



# Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks

## MEDIA RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Melanie D. Ryska  
**MAMC President**  
586.446.2421  
[mryska@sterlingheights.gov](mailto:mryska@sterlingheights.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 25, 2024

---

### TRUST THE INTEGRITY OF EARLY TABULATION OF ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS

Michigan Election Law permits communities with populations over 5,000 to begin tabulating absentee ballots up to eight days before an election. To utilize this option, clerks must notify the Bureau of Elections at least 28 days in advance. This provides larger communities with a valuable chance to start processing absentee ballots ahead of Election Day, easing the burden on our already busy election workers.

This practice is not new; over 30 states allow some form of pre-processing or early tabulation, ranging from 1 to 30 days before the election. All states have laws that make it a felony or misdemeanor to release vote tabulations before the polls close on Election Day. Every absent voter counting board election worker in Michigan must take an oath of office:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not communicate any information regarding ballots or vote tabulations that I may receive while in this counting place until after the polls are closed. I will not photograph, audio, or video record within the counting place, except for posted election results. I further swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as indicated on the front cover of the Poll Book to the best of my ability."

Revealing any election results before the polls close is a felony. Each Clerk in the state has trained their workers to adhere to state laws and trusts them to uphold these regulations.

While early processing requires additional equipment and manpower, many medium to large communities greatly value the chance to accomplish much of the work in advance. Maintaining integrity is crucial for every Election Administrator. Laws are established to ensure that the early tabulation of absentee ballots remains secure, accurate, and trustworthy.

Voters throughout the state can have confidence knowing that Clerks and Election Workers are dedicated to preserving the integrity of our elections.

120 N. Washington Square, Suite 110A • Lansing, MI 48933  
Phone 517.371.2223 • Fax 517.371.1170