

From the Desk of Gloria A. Payne, Lake Charter Township Clerk:

First, as you may or may not know, Lake Michigan College has moved their millage renewal that was scheduled for May 2, 2023 to August 8, 2023. Lakeshore School voters will still vote on May 2, 2023 here at Lake Township Hall for their Bond Proposal.

Secondly, I am alerting you to changes that have taken place in election law.

OLD PERMANENT ABSENT VOTER LIST and NEW ABSENT VOTER LIST:

In November 2022, the voters of Michigan passed Proposal 2022-02. This proposal establishes new guidelines for obtaining an absentee ballot. The Michigan Constitution now recognizes that residents, once registered, may submit a one-time **SINGLE SIGNED ABSENT VOTER BALLOT APPLICATION COVERING ALL FUTURE ELECTIONS.**

Recently, Lake Charter Township voters who were on the Absent Voter List received a letter asking them whether they wish to be on the “new” **Permanent Absentee Voter Ballot List** by completing a form. The “old” **Permanent Absentee Voter Application list** is being retired and will no longer be in effect.

If you wish to sign up to be on the Permanent Absentee Voter Ballot List, you need to access the form, which is on Lake Charter Township’s website: www.lake-township.org under the Elections tab.

Please be advised, if you mark “YES” on the form, you will be placed on the Permanent Absentee Voter Ballot list and will receive an Absentee Ballot before every future election until you rescind the request or one of the following takes place:

A voter’s exercise of this right shall be rescinded only if:

- The voter submits a signed request to rescind.
- The voter is no longer qualified to vote.
- The Secretary of State or the election official responsible for issuing the voter an absent voter ballot receives reliable information that the voter has moved to another state or has moved within this state without updating their voter registration address.
- The voter does not vote for six (6) consecutive years.

The exercise of this right shall remain in effect without the need for a new absent voter ballot application when the voter changes their residence in this state and updates their voter registration address.

If you mark “NO” on the form, you will need to request an Absentee Ballot Application before every election that you wish to vote by absentee ballot. You will **NOT** be placed on the Permanent AV Ballot list.

NINE DAYS OF EARLY VOTING:

This law also enacted nine days of early voting. Nine days before a “State or Federal Election” (not a Local Election), you will be able to come into the office and cast your ballot through the tabulator, without having to wait to do so on the day of the actual election.

However, if your personal preference is to come in and vote in person, that option will continue to be available to you on the designated election date.

OTHER:

If you are a new resident in Lake Township and have not registered to vote, the application for voter registration is also on our website: www.lake-township.org under the Elections Tab.

Further, if you wish to be an Election Worker, a form is also under the Elections Tab.

If you have questions, please contact me at 269-465-6601, Ext. 111 or via email: gpayne@lake-township.org
I will be happy to assist you.