, advocacy, or other activities intended to inform or influence the public or public officials, including election officials, on matters of public interest or public concern.
- (5) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Duties" include, but are not limited to, any of the following:
 - (i) Creating, disseminating, collecting, or delivering applications or ballots, including absent voter ballots or absent voter ballot applications.
 - (ii) Registering voters.

- (iii) Opening, closing, and maintaining order at polling places, early voting sites, and absent voter counting board locations.
- (iv) Processing and assisting voters at polling places or early voting sites.
- (v) Processing and tabulating ballots at polling places, early voting sites, and absent voter counting board locations.
- (vi) Tallying ballots at polling places and absent voter counting board locations.
- (vii) Certifying election results by a board of county canvassers or the board of state canvassers.

(b) "Election official" means a public officer, public employee, election inspector, member of the board of state canvassers, member of a board of county canvassers, member of an absent voter counting board, or a county, city, or township clerk who has a duty to perform in connection with an election conducted under this act.

(c) "Intimidate" means a willful course of conduct involving harassment of another individual that is intended to cause the individual to fear physical injury, that would cause a reasonable individual to fear physical injury, and that actually causes the individual to fear physical injury. Intimidate does not include constitutionally protected activity or conduct that serves a legitimate purpose.

Prohibited conduct

The below violations of Michigan Election Law § 168.931 are misdemeanors.

Willful Failure to Perform Election Duties

MCL § 168.931(1)(g)

A person shall not willfully fail to perform a duty imposed upon that person by this act, or disobey a lawful instruction or order of the secretary of state as chief state election officer or of a board of county election commissioners, board of city election commissioners, or board of inspectors of election.

Solicitation of Votes at or Near Polling Place

MCL § 168.931(1)(j)

A person shall not, while the polls are open on an election day, solicit votes in a polling place or within 100 feet from an entrance to the building in which a polling place is located.

Prohibited conduct

The below violations of Michigan Election Law § 168.932 and § 168.932a are felonies.

Bribery and Voter Intimidation

MCL § 168.932(a)

A person shall not attempt, by means of bribery, menace, or other corrupt means or device, either directly or indirectly, to influence an elector in giving his or her vote, or to deter the elector from, or interrupt the elector in giving his or her vote at any election held in this state.

Damaging or Destroying Ballot Boxes or Voting Machines

MCL § 168.932(b)

A person not duly authorized by law shall not, during the progress of any election or after the closing of the polls and before the final results of the election have been ascertained, break open or violate the seals or locks of any ballot box or voting machine used or in use at that election. A person shall not willfully damage or destroy any ballot box or voting machine. A person shall not obtain undue possession of that ballot box or voting machine. A person shall not conceal, withhold, or destroy a ballot box or voting machine, or fraudulently or forcibly add to or diminish the number of ballots legally deposited in the box or the totals on the voting machine. A person shall not aid or abet in any act prohibited by this subdivision.

Damaging, Falsifying, or Altering Poll Books or Other Documents

MCL § 168.932(c)

An inspector of election, clerk, or other officer or person having custody of any record, election list of voters, affidavit,

return, statement of votes, certificates, poll book, or of any paper, document, or vote of any description, which pursuant to this act is directed to be made, filed, or preserved, shall not willfully destroy, mutilate, deface, falsify, or fraudulently remove or secrete any or all of those items, in whole or in part, or fraudulently make any entry, erasure, or alteration on any or all of those items, or permit any other person to do so.

Return or Possession of Absentee Ballots Belonging to Certain Other Voters

MCL § 168.932(f)

A person other than an absent voter; a person whose job it is to handle mail before, during, or after being transported by a public postal service, express mail service, parcel post service, or common carrier, but only during the normal course of his or her employment; a clerk or assistant of the clerk; a member of the immediate family of the absent voter including father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, or grandchild; or a person residing in the absent voter's household shall not do any of the following:

- (i) Possess an absent voter ballot mailed or delivered to another person, regardless of whether the ballot has been voted.
- (ii) Return, solicit to return, or agree to return an absent voter ballot to the clerk of a city, township, village, or school district.

Impersonating a Voter

MCL § 168.932a (a)

A person shall not falsely impersonate another person, or vote or attempt to vote under the name of another person, or induce or attempt to induce a person to impersonate another person or to vote or attempt to vote under the name of another person.

Voting More Than Once in an Election

MCL § 168.932a(e)

A person shall not offer to vote or attempt to voter more than once at the same election either in the same or in another voting precinct. A person shall not give two or more votes folded together.

Disturbance of lawful meetings.

MCL § 750.170

Any person who shall make or excite any disturbance... in any tavern, store or grocery, manufacturing establishment or any other business place or in any street, lane, alley, highway, public building, grounds or park, or at any election or other public meeting where citizens are peaceably and lawfully assembled, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Board of election inspectors; authority.

MCL § 168.678

Each board of election inspectors shall possess full authority to maintain peace, regularity and order at its polling place, and to enforce obedience to their lawful commands during any primary or election and during the canvass of the votes after the poll is closed.

Challengers; space in polling place; threat or intimidation.

MCL § 168.733

(1) The board of election inspectors shall provide space for the challengers within the polling place that enables the challengers to observe the election procedure and each person applying to vote.

(4) A person shall not threaten or intimidate a challenger while performing an activity allowed under subsection (1). A challenger shall not threaten or intimidate an elector while the elector is entering the polling place, applying to vote, entering the voting compartment, voting, or leaving the polling place.

Possession of firearm on certain premises prohibited.

MCL § 750.234d

(3) Except as provided in the exemptions below, a person shall not do any of the following:

(a) While the polls are open on an election day, possess a firearm in a polling place or within 100 feet from any entrance to a building in which a polling place is located.

(b) On any day early voting is conducted at an early voting site as described in section 4(1)(m) of article II of the state constitution of 1963, possess a firearm at an early voting site or within 100 feet from any entrance to a building in which an early voting site is located.

(c) For 40 days before an election, possess a firearm within 100 feet from any absent voter ballot drop box.

(d) For the 40 days before an election when an absent voter can vote an absent voter ballot in person with the city or township clerk, possess a firearm in a city or township clerk's office, or an official satellite office of a city or township clerk that is staffed by employees of the city or township clerk, or within 100 feet from any entrance to a city or township clerk's office or satellite office.

Exemptions include peace officers, firearms lawfully possessed on private property, and individuals licensed to carry a concealed weapon, pursuant to § 750.234d (4).

(6) Firearms are also prohibited in and within 100 feet of the entrance of absent voter counting places and combined absent voter counting places while ballots are being processed, except for law enforcement in the course of their duties.

(8) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Individual engaging in proscribed conduct in weapon free school zone.

MCL § 750.237a

(4) Except as provided in the exemptions below, an individual who possesses a weapon in a weapon free school zone is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Exemptions include security personnel hired by the school, peace officers, individuals licensed to carry a concealed weapon, and other limited exceptions pursuant to § 750.237a (5).

Premises on which carrying concealed weapon is generally prohibited.

MCL § 28.4250

(1) Subject to the exemptions below, an individual licensed under this act to carry a concealed pistol... shall not carry a concealed pistol on the premises of any of the following:

- (a) A school or school property, with limited exceptions for parents dropping off students
- (e) Any property or facility owned or operated by a church, synagogue, mosque, temple, or other place of worship, unless the presiding official of the entity permits it.

Exemptions include licensed persons who are law enforcement and other officers as defined, retired law enforcement, those hired to provide security by the entity, and other limited exceptions pursuant to § 28.4250 (5).

Brandishing firearm in public

MCL § 750.234e

It is a misdemeanor to willfully brandish a firearm in public, unless acting in self-defense or a peace officer lawfully performing their duties.

Misrepresentation as Election Official

MCL § 168.932e

It is a felony to intentionally misrepresent by word or act in a polling place on election day that a person is an election official if that person is not an election official.

Stalking

MCL § 750.411h

It is a misdemeanor to engage in stalking, willful conduct involving repeated or continuing harassment of another individual that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, or intimidated.

Malicious Use of Telephone

MCL § 750.540e

A person is guilty of a misdemeanor who maliciously uses any service provided by a telecommunications service provider with intent to terrorize, frighten, intimidate, threaten, harass, molest, or annoy another person, or to disturb the peace and quiet of another person.