



Executive Order Expands Absentee Voting for May 5 Elections

As many of you prepare for the upcoming May 5 election, the recent Executive Order signed by Governor Whitmer late Friday changes the upcoming process to protect voters and poll workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under [Executive Order 2020-27](#), voters are encouraged to vote absentee in the upcoming May 5 election to avoid making the normal large gatherings of voters at polling precincts a threat for transmission of the highly contagious disease and putting individuals at risk.

The **Executive Order** calls for the May 5 elections to be "conducted to the greatest extent possible by absent voter ballots issued and without in-person interaction. It also allows the Department of State to assist local clerks in mailing absentee ballot applications to every registered voter, and to provide absentee ballots directly to new registrants.

Local jurisdictions will be required to maintain at least one polling place for those who wish to vote in person or for any individual unable to vote by mail. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has [recommendations for polling places](#) to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

As information around the COVID-19 pandemic is constantly changing rapidly, MTA will continue to provide updates and encourages you to visit MTA's [COVID-19 webpage](#).