



2020 General Election Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I vote before November 3rd?

A: Any voter can receive a ballot by completing an Absent Voter (AV) Ballot Application (located at www.meridian.mi.us/elections). A voter can take a picture of their completed application and email it to Meridian Township Clerk Brett Dreyfus at dreyfus@meridian.mi.us to receive an AV ballot by mail, or come to the Clerk's Office in the Municipal Building and pick up a ballot to take with them, or vote in the Town Hall Room. Voters can also apply for an Absent Voter Ballot for the General Election through the Michigan's [online AV Application system](#).

Q: I lost my absentee ballot that was mailed to me. How do I get a replacement?

I accidentally damaged my AV ballot, how do I get another?

I want to change my AV ballot selections, how do I cancel this one and get a new ballot?

A: In order to protect voter identity and the security of ballots, voters who need or want to spoil their existing AV ballot and receive a new ballot need to come to the Municipal Building and sign a form which allows the Clerk's Office to spoil their existing ballot and issue the voter a new ballot. Once the form is signed, the voter will be issued an AV ballot to take with them, or vote at that time. A voter can also mail a document to the Township with their signature indicating that they wish to spoil their ballot and what their voter preferences are at that time, but this is a more time-consuming method of spoiling a ballot.

Q: Where do AV ballots have to be returned?

A: Absent Voter ballots need to be returned to the Meridian Township Clerk's Office in the Municipal Building located at 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, 48864. Voters can mail their ballots back, or drop them off anytime in the drive-up or walk-up secure drop boxes located in front of the Municipal Building. Voters can NOT bring their voted ballots to their polling locations on Election Day, unless they want to spoil them at the precinct and vote in person.

Q: What is the deadline for returning AV ballots?

A: All AV ballots must be received by the Clerk's Office by 8:00 pm on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd.

Q: What are my options regarding straight-ticket voting?

A: If a voter selects straight-ticket voting, the voter will mark the political party they wish to select at the top, left-side of the ballot. All partisan races will have candidates representing their selected political party automatically marked for them as the ballot is tabulated. Voters still need to complete the non-partisan section of the ballot (Judicial and Education races), as well as the proposal section of the ballot, if they wish to vote the entire ballot.



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Q: Can I vote straight-ticket, but vote for an individual of another political party?

A: Yes. A voter can vote straight-ticket for Democratic candidates, but vote for a Republican or a candidate from another political party in any race and the entire ballot is still valid, and all selections will count. A voter can vote straight-ticket for Republican candidates, but can still vote for a Democrat or a candidate from another political party and the entire ballot will still be valid, and all selections will count. This is called “splitting your vote.” You can split your vote regardless if you vote straight-ticket, or if you don’t vote straight ticket.

For additional questions, please contact the Meridian Township Clerk’s Office at 517.853.4300 or visit www.meridian.mi.us/elections.