

Are you ready for the upcoming election?

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With the presidential election quickly approaching on Nov. 8, the candidates, media and political personnel are readying themselves for the big day. Are you?

As Americans, we have the freedom to choose our political representation through voting. We should take full advantage of this opportunity, especially with the presidential election quickly approaching. The next president will make changes that will affect us all in more ways than one. If we desire to be a part of this immense decision, then we need to make it to the polls on Nov. 8.

According to CNBC, only 38 percent of 18-24 year-olds voted in the 2012 presidential election. Out of all the age groups, this group had the lowest voter turnout. As college students, this means that we need to get to the polls! There are many reasons why we are not making it to the polls, but there are ways to ensure that our vote gets counted. If we want our voices to be heard, then our votes need to be cast in the upcoming election. Below are a few simple steps to make this a reality.

Not from Michigan? Is your designated polling location too far away to make it on this day? After you have ensured that you are registered to vote (last day to register is Oct. 11), take a look at the checklist below to see if you are prepared.

Out of state

In state



WIKIMEDIA

Apply for an absentee ballot. This is a different process depending on in which state you are registered. Below are checklists for states neighboring Michigan.

Illinois:

The application for absentee ballots are available for download on Aug. 10, and must be received by county board of elections or board of election commissioners by Nov. 3 (by mail) or Nov. 7 (in person)

Completed ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 7

Ohio:

Application for absentee ballot must be received by county board of elections by Nov. 5 at noon

County board of elections must receive completed ballot by Nov. 7 (by mail) or Nov. 8 (in person)

Indiana:

Absentee ballot application must be received by Oct. 31 by 11:59 p.m.

Completed ballots must be received by noon on election day

Determine where your polling location is. If this location is accessible on Nov. 8, vote in person from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

If you decide not to vote at your polling location, apply for an absentee ballot. The designated form that can be found at michigan.gov/documents/AbsentVoterBallot

Complete the form and send it to your local clerk. Send it early enough so the local clerk receives it by Nov. 5 at 2 p.m.

You will receive your ballot in the mail. Complete ballot per instructions

Mail completed ballot to local clerk. The local clerk needs to receive the ballot by Nov. 8 at 8 p.m.